

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 111-112

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ADDRESS: The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Birmingham, Nov 1789

Birm Nov 25. 1789.

Dear friend

I have received the parcell very safe, and thank you for your care of the particulars. I observe, however, that you in London often see things in a very different light from us in the country, and you do not sufficiently consider that, large as London is, the country is larger. You look upon such a publication as the Gentleman's Magazine with contempt, and think a man disgraced by writing //in// it. But it does not appear so here, and we think it a great convenience of which much use may be made to have access to a place in which ~~we~~ we are sure to meet with our opponents, and can write what will be read by literary persons //and be preserved//. We therefore think it good policy to make that use of it, and to keep the editor<sup>1</sup> in good humour, and engage his impartiality, by proper civility.

I own that I partake much of the sentiments of country readers, and have no idea of being disgraced by any thing that ~~we~~ answers a good purpose. To comply with your opinion, I shall for the present not send the Letters to the Magazine, tho I feel no conviction ~~fr~~ //from// your reasons. The papers you have about the apparition are not worth sending to Mr Westly.<sup>2</sup> They are the others, more serious ones, relating to his setting out on his religious career, that it might import him to see; but I do not care to be at the trouble, or expence, of taking any more copies of them.

I thank you for the various and valuable information contained in the letters you have sent me, and shall return them the first opportunity. Mr Garnham<sup>3</sup> is a valuable part of our corps, as I hope Mr Frend<sup>4</sup> will also be. Perhaps Mr Garnham will give him some assistance.<sup>5</sup>

We shall not fail to print Mr Heywoods pamphlet,<sup>6</sup> tho not as at by our Committee. When we shall have printed my Letters to Bp Horsley, which is the first part of my Defences<sup>7</sup> this year, I shall stop the press for that. It is now in the hands of the printer.

The other piece I perceive is D<sup>r</sup> Aikin's,<sup>8</sup> I know his hand writing. I like it much; but think it rather extraordinary that he should write in this strain, as he was one that was

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<sup>1</sup> John Nichols (1745-1826), see 14 Jul 1787.

<sup>2</sup> John Wesley (1703-1791), see 9 Mar 1789.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Edward Garnham (1753-1802), see 21 Sept 1789.

<sup>4</sup> William Frend (1757-1841), see 29 Jun 1788.

<sup>5</sup> This sentence is omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>6</sup> Samuel Heywood, *The Right of Protestant Dissenters to a Compleat Toleration asserted; containing an Historical Account of the Test laws, and showing the Injustice, Inexpediency, and Folly of the Sacramental Test, as now imposed, with respect to Protestant Dissenters, with an Answer to the Objection to the Act of Union with Scotland* (London, 1789), second edn.

<sup>7</sup> Priestley, *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (Birmingham, 1790).

<sup>8</sup> John Aikin, *The Spirit of the Constitution and that of the Church of England, compared. To which are added by Another Hand, Remarks on Two Letters, addressed to the Delegates of the Several Congregations*

most offended at my former publication of the same kind, and even said that I ought to be apprehended by Government for disturbing the peace of society.<sup>9</sup> At that time there was a violent cry against me in Lancashire. – I shall write to Ben Vaughan<sup>10</sup> abo[ut] Horsley's Newton.<sup>11</sup>

I shall adopt Mr Shore's paragraph<sup>12</sup> instea[d] of my own. In about a fortnight this work will I hope be out of the press.<sup>13</sup>

I have put Mr Dodson's Isaiah<sup>14</sup> into the hands of Mr Hawkes.<sup>15</sup> I think I shall like it much; but I do not like his inserting the passage concerning John the Baptist, merely because he takes it for granted that the quotation of the OT in the New must be accurate, and I wonder at his supposing that our Saviour's walking before his sepulcher should be the subject of prophecy. But these are trifles – The two pamphlets (for which I thank you) are poor indeed. However, I think to reply to them (anonymous) in our small tracts.<sup>16</sup> I wish we could be ~~?~~ //sure// that they were from the Bp of Salisbury.<sup>17</sup> Pray who is he, as also the Bp of Peterborough?<sup>18</sup> – Our grand daughter is inoculated, and likely, I just hear, to do well. I expect my wife on friday. I feel very solitary. Yours & M<sup>rs</sup> Lindsey's most affectionately

J Priestley

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*of Protestant Dissenters, who met at Devizes, September 14, 1789* (London, 1790). The latter piece was written by Priestley.

<sup>9</sup> The second part of this sentence is omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>10</sup> Benjamin Vaughan (1751-1835), see 14 May 1789.

<sup>11</sup> Samuel Horsley, *Isaaci Newtoni Opera quæ exstant Omnia*, 5 vols. (London, 1779-1785).

<sup>12</sup> Samuel Shore (1738-1828), see 26 Aug 1787.

<sup>13</sup> This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's edition.

<sup>14</sup> Michael Dodson, *A New Translation of Isaiah; with Notes* (London, 1790).

<sup>15</sup> William Hawkes (1731-1796), see 5 Jul 1786.

<sup>16</sup> unidentified.

<sup>17</sup> Shute Barrington (1734-1826), see May 1772.

<sup>18</sup> John Hinchliffe (1731–1794), see 21 Oct 1789.