

9 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 6 December 1770

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 25-26

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 123-124

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey at Catterick Yorkshire

POSTMARK: Leeds

[Dec 6. 1770]

Dear Sir

I am glad to find, by the last London Chronicle, that there is no sort of occasion either to write anything myself, or to employ any other person to write for me in that paper.

Before this time, I hope you will have received the text of my Lectures,¹ which you will find that I sent for my own sake. I am sensible that one half of the first section² is too metaphysical, and therefore I intend to throw it into notes,³ as well as every thing of the same nature that may occur elsewhere.

You will also have received an addition to the Address to Dissenters,⁴ the ~~?~~ close of which you will not like. I shall alter it intirely if not leave it quite out.

In p. 417 of the last N^o of the Repository ~~you at~~ line 10. you are desired to read before they can be properly employed.

I wish you would take the trouble to look over the Address to Dissenters, and give me any hints for the improvement of it. I shall very soon begin to reprint it. The last sheet of the Essay on government⁵ is now in the press, and I think to employ the same printer.

In this place I received the favour of yours, for which I think myself exceedingly obliged to you. The part objected to is now burning before me, and with it shall go all the little indignation I had seemed to express; but really you conjecture right, that I expressed much more than I ever felt. In other cases too, I believe ~~?~~ a stranger will fancy I am very much hurt, when I feel nothing, but in the moment that I am writing, and that more in idea than anything else.

If you have not received the Lectures please to give Mr Todd⁶ a line about them. You ought to have had them with the York news; and when you have done with them direct them to Mr Cappe⁷ who is to peruse them before they come back to me.

I will send you Mr Godwins⁸ address soon. If you will wait till my article for the Repository be printed I will send them at the same time, which will save expe[nce]. The

¹ The lectures used by Priestley at Leeds later formed part of his *Institutes of Natural and Revealed Religion* (London, 1772-1774; second edn. Birmingham, 1782). See Priestley to Joshua Toulmin, 6 Nov 1771 [Rutt, I, i, 152-154].

² 'Of the Existence of God, and those Attributes which are deduced from his being considered as Uncaused in Himself, and the Cause of Every Thing Else' (5-14).

³ There were no notes on the publication [Rutt].

⁴ Priestley, *A Free Address to Protestant Dissenters* (London, 1770).

⁵ Priestley, *An Essay on the First Principles of Government; and on the Nature of Political, Civil, and Religious Liberty* (London, 1768), reissued as *An Essay on the First Principles of Government, and on the Nature of Political, Civil, and Religious Liberty, including Remarks on Dr. Brown's Code of Education, and on Dr. Balguy's Sermon on Church Authority* (London, 1771).

⁶ John Todd (1736-1811), see Mar 1770.

⁷ Newcome Cappe (1733-1800), see 30 May 1770.

⁸ Richard Godwin (1722-1787?), minister at Gateacre (1748?-1787) [CSICM 991] [Rutt, I, i, 60-61; Rutt gives d. 1807].

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printer is now upon it and it may be out of his hands in a fortnight or three weeks. At the same time I will send you a discourse I formerly wrote on the nature and conduct of devotion.⁹

With the Lardner¹⁰ I sent a few copies of the second publication of my catalogue,¹¹ that you may see more distinctly, what my progress and views are with respect //to the work// and that you may distribute some of them among your friends. Having received no assistance, except in books, from any person, I must go upon a subscription to indemnify me for the expenses I have been at, [text missing] to enable me to proceed with the work; and the [im]pression of these catalogues, I hope, will prepare the way for the Proposals for Subscription, which may perhaps follow them in six weeks, or two months.¹² But I want advice how to proceed, whether to take part of the price before hand ~~&c.~~ ~~&c.~~ or not, &c. &c. Before I print these Proposals, I will send you a copy.

I am, with compliments to Mrs Lindsey,
Dear Sir
Yours sincerely
J Priestley.

Leeds. 6 Dec^{br}. 1770.

⁹ Possibly the text later published as part of *Two Discourses; I. On Habitual Devotion, II. On the Duty of not living to Ourselves; both preached to Assemblies of Protestant Dissenting Ministers, and published at their Request* (Birmingham, 1782) [Rutt I, i, 124].

¹⁰ Nathaniel Lardner (1684-1768), see 4 Nov 1770.

¹¹ 'A Catalogue of the Books, of which Dr. Priestley is already possessed, or to which he has access, for compiling the *History of Experimental Philosophy*', published with Priestley's *Proposals for printing by Subscription, The History and Present State of Discoveries relating to Vision, Light, and Colours* (Leeds, 1771).

¹² The *Proposals* were printed at Leeds on 1 February 1771.