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**Title:** Letter from Joseph Priestley to Thomas Wedgwood

**Date:** October 18, 1791

**Location:** MC 1998.1, B1, F11

### Contact:

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

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

London Oct 18 1791

Dear Sir

I do not know that any experiments have been made on the uses 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 greater aptness of the more porous matter 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  
same with two necks. Small retorts,  
Evaporating dishes, Mortars and Leviga-  
tors. Perhaps your servants here 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 loss, and I fear that  
some person on your part must attend  
at Warwick, to attend the value. Mr  
Nairne, Mr Parke, and others, have promised  
to attend. But I have proposed a conference  
between <sup>my</sup> appraisers, and those for the County



in London, which, if they be disposed to do  
justice, will save much trouble and ex-  
pense.

Whether I shall be invited to suc-  
ceed O'Pice, is uncertain. Many ap-  
prehend public disturbance in consequence  
of my coming. I could <sup>not</sup> get a house  
let in my own name. A friend took  
it in his. I have, however, very kind  
some proposals from France, particularly  
the offer of a house completely furnished  
two miles from Paris, and another pe-  
tition solicitation from the Court, 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. Paisley



P. 1. I shall leave for your father a new  
publication of mine but only on account of the Refugee.

Mr Thomas Wedgwood

Etaria

near Newcastle and the sea

Staffordshire

J. P. Kebley  
1791  
Oct. 10.

Per Couriers





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.