Title: Letter from Joseph Priestley to Theophilus Lindsey
Date: August 15, 1794
Location: I-BeachW-undated-1
Dear friend,

I have just been gratified with the receipt of a second letter from you, dated April 15, but have not yet received that which you say was involved in a parcel of books which went to New York, and when I shall receive that parcel I cannot tell. This is the greatest inconvenience in this country. You may think that by sending a thing at any post in America it will reach any person in the country, but I find that, if it be at any considerable distance it may as well be in England. Ever since I have heard of this package, I have written letter upon letter to expedite it, but hitherto to no purpose. Where the blame lies, I cannot, at this distance, find out, and what to do more I cannot tell. However, I must bear it as well. If things be sent to Philadelphia, I may hear them in about a month if small, or a month and a half if large. A certain old lady communicates with England and writes greatly to my sister, faction in their country, and we have expectation of being soon better in this respect; we hope it is about to be set up between this plan and Philadelphia, and we post three times a week. As usual it is only once. Our last news is that of the engagement of the French, of ships, and an accumulation of the British.
Having some advantage in Holland, and money from the States General, I was also more hopeful of the conclusion of the peace with England. The Indians have been profitable, and we had no apprehension from them any further than they are congregated and object by the English. The word circumstances attending this country is the refusal of some of the Indians, not to pay the tax. But this, we hope, will soon be settled, and without bloodshed.

I have now seen a summer in this country, and find it very tolerable at the worst season, and in general delightful. The climate is certainly greatly preferable to that of England, and now I am perfectly reconciled to it. The air is very palpable that I have completely got the better of my cold. At the same time, I have had several letters, which I have read more or less of as soon as my landing. My letters are in letters that I have known here. She has lately written a second long letter to Mr. Lindsey. She is in fear of this place that nothing can come from it, and therefore I have agreed to buy ground, on which to build a house, which will be begun very soon. Indeed, I can make better use of my time here, with more respect to my theological and philosophical studies, than I could by being in Philadelphia, where I could have less time to myself, and should have very disagreeably, as well as at an expense which I could not support. I only want my books, and would write about me, and in this autumn I hope to have them. My circumstances I cannot make much use of the next year. If I had my books, I could do many things.
immediately. I have begun the continuation of my Church history, by the help of a few columns of Memel copied I did in the ship with me. When I get all my books, I shall make some cord to 1, 2, and in two years I hope I can finish it. I have composed a most exact and an additional letter to the philosophers and politicians of France on their projects, their beliefs in the laws of a state and a future state, independent of them. I have also composed a sermon to be delivered whenever I preach in Philadelphia. I have put our talents of being and shall probably make some remarks on it, in another letter to the philosophers in France. It is a great and should be the same. I shall give directions to read 2 or 3 copies of everything I publish here, directed to you, that you may distribute them to my friends as you please, and forgetting the two Mr. Williams, Mr. Parkinson, and Mr. Salt. The rest you will easily distinguish.

The said circular paragraph that I have not seen in your published here against one, I will send you a copy. I shall not omit it, but I hope that some friend will. Another I have just received printed at New York, as a letter from the Devil to me. I shall never mind to all these things with regard to the two years, and to go. I have just heard that at New York they are ready to remove to a vacation country. Nothing but pressed and all premiums excepted but they will be totally independent in their circumstances. This town, the most delightfully extended country in the world, promises now to become a considerable place. When a few of my friends are come, we shall have an assembly where, and possibly have a College. At present I preach occasionally in the Presbyterian meeting; but there
I make a point of saying nothing to offend them. This shall, ever to this to assert prejudice, and will prevent the way for other things. They all know my opinion and in general do not seem to much shocked at them. I have introduc any small pamphlets as they are printed at Phila delight of any some of them. There are not few hundred people in this town, and as many in London, which is only separated by the river.

I would now give a good deal for a complete set of The Morning Chronicle, or any valuable English newspaper the war.

Wells. I hope Mr. Belcher will send me The Cambridge Paper. They need some one care. We have only few extract in the Philadelphian paper. It is a long time since we have had any accounts of the town, or our friends in the Governor. The war is here in too violent to last much longer and I cannot help thinking myself much with the idea of visiting England before I die, perhaps after I have finished my account history. I read some of the Hebrew Book. When I almost care. So many properly with the whole translation, now that I have so much time upon any other. They are not ready to the present. Mr. Belcher and his friends.
Dear friend,

I have just been gratified with the sight of a second letter from you, dated April 15, but have not yet received that which you say was enclosed in a parcel of books which went to New York, and when I shall receive that parcel I cannot tell. This is the greatest inconvenience in this country. You may think that by sending a thing to any port in America it will soon reach any person in the country; but I find that, if it be at any considerable distance, what is sent here is not received very fast. I have heard of the package I have written letter upon letter to expedite it, but hitherto to no purpose. Where the blame lies I cannot, at this distance, find out, and what to do more I cannot tell. However, I must have patience. If things be sent to Philadelphia, directed to Mr. John Vaughan, I may have them in about a week if small, or a month if large. A certain and ready communication with England being at present so desirable to all parties, and we have expectation of being soon better in this respect, as a stage coach is about to be set up between this place and Philadelphia and a post three times a week. At present it is only once. Our last news is that of the engagement at sea, in which the French lost 8 ships, and an uncertain report of the French having some advantage in Flanders, and having taken Ypres. We have also more hope of the continuance of the peace with England. The Indians have been repulsed, and we have no apprehension from that quarter, as much from them. This, however, tends to abate prejudice and will prepare the way for other things. They all know my opinions and in general do not seem to be much instigated, and assisted by the English. The worst circumstance attending this country is the refusal of the back settlers to pay the excise. But this, we hope, will soon be settled, and without bloodshed.

I have now seen a summer in this country, and find it very tolerable as the worst season, and in general delightful. The climate is certainly greatly preferable to that of England, and now I am perfectly reconciled to it, tho it is only of late that I have completely got the better of a violent diarrhea which I have had more or less of ever since my landing. My wife is better than I ever knew her. She has lately written a second long letter to Mrs. Lindsey. She is so fond of this place that nothing can draw her from it, and therefore I have agreed to buy ground, on which to build a house, which will be begun very soon. Indeed, I can make better use of my time here, both with respect to my theological and philosophical studies, than I could by being in Philadelphia where I could have little time to myself, and should live very disagreeably, as well as at an expense which I could not support. I only want my books and instruments about me, and in this autumn I hope to have them. Nothing but prudent and able preachers are wanted but they must be totally independent in their circumstances — This town, the most delightfully isolated perhaps in the world, promises now to become a considerable place. When a few of my friends are come I shall make a point of saying nothing to offend them. This, however, tends to abate prejudice and will prepare the way for other things. They all know my opinions and in general do not seem to be much shocked at them. I shall introduce my small pamphlets as they are printed at a unitarian chapel, and probably have a College. At present I preach sometimes against me, I will send you a copy, I shall not notice it, but I hear that it is only of late that I have completely got the better of a violent diarrhea which I have had more or less of ever since my landing. My wife is better than I ever knew her. She has lately written a second long letter to Mrs. Lindsey. She is so fond of this place that nothing can draw her from it, and therefore I have agreed to buy ground, on which to build a house, which will be begun very soon. Indeed, I can make better use of my time here, both with respect to my theological and philosophical studies, than I could by being in Philadelphia where I could have little time to myself, and should live very disagreeably, as well as at an expense which I could not support. I only want my books and instruments about me, and in this autumn I hope to have them. Nothing but prudent and able preachers are wanted but they must be totally independent in their circumstances — This town, the most delightfully isolated perhaps in the world, promises now to become a considerable place. When a few of my friends are come I shall make a point of saying nothing to offend them. This, however, tends to abate prejudice and will prepare the way for other things. They all know my opinions and in general do not seem to be much shocked at them. I shall introduce my small pamphlets as they are printed at a unitarian chapel, and probably have a College. At present I preach sometimes

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