

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 177-178

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ADDRESS: The Rev^d M^r Lindsey Essex Street London

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Birm. Oct 27. 1790

Dear friend

After much talking with Mr Wilkinson,² I find that he will do nothing for Joseph³ that will ever encourage him to marry. He will not allow him more than fifty pounds per an^m ~~?~~ certain salary, without any scope for exertion by which he could make it more, only he would give him annually as much as Mr Ryland⁴ would, to enable them to keep house. But to live on a scanty pension, with very little to do, is not the thing for a man with a family. Mr W himself says he cannot change his plan, and //that// Joseph had better look out for some other employment, mentioning ~~?~~ one or ~~two~~ two but most unlikely to answer; saying that after my son's being fixed in any business they may, at any time, if he should have occasion for them, be removed to his works. This, however, every body says is an idle scheme, if he meant any thing at all by it, and therefore I must get them into some business or other in which they may remain for life. With W^{m5} I would give a fee, and bind ~~him~~ ~~?~~ //him for// some years service, if I could find a proper place for him. Joseph is too old for that. He must have a partnership, and I must advance all the money that I prudently can. I therefore propose to give him one thousand pounds, and lend him another; and that may perhaps do for some business in this part of the country. My friends are looking out for them both, but they own there will be great difficulty in both their cases. Mr Galton⁶ is making inquiry ~~and~~ ~~w~~ for me, and will do all he [c]an. I wrote to Mr B Vaughan⁷ about W^m, thinking to get him employment in their country house till a proper business could be found for him. But he says it //is// their rule to take none without money, and the last they took gave a thousand pounds. I had no idea of the nature or value of the favour I was asking.

I am much concerned to hear by Mr G. Russell,⁸ who has been taking his brother's son⁹ to Mr Wakefield,¹⁰ that he is so dissatisfied with the conduct of the Trustees of the New College, that he is determined to leave them. They are accused of throwing away their money on unnecessary buildings, and useless tutors, ~~?~~ while the

¹ Rutt's edition prints only the final two paragraphs.

² John Wilkinson (1728-1808), see 17 May 1786.

³ Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

⁴ ? John Ryland [Jennifer Uglow, *The Lunar Men: the Friends who made the Future, 1730-1810* (London: Faber, 2003, 443].

⁵ William Priestley (b. 1771), see 22 Jul 1789.

⁶ ? Samuel Galton (1720-1799), see 7 Sept 1789.

⁷ Benjamin Vaughan (1751-1835), see 14 May 1789.

⁸ George Russell, William Russell's youngest brother, see 30 Sept 1790.

⁹ Thomas Pougher Russell (1775-1851), see 17 Oct 1790.

¹⁰ Gilbert Wakefield (1756-1801), see 3 Apr 1789.

effective men are neglected and unpaid[.]¹¹ He has also other complaints that affect himself [per]sonally. I hope that some remedy will be found for evils, if they really exist.

Mr Berington¹² was not applied to to preach the annual charity sermon but only a sunday school sermon at our place. He has sent a handsome refusal a copy of which, as well as of my letter to him, I will send you. He hopes, he tells me, it may [[be]] prudent for him to do it some time hence, tho not at present – Next sunday I preach the second part of my Discourse at Buxton¹³ and then I will send it with other things.¹⁴

Mr Russell¹⁵ said that his friends in London, particularly the Bankers, depended upon a peace, but all appearances, ~~–?~~ as well as your accounts, are for war. The final issue of all things must be good. This is our consolation in all events¹⁶ – We are all as well as can be expected in this state of anxiety about our sons. Joseph has suffered much from the uncertainty ~~he~~ in which he has been kept, and is much easier in the resolution to break from it at all events. With all our best respects yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's &c J Priestley.

¹¹ See Gilbert Wakefield, *Memoirs of the Life of Gilbert Wakefield* (London, 1792), 368-370.

¹² Joseph Berington (1743-1827), see 29 Jun 1788.

¹³ Priestley, *The Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus considered, in a Discourse first delivered in the Assembly-Room, at Buxton, on Sunday, September 19, 1790* (Birmingham, 1791).

¹⁴ This sentence is omitted from Rutt's edition.

¹⁵ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

¹⁶ Rutt: all things [Rutt, I, ii, 94]. The text of Rutt's edition ends here.