

110 To THEOPHILUS LINDSEY, 24 July 1793

MS: Dr. Williams's Library, MS. 12.12, f. 222-223

PRINTED: Rutt, I, ii, pp. 203-205

ADDRESS: The Rev^d Mr Lindsey M^{rs} Blackburne's Richmond Yorkshire¹

POSTMARK: Gloucester, July 25 1793

ENDORSEMENT: Dr P. July 24: 1793

Wooton² July 24. 1793

Dear friend

Hoping this may find you at Mr Reynolds,³ I direct thither, as I am not quite sure, from the note you gave me, that you will be at York before the beginning of the next month. I hope you have been as happy at Paxton as I have been at Wooton, where [I r]ide out every day, and do not find one unpleasant [cir]cumstance. On the contrary, there seems to be a degree [of] liberality in this place that I should not have expected to find in any other part of the kingdom. On Sunday ~~→~~ the meeting house was crowded, and among other persons of note were the Mayor⁴ and his son, who after wards drank tea at Mr Chandler's,⁵ where I was, and Mr Pitt⁶ the member of parliament, who that evening came to Mr Russells,⁷ and gave me a general invitation to dine with him &c. Mr Russell also meets with every mark of respect from all ranks of people, not excepting the clergy, one of whom dined here since I came.

I have employed myself every morning in enlarging my ans^r to Mr Evanson,⁸ and writing a long and serious Preface, which I hope you will not dislike. I have ~~made~~ other additions to make, occasioned by another perusal of the work, and on the whole think that my answer will be nearly as large as his book. I can hardly repress my indignation at the contemptuous manner in which he treats the books of the New Testament; but I hope you will not have much fault to find with me on this account.

I leave this place on Friday, having heard that Joseph⁹ will be the next day at Clapton, ready to embark with Mr Cooper¹⁰ from London in about a fortnight. His wife ~~and child~~ will be with him, and will probably continue with us during his absence, or the greatest part of it. Harry¹¹ I expected here yesterday; but it is possible that, having received direction from Joseph, he will meet him at Birm, and go with him to London.¹²

¹ First sent to Richard Reynold's Esq Paxton Huntingdon and redirected.

² William Russell's residence, Gloucestershire.

³ Richard Reynolds (d. 1814), see 29 Aug 1787.

⁴ Charles Howard, eleventh duke of Norfolk (1746-1815), politician [ODNB].

⁵ Richard Chandler (1743?-1810) [*Mon. Rep.*, V (1810), 408].

⁶ John Pitt M. P. (d. 1805).

⁷ William Russell (1740-1818), see 5 Jul 1786.

⁸ Edward Evanson (1732-1805), Church of England clergyman [ODNB]. See Priestley, *Letters to a Young Man, Part II. Occasioned by Mr. Evanson's Treatise on the Dissonance of the Four Generally Received Evangelists* (London, 1793). See also Priestley's *Letters to a Young Man, occasioned by Mr. Wakefield's Essay on Public Worship; to which is added, a Reply to Mr. Evanson's Objections to the Observance of the Lord's Day* (London, 1792).

⁹ Joseph Priestley jnr. (1768-1863), see 12 Oct 1789.

¹⁰ Thomas Cooper (1759-1839), see 12 Mar 1790.

¹¹ Henry (Harry) Priestley (b. 1777), see 5 Jul 1786.

¹² The preceding two sentences are omitted from Rutt's edition.

As far as I can learn, there are few people who approve of the war in this part of the country. I have seen two clergymen who condemn it much; and one of them, in giving me an account of Mr Frend's¹³ trial, ~~was~~ approved of the proceedings against him. He has sent me the printed trial, and I think the Vice chancellor's¹⁴ speech will operate in favour of free inquiry. For when is the time to inquire, if not at the University? To say that they should not meddle with religious controversy there is to say they must not engage in it at all. This, I should think, must strike every body.

Give my particular respects to Mr Reynolds, and also to Mr & M^{rs} Cappe¹⁵ when you get to York, and to M^{rs} Blackburne¹⁶ at Richmond. I am anxious to hear of Mr Lee,¹⁷ but fear you will hardly find him alive.¹⁸ If you do, remember me kindly to him.

Direct to me at Clapton, where I shall be some time, perhaps printing my work, tho I shall like to make an excursion afterwards.

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

¹³ William Frend (1757-1841), see 4 May 1789. Frend's *Peace and Union recommended to the Associated Bodies of Republicans and Anti-Republicans* (1793) had been denounced by the master and fellows of Jesus College, and initiated proceedings which led to his trial by the university authorities in May 1794.

¹⁴ Isaac Milner (1750-1820), natural philosopher, Dean of Carlisle, President of Queen's College, and vice-chancellor of the university [ODNB]. See *The Trial of William Frend, M. A. and Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. In the Vice-Chancellor's Court. For writing and publishing a Pamphlet, intituled Peace and Union* (Cambridge, 1793).

¹⁵ Newcome Cappe (1733-1800), see 30 May 1770, and Catharine Cappe (1744-1821), see 12 Oct 1789.

¹⁶ Hannah Blackburne [*née* Hotham] (1713-1799), widow of Francis Blackburne (1705-1787) [ODNB].

¹⁷ John Lee (1733-1793), see Mar 1770.

¹⁸ John Lee died soon afterwards on 5 August 1793.