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Title: Letter from Joseph Priestley to Charles Blagden

Date: November 12, 1788

Location: I-Friends-1986-12

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Bonn. Nov. 12. 1788

Dear Sir

I think myself much obliged to you for your letter, and having just tried the precipitate per se, expelling air from it by heat, in a glass tube, and receiving it in lime water, upon mercury, find that it does not contain the least perceptible quantity of fixed air. I imagine, however, from the appearance of it, that it is No 3.

I wish, therefore, you would insert in my paper. "A quantity of the same precipitate per se yielded no perceptible fixed air by heat."

I thank you for your care to procure this substance for me, and Mr Johnson will pay you the expense of it.

If any paper be printed, I shall be glad
to correct the proof, as before, and that 76
Copies may be printed separately.

Mr Watt is pretty well recovered of his
indisposition. I saw him, and all the members of
our Lunar Society, on Monday last. I had
read my Paper to them the meeting before.
Some that we have received, and several of
us read, the Notes to Mr Keenan, both
by Mrs Morand & but they do not give us
any satisfaction, they even think them very
injurious, and that many things they allege
are very just with respect to Mr Keenan par-
ticular hypochondria. I should be glad if my
three Papers might have the same consideration
themselves. With esteem from your friend and

it would give me very little pain to retract
anything that I have advanced, if ^{it} should
appear not to be well founded. This par-
ticular business seems now to be in the way
of being decided very soon.

I much want a stronger business man. Mr
Parker after promising me, but still disappointed
me. However, another will soon set it, and

keep my mind from my laboratory, and

that apply to my more favourite study

Logic. — I have however completed a set

of experiments on the phlogestation of spirit
of nitre by heat, on account of which I may

perhaps draw out, and send you.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your sincerely

J. Priestley

179.

Dr John Blagden
Gower Street
Bedford Square
London

15 191

WHITE



Nov. 14/1791

Dr Priestley

Birm. Nov. 12, 1788

Dear Sir,

I think myself much obliged to you for your letter; and having just tried the Precipitate per se, expelling air from it by heat, in a glass tube, and repressing it in lime water, upon recovery, find that it does not contain the least perceivable quantity of fixed air. I imagine, however, from the appearance of it, that it is No. 3. I wish, therefore, you would insert in my paper "A quantity of the same precipitate per se yielded no fixed air by heat."

I thank you for your care to procure this substance for me, and Mr. Johnson will pay you the expense of it.

If my paper be printed, I shall be glad to correct the press as before, and that 70 copies may be printed separately.

Mr. Watt is pretty well recovered of his indisposition. I saw him, and all the members of our lunar society, on Monday last. I had read my Paper to them the meeting before. Since that we have received, and several of us read, the Notes to Mr. Kirwan's book by Messrs. Morveau & c but they do not give us any satisfaction, tho we think them very ingenious, and that many things they allege are very just with respect to Mr. Kirwan's particular hypothesis - I should be glad if my three Papers might have the same service done them. Truth comes from free discussion and it would give me very little pain to retract anything that I have advanced, if it should appear not to be well founded. This particular business seems now to be in the way of being decided very soon.

I much want a stronger burning lens. Mr. Parker's offer promises me, but still disappoints me. However, winter will soon set in a[nd] keep [me] very *
much from my laboratory and (torn) that apply to my more favorite study [the-] *
ology. - I have, however, completed a set of experiments on the phlogisticates
of spirit of nitre by heat, an account of which I may perhaps draw out and
send you.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours Sincerely
J Priestley

* A hole on the right margin of the paper has taken a few parts of the text.
Where obvious it is supplied.

To Sir Charles Blagden, 1748-1820. Physician and Secretary of the Royal Society.