Title: Letter from Joseph Priestley to Thomas Wedgwood
Date: October 18, 1791
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Dear Sir,

I do not know that any experiments have been made on the curious and important subjects that you mention, and I have little doubt but your labour in so new a field will be crowned with considerable success. All that is known of this kind in the greater part of the more cognizant men to be reflected in such media as water, and the atmosphere.

Please to give my compliments to your father and brother, and tell them that I did not go the journey that I proposed to do when I wrote before, as I should certainly have called upon you. I have taken a box at Hackney, and am...
building a laboratory, and as soon as convenient, shall be obliged to your father of he will supply me, as usual, with such articles as you make, viz. earthen tubes closed at the end, and open, and car with two necks. Some retorts, evaporating dishes, mortars and levigation towers. Perhaps your servants here can tell me the price of which I want another three that were destroyed by the rest. I must soon gain in the account of my labor, and I fear that some person or your part must attend at Warwick, to attest the value. Mr. Mason, Mr. Parker, and others, have promised to attend. But I have proposed a conference between appraisers and them for the County.
in London, which, if they be disposed to do anything, can save much trouble and on

Whether I shall be invited to succeed O'Keefe, is an uncertain. Many of my personal disturbances in consequence of my coming I could not get a house to let in my own name. A friend took it in his. I have, however, very kind some proposals from Warren, particularly the offer of a house completely furnished, two miles from Paris, and another place in the south of France in a monastery which reason has recovered "from separation". I am, Dear Sir, with my respect to the family, yours sincerely, W. [Signature]
Mr. Priestley
1791

Mr. Thomas Wedgewood
Etruria
near Newcastle and Han
Stoke-on-Trent
Mr. Thomas Wedgwood, Etruria near Newcastle under Lyme Staffordshire

London, Oct. 18, 1791

Dear Sir,

I do not know that any experiments have been made on the curious and important subjects that you mention, and I have little doubt but your labours in so new a field will be crowned with considerable success. All that is known of the kind is the great aptness of the more refrangible rays to be reflected in such media as water, and the atmosphere.

Please to give my compliments to your father and brother, and tell them that I did not go the journey that I proposed to do when I wrote before, or I should certainly have called upon you. I have taken a house at Hackney, and am building a laboratory, and as soon as convenient, shall be obliged to your father if he will supply me, as usual, with such articles as you make, viz. earthen tubes closed at the end, and open, and some with two necks, small retorts, evaporating dishes, mortars and levigators. Perhaps your servants hear can tell me the price at which I must estimate those that were destroyed by the riot. I must soon give in the account of my losses, and I fear that some person on your part must attend at Warwick, to attest the value. Mr. Nairne, Mr. Parker, and others, have promised to attend. But I have proposed a conference between my appraiser, and those for the county in London, which, if they be disposed to do justice, will save much trouble and expence.

Whether I shall be invited to succeed Dr. Price, is uncertain. Many apprehend public disturbance in consequence of my coming. I could not get a house let in my own name. A friend took it in his. I have, however, very handsome proposals from France, particularly the offer of a house completely furnished two miles from Paris, and another polite invitation from Thoulouse, to take up my residence in the South of France, in “a monastery which reason has recovered from superstition”. I am, Dear Sir, with my respects to all the family, yours sincerely,

J. Priestley

P.S. I shall leave for your father a new publication of mine but only on account of the Preface.