

99 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 18 February 1791

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 199-200  
ADDRESS: The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Lindsey Essex Street London  
ENDORSEMENT: Ans<sup>d</sup>. Feb. 21. 1791.

Birm Feb 18. 1791

Dear friend

Having finished, and transcribed, a discourse for the anniversary of the New College,<sup>1</sup> I send it you, that, if you like it, and think it may be made to do, you may announce my acceptance of their invitation to preach it. I wrote yesterday to D<sup>r</sup> Price,<sup>2</sup> and told him that, if he chuse, you would shew it him; but if you do, give him a strict charge, as also any other to whom you may chuse to shew it, to say nothing of the contents of it. You may keep it till I come, as it will be then time enough to make any corrections that you may wish for in it, and we can do it together.

I am much concerned to hear of Mr Wakefield<sup>3</sup> persisting in leaving his office of tutor, and really do not well understand the nature of the difficulties, under which the institution labours but hope they are such as may be overcome.

I know nothing of Mr Small,<sup>4</sup> but from his own occasional, and generally very short, letters to me.

Joseph<sup>5</sup> has accepted of a connection with a Mr Ashworth, recommended by all my friends, a merchant in Manchester. Six months he serves him as clerk, at the rate of 50 £ per an. If they like one another, the partnership then commences, in which he is to be insured 12 per Cent for any Capital he brings for two years. In the next two years he has 15 per Cent, and on the fifth a half of all the profits, supposed to amount to more than 20 per Cent. The business is well established, and capable of being much extended. Mr Ashworth is a man of liberal principles, tho not nominally a dissenter. We rejoice in the prospect, and M<sup>rs</sup> Rayners<sup>6</sup> kindness will make it very beneficial to him. I think I may venture to give him a thousand pounds; tho' it is more than [his][?] share of my property, if I should di[e][?] [text missing] new[?] one[?], because, my circumstances I ho[pe] will rather improve, and it will be of more service to him now, than some time hence. Mr Ashworth rose from nothing at all, by his own industry, to a very decent fortune, and is not 40. I hear nothing from his uncle,<sup>7</sup> tho I wrote to him a month ago, and he promised to do something for him. He desires to be particularly remembered to you. Yesterday he packed up all his things at Bradly, and the beginning of the next leave he takes his final departure for the place of his destination.<sup>8</sup> I cannot help feeling anxiously for him. Yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey's &c. JP.

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<sup>1</sup> Priestley, *The Proper Objects of Education in the Present State of the World: represented in a Discourse, delivered on Wednesday, April 27, 1791, at the Meeting-House in the Old-Jewry, London; to the Supporters of the New College at Hackney* (London, 1791).

<sup>2</sup> Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

<sup>3</sup> Gilbert Wakefield (1756-1801), see 3 Apr 1789.

<sup>4</sup> Small of Holywell, Flinshire, see 13 Feb 1791.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Rayner (d. 1800), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>7</sup> John Wilkinson (1728-1808), see 17 May 1786.

<sup>8</sup> The MS is difficult to decipher at this point and this sentence is partly a conjectural reading.

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P.S. Please to desire Mr Johnson<sup>9</sup> to take the last volume of Philosophical Transactions in my name, and send it the first opportunity. Perhaps Mr Planta<sup>10</sup> will be so good as to take them regularly for me.

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<sup>9</sup> Joseph Johnson (1738-1809), see 18 Jan 1770.

<sup>10</sup> Joseph Planta (1744-1827), secretary of the Royal Society [*ODNB*].