

62 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 27 January 1790

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 127-128

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 51-52

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

ENDORSEMENT: Jan. 27. 1790

Birm Jan 27. 1790

Dear friend

I thank you for your disposal of my presents //of Defences,¹ especially to Mr Garnham²// and of the History of Early Opinions.³ In White⁴ is N^o 11409 Histoire du Clergé & 4 vols.⁵ I wish you would look at it. I imagine, however, it is Hermant,⁶ concerning which Mr Berington⁷ says he knows nothing. You will soon see whether it be a work of value. I wish to be well prepared for the continuation of my Church History,⁸ tho I shall not sit down to it till after we have done the translation.

I send you 80 Copies of Elwall,⁹ having so many in the house. I shall send the remainder of your order the next opportunity.

I do not suppose that Bp Horsley¹⁰ will feel much from my animadversions, as I do not suppose he will read them. But I do not write for him, or such as he is. That would be to threw pearls before swine, indeed.¹¹

We are printing D^r Aikin's Tract¹² to which I have subjoined //(anonymous)// some Remarks on the two Letters to the Delegates at Devizes. I hope you will not dislike them. Mr Russell¹³ and I think it will be better for the Delegates from the country not to meet in London this year, but reserve themselves for some greater occasion, only to be in readiness when called for. In the mean time, our union will be perfecting, and our strength increasing. Our exertions have not, I hope, been without their effect with you, as well as in ~~the~~ other parts of the country.

The clergy and tory friends of the establishment are meeting in many places to oppose us. They will certainly do something violent, of which a good advantage may be taken. I have some thought ~~that~~, if they do anything of this kind, to ~~write~~ write an Expostulatory Address to them, not for them.

¹ Priestley, *Defences of Unitarianism for the Years 1788 & 1789* (Birmingham, 1790).

² Robert Edward Garnham (1753-1828), see 29 Oct 1789.

³ Priestley, *An History of Early Opinions concerning Jesus Christ, compiled from Original Writers; proving that the Christian Church was at First Unitarian*, 4 vols. (Birmingham, 1786).

⁴ Benjamin White (c. 1725-1794), see 5 Feb 1789. See Benjamin White and Son, *A Catalogue of the Library of the Rev. John Bowle* (London, 1790).

⁵ Abbé (Augustin) Barruel, *Histoire du Clergé*, 4 vols. (Amsterdam, 1716).

⁶ "L'Abbé Herment," died, 1725, aged 75. *Nouv. Dict. Hist.* (1789) IV. 454 [Rutt].

⁷ Joseph Berington (1743-1827), see 29 Jun 1788.

⁸ Priestley, *A General History of the Christian Church, to the Fall of the Western Empire*, 2 vols. (Birmingham, 1790).

⁹ Edward Elwall, *The Triumph of Truth; being an Account of the Trial of Mr. E. Elwall, for Heresy and Blasphemy* (Leeds, 1771).

¹⁰ Samuel Horsley (1733-1806), see 17 May 1786.

¹¹ This sentence is omitted from Rutt's edition.

¹² 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 of Protestant Dissenters, who met at Devizes, September 14, 1789* (London, 1790).

¹³ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

Between two & three o'clock on Sunday morning one of our maid servants, hearing a noise in the garden looked out at the window, and instantly a pistol was fired at her by one of three men that [she[?]] saw in the garden. However, the other serva[nt] [rin]ging[?] a large bell at the window, they we[re] off. They had attempted to get in at a back kitchen window, but without affect. We are now better prepared for them, and have no apprehension about them. The measures they are taking in town drive the villains to us in the country. We hear good accounts from Heath, and are very well at home. Only I have had a very bad cold and hoarseness, which kept me at home last sunday. It is not quite gone, but I am getting well very fast. The whole of last week I was confined by it, and had no appetite. My wife desires to be remembered to you¹⁴

yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's most affectionately

J Priestley

¹⁴ This paragraph is omitted from Rutt's editon.