

91 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 23 December 1790

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 183-184

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 97-98¹

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey Essex Street London

POSTMARK: Birmingham, Nov 24 1790

Birm. Dec^{br} 23. 1790

Dear friend

In compliance with your wishes, I have cancelled the whole of the last letter, tho' the sheet was printed. The preceding letter will make a sufficiently good close. I have also cancelled the leaf where our ministry are said to be unfavourable to the French Revolution and another that D^r Price² pointed out, where the sixth of October is put for the 14th of July,³ having also made some other alterations in it. The other passages I really think are trifles, and may be changed in a new edition, if there be any. I cannot read Mr Burke⁴ any more, being confident it would answer no good purpose. Tho, tired as I am of the business, having done thus much, I would not fail to do more, if I had any prospect of doing better. It is time also to put an end to your anxiety about it, which is excessive.

How Mr Jardine⁵ will receive our invitation I cannot tell; but ~~?~~ his prospects at Bath (as he writes in confidence to a friend at Warwick) are not so promising as they have been. He has by no means the success that he wished, ~~?~~ //and// hoped. There is a better field here, and considering his age I look to him for a suc[[c]]essor to myself. Besides, we have thoughts of opening another and proper unitarian Chapel, where for some time we may officiate by turns, having at first one service a day. If we can get a zealous unitarian in the other meeting, this may be done with ease, and indeed very well if Mr Coates⁶ continue here.

The more I think of your situation with respect to the Disneys,⁷ the more I feel for you. It must have been beyond measure ~~painful~~ painful. But, happily, time reconciles us to ~~?~~ every thing, and if we //be// conscious that we have done our duty, we have no reason to be much distressed. It would, to appearance, be a happy event if he would leave you. You would not now be so much at a loss for an assistant.

Mr Estlin⁸ wants an assistant in his school [an]d Mr Dyer⁹ has been named to him. I hav[e] referred him to Mr Friend.¹⁰ Mr Kingsbury¹¹ has refused to go because he must have occasionally walked out with the boys. You heard of his leaving Warwick. He has as ~~foH~~ foolishly left Evesham, and they say is coming to live by his pen at Birmingham. It is little less than insanity. He will be a beggar among us.

¹ Rutt's edition prints only the first paragraph.

² Richard Price (1723-1791), see 18 Dec 1769.

³ See Priestley, *Letters to the Right Honourable Edmund Burke, occasioned by his Reflections on the Revolution in France &c.* (Birmingham, 1791), 40.

⁴ Edmund Burke (1729/30-1797), see 11 Mar 1790.

⁵ David Jardine (1766-1797), see 13 Oct 1790.

⁶ John Coates (1765?-1836), see 11 Jun 1787.

⁷ John Disney (1746-1816), see 11 Jun 1787.

⁸ John Prior Estlin (1747-1817), see 14 Jul 1787.

⁹ George Dyer (1755-1841), see 29 Jun 1788.

¹⁰ William Friend (1757-1841), see 4 May 1789.

¹¹ Benjamin Kingsbury (b. 1765?), see 29 Mar 1790.

91 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 23 December 1790

Yours & M^{rs} Lindsey's
most affectionately
J Priestley