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Title: Letter from Joseph Priestley to John Evans

Date: January 3, 1803

Location: I-Friends-1990-5

Contact:

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Northumberland Jan 8. 1843.

Dear Sir

I think myself much obliged to you for your kind letter, and the present of your truly valuable book. Indeed, I think it calculated to do much good, both in giving information to those who want it, and inspiring you own spirit of moderation and candour, which is of more importance than any mere knowledge, and more wanted.

On this account I rejoice that your book has wide a circulation. Your favourable mention of my name shows courage as well as candour, as it may be interpreted to your disadvantage. But a Christian, as you are, will not regard this. The time is near approaching, with respect to myself, when we shall all know one another better, and in general, I hope, esteem one another more than we now do; as I doubt not the intention of many of those who are the most hostile to us is good, mere misapprehension being the usual cause of bigotry. And this, which has some unfavourable consequences at present, has, like all other evils, some good

attending it. All opposition excites investigation,
which brings out truth, and truth we cannot
doubt will be favourable to virtue, and all the best
interests of mankind.

In return for your more valuable presents, I
beg your acceptance of a tract I have lately printed
on the subject of Soptism. The it will not coincide
with your sentiments on the subject, I hope you will
not think it uncandid. If you show Mr Johnson
this part of my letter, he will give you a copy of it.

I have the greatest respect for ~~an~~ ~~un-~~
fined Mr M. Kees, and am interested in the
success of his settlement in this country, but I have
not heard from him, or concerning him, lately.
I have seen nothing of the young man you
mention, or of Mr Brooks that I recollect.

With my best respects to Mrs Evans, and also
also to Mr Gifford, I am,

Dear Sir
yours sincerely
J. Priestley

This letter was given to me by John Evans Dec. 3. 1846.

The Rev. Benjamin Mardon gave it me in 1852 on condition that it should be returned to him in case he survived me
Edward Parry.
Given to me by Mr. E. Parry in 1866. A. Harding

Benjamin Mardon

~~1/10~~

The Rev. John Evans

to the care of

Mr. J. Johnson Bookbinder,
No. 72 St. Paul,

Mardon



Northumberland Jany 8 1803

Dear Sir

I think myself much obliged to you for your kind letter, and the present of your truly valuable book. Indeed, I think it calculated to do much good, both in giving information to those who want it, and inspiring your own spirit of moderation and candour, which is of more importance than any mere knowledge, and more wanted.

On this account I rejoice that your book has (as) wide a circulation. Your favorable mention of my name shows courage as well as candour, as it may be interpreted to your disadvantage. But a christian, as you are, will not regard this. The time is near approaching, with respect to myself, when we shall all know one another better, and in general, I hope, esteem one another more than we now do, as I doubt not the intention of many of those who are the most hostile to us is good, mere mis-apprehension being the usual cause of bigotry. And this, which has some unfavorable consequences at present, has, like all other evils, some good attending it. All opposition excites investigation, which brings out truth, and truth we cannot doubt will be favourable to virtue, and all the best interests of mankind.

In return for your more valuable present, I beg your acceptance of a tract I have lately printed on the subject of Baptism. Tho' it will not coincide with your sentiments on the subject, I hope you will not think it uncandid. If you show Mr Johnson this part of my letter, he will give you a copy of it.

I have the greatest respect for our common friend Mr. M. , and am interested in the success of his settlement in this country, but I have not heard from him lately. I have seen nothing of the young man you mention or of Mr. Brooks that I recollect.

With my best respects to Mrs. Evans and also to Mr. Gilford, I am,

Dear Sir

Yours sincerely,

J Priestley