

#### 4 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 30 May 1770

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 17-18

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 114-116<sup>1</sup>

ADDRESS: The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Lindsey at Catterick in Yorkshire

POSTMARK: Leeds

ENDORSEMENT: answ? May 30. 1770

Dear Sir

I blame myself for letting our correspondence sleep so long, but your last came to hand just before my journey to London, which occasioned me to neglect it; and I do not know how it is, but when a thing has begun to be neglected, it is a kind of reason for continuing to be so. Of late I can truly say I have been more busy, in composing and transcribing, than ever I was in my life. I have frequently written till I could hardly hold the pen: for writing long hand is irksome, and, indeed, painful to me. And, after all, I do assure you I expect neither praise nor profit for ~~no~~ any thing I have been doing. nay I shall be glad if I barely come off without either: for I have been writing partly in self defence and partly to ~~no~~ promote serious and practical religion in our schismatical societies – One piece, that is printing at London, is a Reply to 9 letters to me on the subject of the Lord's Supper; with some corrections and large additions to my own piece.<sup>2</sup> Another is a set of letters to the Dissenter that I mentioned to you, and which the Archdeacon<sup>3</sup> has seen. Unluckily, when my piece was ready for the press, the author of that sent me word, that he had suppressed his ~~piece~~ and desired I would proceed no farther. I have sent him word that it is quite too late to attempt to suppress his pamphlet, it being sufficiently known already, and that I do not chuse to let the affair ~~drop~~ //drop// in this manner. What answer I shall receive I cannot tell, and what I shall do I cannot tell. – ~~no~~ As you have seen his piece, I really wish you would advise me. That kind of an attack gave me an opportunity to say several things I wished to say, and the like may never come again.

The third piece is on the subject of Church Discipline,<sup>4</sup> of which we have not so much as a shadow with us; and I know I shall be sever//e//ly ridiculed by many of our freethinking dissenters for molesting the subject; but I am very serious, and have said a good deal about it. If I have ever been severe on the church of England, I am here as much so upon ourselves; so that I expect soon to be in the case of Ishmael. “My hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against me.”<sup>5</sup> But I have not his promise to be unconquered and unconquerable. I heartily wish I had done with controversy. Another piece is just printed against me here, but I shall not take any notice of it, and I have had some intimations that Mr Venn<sup>6</sup> is returning to the charge.

---

<sup>1</sup> The MS and Rutt's edition are undated. Lindsey's endorsement dates the letter to shortly before May 30 1770.

<sup>2</sup> Priestley, *Additions to the Address to Protestant Dissenters, on the Subject of the Lord's Supper, with some Corrections of it; and a Letter to the Author of the Protestant Dissenter's Answer to it* (London, 1770).

<sup>3</sup> Francis Blackburne (1705-1787), see 18 Dec 1769.

<sup>4</sup> Priestley, *A Free Address to Protestant Dissenters, on the Subject of Church Discipline; with a Preliminary Discourse, concerning the Spirit of Christianity* (London, 1770).

<sup>5</sup> See Gen. 16:12.

<sup>6</sup> Henry Venn (1725-1797), see 18 Dec 1769.

#### 4 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 30 May 1770

You will see, by what I shall either inclose in this letter, or send you by Mr Todd,<sup>7</sup> with the Repository that I am about to enter in good earnest into the business of Experimental Philosophy. I want a patron in this work, to defray the necessary expenses; but I shall venture upon it without any. I have friends who ~~???~~ hinted it to the Duke of Northumberland,<sup>8</sup> when I was in London. He desired to see a plan of the work, and I sent him a short one in MS, but have heard nothing from that quarter since. When I see you at Knaresborough, I shall be glad to have some conversation with you on this subject. I am not fond of such connections with the great, and if I had assistance, should rather desire to receive it from several than from one. I fancy it will require me to expend 200 or 300 £ to undertake this work to advantage, and that is more than I ought to do, in the present state of my ~~?~~ affairs and family.

M<sup>rs</sup> Turner's<sup>9</sup> father,<sup>10</sup> I find, is dangerously ill in Cheshire and I ~~?~~ //have// some fears lest a journey that Mr Turner<sup>11</sup> [will] be obliged to make thither should interfere with the [plan] which the Archdeacon mentions for our meeting at Knaresborough. ~~?~~ But he ~~?~~ will //not// be missing if it be possible. I have taken the liberty to desire Mr Cappe's<sup>12</sup> company. Mr Turner is very desirous of knowing the exact time that you fix.

I am with compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey and the Archdeacon

Dear Sir yours sincerely

J Priestley

the Repository is full of excellent matter. It will be 1<sup>s</sup>.6<sup>d</sup>.

---

<sup>7</sup> John Todd (1736-1811), see Mar 1770.

<sup>8</sup> Hugh Percy [formerly Smithson] first duke of Northumberland (bap. 1712, d. 1786), politician [ODNB].

<sup>9</sup> Mary Turner (1724/5-1784), wife of William Turner (1714-1794) [ODNB].

<sup>10</sup> John Holland of Mobberley, Cheshire [ODNB].

<sup>11</sup> William Turner (1714-1794), see Mar 1770.

<sup>12</sup> Newcome Cappe (1733-1800), Unitarian minister and preacher. In 1770 Cappe was minister at the dissenting chapel in St Saviourgate, York [ODNB].