

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 187-188

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, p. 98

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

[Dec 27. 1790]

Dear friend

I left orders to send you as many copies of the Letters to Mr Burke¹ as would go for a shilling, and I find to day that only six were sent, so I have desired the bookseller to send you another parcell. How many he will be able to send, I cannot tell. On Friday, or at the farthest on Saturday, Mr Johnson² will [rec]eive 800 copies.³

I thank you for mentioning Mr Hollis⁴ and Mr Jeffries⁵ for presents. I have just written to Mr Johnson, and mentioned a few more names, and among them Mr Burke⁶ -~~?~~ Mr Fox⁷ and Mr Heywood.⁸ Add any others that occur to you. He has offered me 50 £ for it, which I have accepted.

Not finding any business for Joseph,⁹ and Mr Watt¹⁰ having recommended to him that of a bookseller, I have, with his approbation, written to Mr Johnson, to ask him if he will accept of a partner in his business of a bookseller, as distinct from a Publisher, and on what terms. If he likes the overture, his affairs will be examined into, and we can do as we think proper. Perhaps you will call on him, and tell him that I have mentioned it to you. Mr Watt thought that a partne[r] might not be unacceptable to the principal booksell[er] in this town, but I should prefer a connection with a person in London. He is not on bad terms with his uncle,¹¹ but it will not do for him to continue where he is, as he makes no farther proposal than 50 £ per ann, with gratuities, which we have reason to think will never be considerable, or equivalent to his services.¹²

I am glad to hear that things go on so well in France, and hope that in a short time all their difficulties will be over.

Be assured that I intirely approve of your rejection of my concluding letter, at least the greatest part of it, and that I am truly thankful for so judicious ~~and~~ as a monitor. I am too apt to write in a hurry.

Being called off I must conclude
yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately
J Priestley

¹ Priestley, *Letters to the Right Honourable Edmund Burke, occasioned by his Reflections on the Revolution in France &c.* (Birmingham, 1791).

² Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

³ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition and replaced with: 'On Friday, or at the farthest on Saturday, Mr. Johnson will receive 800 copies of the Letters to Mr. Burke' [Rutt, I, ii, 98].

⁴ Thomas Brand Hollis (c. 1719-1804), see 15 Oct 1790.

⁵ Edward Jeffries (1726?-1814), see 22 Jan 1790.

⁶ Edmund Burke (1729-1797), see 22 Mar 1790.

⁷ Charles James Fox (1749-1806), see 14 May 1789.

⁸ Samuel Heywood (1753-1828), see 21 Oct 1789.

⁹ Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

¹⁰ James Watt (1736-1819), see 9 Mar 1789.

¹¹ John Wilkinson (1728-1808), see 17 May 1786.

¹² This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

93 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 27 December 1790

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