

### 13 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 27? February 1771

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 32-33

PRINTED: Rutt, I, i, pp. 136-138

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

[27. ~~7~~ 1771]  
[after Feb 17]<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

I have been returned from London about a fortnight; but a variety of business has prevented me from writing to you so soon as I ought to have done. I hope you received a letter I wrote to you from Ferrybridge, on my way to London, relating to the Repositories you were so obliging as to order, and for which, and some others, I received 8 guineas when I was in London. If you find that you have more than you can conveniently dispose of, I beg you would return them, and I will be accountable to you for the price of them. I am sorry to inform you, that I do not find there is any prospect of the sale of this work increasing; and, therefore, that I shall be obliged to shut it up, at least for some time. I am afraid I shall not be able to get through another volume. We have made some progress, however, in printing the next number, which will be published at the time appointed.

I thank //you// for your remarks on the Address.<sup>2</sup> They are certainly just, but I consulted with D<sup>f</sup> Kippis<sup>3</sup> about them, and we thought it was hardly worth while to cancel what was already printed for the sake of the improvements. In this I hope you will excuse us. In one of the passages there was a misprint, which will be corrected with a pen.

D<sup>f</sup> Lardner's History of the Hereticks will be published, but I cannot tell how soon.<sup>4</sup> It is, however, in great forwardness[.] His executor gave me Mr Tomkin's<sup>5</sup> answer to D<sup>f</sup> Lardner's<sup>6</sup> letter on the Logos, for the Repository. It was addressed to Mr Tomkin<sup>7</sup> under the name of Philaethes, if I have not been misinformed.

When I was in London I met with Eyre's Observations on the prophecies relating to the restoration of the Jews,<sup>8</sup> which, if you have not seen, I can strongly recommend to your notice. It has given me the greatest satisfaction with respect to ~~7~~ a subject, in which, indeed, I have always been a believer, I mean the return of the Jews. That Christ will reign over them in person I do not think quite so clear.

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<sup>1</sup> The letter is not dated in Rutt's edition. Rutt conjectures it was written 'Probably about April 1771'. 'after Feb 17' is written in pencil on the MS.

<sup>2</sup> Priestley, *A Free Address to Protestant Dissenters, as such*. (London, 1769). A second edition was published in 1771.

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Kippis (1725-1795), Presbyterian minister and biographer [ODNB].

<sup>4</sup> Lardner's *The Historie of the Heretics of the Two First Centuries after Christ* was printed from a manuscript with 'large additions by John Hogg' by Joseph Johnson in 1780.

<sup>5</sup> Martin Tomkins (d. 1755), Presbyterian minister [ODNB].

<sup>6</sup> Nathaniel Lardner (1684-1768), see 6 Dec 1770. The piece is 'A Letter sent by the Rev. Mr. Tomkins, Author of a Treatise intituled, Jesus Christ the Mediator, to Dr. Lardner, in reply to his Letter on the Logos', *Theol. Repos.*, III (1771), 257-291.

<sup>7</sup> Rutt: it was addressed to Dr. Lardner [Rutt, I, i, 136]. The MS is presumably a mistake on Priestley's part.

<sup>8</sup> Joseph Eyre, *Observations upon the Prophecies relating to the Restoration of the Jews. With an Appendix, in Answer to the Objections of some Late Writers* (London, 1771).

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I have also lately seen a piece on the Prophecies written by one Taylor<sup>9</sup> in Scotland, which contains some thing[s] well worth notice. Daniel says that the sanctuary will be cleansed after 2300 days. These, reckoned from the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Belshazzar, when the vision was seen, would lead us to expect that the restoration of the Jews cannot be far off. In Abubeck's Instructions to his generals (which you may see either in the Universal History, or in Guthrie's general history) you will find a remarkable illustration of Rev 9.4. This I learned from Dr Chandler's<sup>10</sup> interleaved bible. I have of late given a good deal of attention to the subject of prophecies and, if the Repository had continued, I should have given a short view of what I think to be the best interpretations of those of Daniel and the Revelations.

My subscription, I believe, goes on as well as I could expect, but all I can expect from this volume is to be indemnified for the expenses I have been at. The Duke of Northumberland<sup>11</sup> was very civil to me. At first he readily accepted of my offer to dedicate the first volume to him; But before I left the town, he ~~sent~~ sent me word, that he would rather chuse some other volume, which I consider as a method of declining the whole business.

I have been lately informed of a most excellent pamphlet called An address to the common sense of the people of England on the subject of religion,<sup>12</sup> or something to that purpose. I have sent for it.

You will soon see an admirable piece [on] the subject of the scotch confessions and subscriptions similar to the Confessional<sup>13</sup> in England. D<sup>r</sup> Kippis was correcting the press for it. I read some of the sheets.

I am, with compliments to Mrs Lindsey

Dear Sir

yours sincerely

J Priestley

I am printing new editions of my catechisms<sup>14</sup> and address to masters of families.<sup>15</sup> I am also drawing up a scripture catechism.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Lauchlan Taylor, *An Essay on some Important Passages of the Revelation of the Apostle John; compared with Correspondent Passages of the Book of Daniel* (Edinburgh, 1770).

<sup>10</sup> ? Edward Chandler (1668?-1750), bishop of Durham [ODNB].

<sup>11</sup> Hugh Percy first duke of Northumberland (bap. 1712, d. 1786), see 30 May 1770.

<sup>12</sup> Possibly *An Appeal to the Good Sense of the Inhabitants of Great Britain concerning their Religious Rights and Privileges* (London, 1770).

<sup>13</sup> Francis Blackburne, *The Confessional; or, a Full and Free Inquiry into the Right, Utility, Edification, and Success, of establishing Systematical Confessions of Faith and Doctrine in Protestant Churches* (London, 1766).

<sup>14</sup> Priestley, *A Catechism for Children and Young Persons* (first edn. printed London, 1767).

<sup>15</sup> Priestley, *A Serious Address to Masters of Families, with Forms of Family-Prayer* (London, 1769). A second edition was published in 1770.

<sup>16</sup> Priestley, *A Scripture Catchecism consisting of a Series of Questions, with References to Scriptures instead of Answers* (London, 1792), third edn. A copy of a third edition survives in MS 654 at the Royal Society. The work is not listed on ESTC.