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Title: Letter from Joseph Priestley to Theophilus Lindsey

Date: August 15, 1794

Location: I-BeachW-undated-1

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

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no 5 Westhenland any 16-0794 Dear friend, I have just been gratified with the right of a seem letter from you, dated april 15, but have not yet received that which you vay war indered in a parcel of tocoler which want to New york, and when I whole receive that paralle I cannot fell. This is the greatest in convenience in this country. You may think Had by sending a thing the any port in america I will soon rock any person in the security; but I find that, if it be at any considerable destance, it might as well be in England. Ever since I have heard of the package I far unter the spen letter to operate it, let hitherto to ne purposes When the blam hier I cannot, at this distance, find and, and what to do more I cound tell. However, I much have tothere of things to not to Philadelphia, may have Men in about a court if small, or a month if longer. A certain and really communicaten with England will all qually to my rates. faction in this country; and we have expetation, of being som better in this respect to a itograt about to be set up between this place and Philadelphinand a port three times a week. at pound it is only once. Our last news is they there gazonal de, in which the Grand last of ships, and an uncertain regard of the house

having som odvortage in florderi and having wance of the pears with England. In Indian har been repulsed, and we had no apprhans on for Her on forther than they are untigated, and apriles by the English. The word aroundone attending this country is the referred of som of the back sittless to pay the gracisa. But this, we hop, will som be tilled and withen blad shed. I have now seen a semmer in this country, and find it very bolerally at the word season, and in general deligselfel. The desirate is certainly qually preferable to that of England, and now I on perfectly weenciled to it, the it is only optato that I have corplety got the botter of a a is both dianken ihich I have tal more or less of sion Jino my lording. My botto wife is better them! we have her the her letty wither a record long letter to Mor Lindsey. The is so paid of this place that withing can dress her from it, and therefor I have agreed to by grown, on attack to crist a home, which with he legen very soon. Indeed, I can make botter use of my turn her, litt with respect to my theological and philosophical Ander, Man I wall by long in Philadelphia when I could have little term to anywell, and shall live very disagreedly, as well as at an experce chick I and red sapport. I only want my beales and instrument about my and is this autumn I have to have them. My contraments I could make much use of the wel year. If I had my books, I could do many things an-

mediately. I have begin the certification of my Church Mirtory by the help of a few esterment of Henry aticle I had in the open with me when I get all my tooks I dal that dos to it, and in two years I wish! can finish it. I have composed, and then soon print, an additional father to the philosophers of politician Those network approbly their bolis on the lang of a go, and a future state tod encident of X 5 . I have also compared a Somman to be delivered whenever I preach in Ohi-Calephia. I have just son Paine i age of horang and shah probably make some remarks on it, is nothing letter to the philosophers in France. It is arrogard and about in the others. I that gir, direction to and 2.5 Conics of way thing I publish here, directed to you, that you may distinbate them to my finds as you please, and forgotting the tien wer Williams ph Dahinen, and Me Salte. The set you and early distreguest. The and circled paraphlet that I have pet seer in just published here against en, I will send you a cony . I dale set notice it, but 9 hear that Some priend well. another I have just necess proiled at Man york, as a little for the decil to an I show never ried of all these things with weith attende the and do good. I have just heard that at new fort they are really to retirent. to an unitarian mentry, Wether let product and all preacher are would but they must de totally independent in their circum Stances - This town the med delightfully when he praken is the wall promises now to become or considerable plan. When a few of my pival, on and, we which has on anitarion adapted, and provolly have - College at prod I peach sometimes in the Party banon metry; but their

I make a paint of daying nothing to their Mor. This her. ever tent to about prejudice and will prepare the way for Men things. They all know my opinions and in go meral do not seem to to much should at them I theli introduce my small paraphlets as they are printed at This feet herdred people in the town and as many in turking I will sunbury, which is only separated by the ricer-I will now give a great deal for a complete of of the morning Chrowich, or my toluster English news paper the wen Just Prestley Month of the state 10 old. I hope Mr Bilshaus will said me Mr Combidge Paper. They well amore me areal We have only poor outset in the Philodelphia papers. It is a lay time rince on law had any ausurts of us How, a on piend, as the Jower. The war in hope in two violent to land much longer; and I connd hele phoring myself much will the idea of veretry laford defor I die, perhaps ofter I have pixished my Church History - Inca mon of the Helven Mich Men I almed ever di, and away populy Land My last regent to Mrs Ray me HW Bolshow and In 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, it might as well be in England. Ever since 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 would add greatly to my satisfaction in this country, and we have expectation of being soon better in this respect, as a stage 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 them any further than they are 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 <u>summer</u> in this country, and find it very tolerable as the worst season, and in general delightful. The climate is certainly greatly perferable 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. My instruments I cannot make much use of till 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 volumes of Fleury which I had on the ship with me. When I get all my books, I shall stick close to it, and in two years I think I can finish it. I have composed, and shall soon finish, an additional letter to the philosophers and politicians of France National Assembly: on their professing their belief in the being of a God, and a future state, independent of Xty. I have also composed a Sermon to be delivered whenever I preach in Philadelphia. I have just seen Paine's Age of Reason, and shall probably make some remarks on it, in another letter to the philosophers in France. It is arrogant and absurd in the extreme. I shall give direction to send 2-5 copies of everything I publish here, directed to you that you may distribute them to my friends as you please, and forgetting this time Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Parkinson, and Mr. Volta. The rest you will easily dist

The most virulent pamphlet that I have yet seen is just published here against me, I will send you a copy. I shall not notice it, but I hear that some friend will. Another I have just received printed at New York, as a letter from the Devil to me. I shall never read it. All those things will excite attention, and do good. I have just heard that at New York they are ready to submit to our unitarian meeting. 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 we shall build a unitarian chapel, and probably have a College. At present I preach sometimes in the Presbyterian meeting, but there I 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 Philadelphia. The Appeal is among some them. There are but five hundred people in this town and as many in Sunbury, which is only separated by the river—

I could now give a great deal for a complete set of the Morning Chronicle, or any tolerable English newspaper tho ever so old. I hope Mr. Belsham will send me the Cambridge papers. It is a long time since we have had any accounts of Mr. Stone, or our friends in the Tower. The War we hope is too violent to last much longer, and I cannot help pleasing myself much with the idea of visiting England before I die, perhaps after I have finished my Church History—I read more of the Hebrew Bible than I almost ever did, and may possibly write the whole translation now that I have so much time upon my hands. My best to Mrs. Rayner, Mr. Belsham and all friends, and Mrs. Lindsey.