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**Title:** Letter from Joseph Priestley to William Frend

**Date:** November 1790

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Dear Sir

You say not a word in your last about what requires the speediest notice in view to you from Leeds viz the tract that you send might properly accompany the new edition of Collins on Liberty. The paper is set for the last sheet, and has continued so this month, waiting for your answer. I beg therefore you will delay no longer, but by Mr Linsley, send it to me as soon as possible, unless you <sup>be</sup> ~~are~~ change of opinion that, in maturely considering the subject, it will not answer. In that case we shall soon finish here.

I cannot help smiling at the way of the diffinition in your province of the translation. I would very thankfully exchange with you. I can see I might explain with as much elegance, and as much truth, as you do on the subject of

may in efficiency. But consider that, <sup>all</sup> ~~the~~ purpose is  
an improved and an improvable version; and with  
the help that we already have, or may procure, a better  
plain good sense, <sup>with</sup> ~~and~~ a joined knowledge of the  
subject, is of more consequence than else the  
rest. As to making few changes in the present  
translation, the fewer the better, if ~~they~~ they be  
not really wanted, which in your part will not be  
often. I hope you <sup>have</sup> Calasia by Romaine. At least  
you can have it from your librarian in London.  
It is an interesting work.

As to Mr Herbington in my, if you please,  
give my compliments to him, and tell him I think  
myself obliged by his cordial notice of what I have  
written on the subject of the Miraculous Conception,  
but I have no thoughts at present of writing any  
more on the subject, at least till he has considered  
more of my arguments than as yet he appears to  
have done. I shall be most glad to encourage him

all in my power with respect to his Reply to Edward,  
whom I may perhaps briefly notice, but I wish to  
have the subject considered more at large than  
I shall be disposed to do it. Now is the time to  
bring forward the evidence of X<sup>ty</sup> in every point  
of view; and I wish it to appear, that the  
greatest enemies of the corruptions of X<sup>ty</sup> stand  
forth the most strenuous and the ablest defenders  
of X<sup>ty</sup> itself; that the objection to us as Deists,  
or Unitarians X<sup>ty</sup> may be no longer <sup>made</sup> ~~advanced~~  
in any <sup>study</sup>.

With every good wish, I am,  
Dear Sir

Yours sincerely

J. Huntley

Baird Nov. 1750

The Rev. Mr. Friend

Post Office

Canterbury

To the Rev. William Frend.

Dear sir

You say not a word in your last about what required the speediest notice in mine to you from Leeds viz the tract that you said might properly accompany the new edition of Collins on Liberty. The press is out for the last sheet, and has continued so this month, waiting for your answer. I hope therefore you will delay (no) longer, but, by Mr. Lindsey, send it to me as soon as possible, unless you be chary of opinion that, in maturely considering the subject it will not answer. In that case we shall soon finish here.

I cannot help smiling at all you say of the difficulties in your province of the translation. I would very thankfully exchange with you. I am sure I might complain with as much eloquence and as much truth, as you do on the subject of my inefficiency. But consider that all we possess is an improved and an improvable version; and with the help that we all have, or may procure, a little plain good sense, with a general knowledge of the subject, is of more consequence than all the rest. As to making few changes in the present translation, the fewer the better, if they be not really wanted, which in your part will not be often. I hope you have Calcedo by Romain. At least you can have it from your libraries in Canterbury. It is an inestimable work.

As to Mr. Nesbit, you may, if you please, give my compliments to him, and let him know I think myself obliged by his candid notice of what I have written on the subject of the Miraculous Conception, but I have no thought at present of writing any more on the subject, at least till he has considered more of my arguments than as yet he appears to have done. I shall be most glad to encourage him all in my power with respect to his reply to Dr. Edwards, whom I may perhaps briefly notice, but I wish to have the subject considered more at large than I shall be disposed to do it. Now is the time to bring forwards the evidence of Xty in every point of view; and I wish it to appear, that the greatest enemies of the corruption of Xty stand for the most strenuous and the ablest defenders of Xty itself - that the objection to us as deists, or lukewarm Xns, may be no longer made us.

With every good wish, I am,

Dear sir

yours sincerely

J Priestley

Bir. Nov. 1790.