

Dear Sir

Newington Aug. 14  
1736

Permitt me to let you know that almost all the Particulars in your Letter are mistaken. Mr Wright was not of Newington, but Newington-green & unknown to me. His Exec<sup>n</sup> is not Mr Legg of Cornhill, but Glogg or Clegg a Banker in Lombard Street, and one Mr Speed: both of the Church of England, and I know them not. The 3<sup>d</sup> is Mr Paice a Dissenter, but I have already recommended such Numbers unto him that I am quite ashamed. However I ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> transmitted your Letter ~~the Day in which I received it, to the safe,~~ <sup>to the safe,</sup> to go to Tunbridge Wells where Mr Paice now is, and ~~I believe he has seen it.~~ <sup>I believe he has seen it.</sup> The Petitioners I suppose are and will be <sup>30</sup> 40 to one & will partake of the Legacy, so that I have no hope of Success: and two days ago the Exec<sup>n</sup> put out an Advertisement that they will receive no more Petitions.

I have now read a great part of your Paraphrase, & still think it is done with Care and much Judgement. I cannot have it read to the Family, because my Serv<sup>t</sup> at every turn sticks at some words, and at some Corrections, and cannot read them so currently without Interruptions as Family-Worship requires.

I find no faults but such small Ones, as might perhaps be mention'd if you were reading the Manuscript to me, but not <sup>work</sup> noting down.

As for the Remarks that are worthy of your notice they are contain'd in those few Querys.

1. Tho I exceedingly approve of your Title (viz) the Family Expositor, yet I would Query whether a long Greek Motto

Motto out of a heathen Philosopher in the Title page of a Book written for Families, is as proper as some English Sentence out of the Bible, such as Hebrews 3.8. So they read in the Book distinctly, and gave the Sense and caused them to understand the Reading?

2. Upon the same point I Query whether many Greek & Latin Words such as Symbol, Tranquillity, Victim, Pre-nant, and many others were not better changed into Words more intelligible to private Families?

3. Whether the Practical Remarks, which you call Improvement or Reflection, were not better thrown into distinct Paragraphs, and either distinguished by 1, 2, 3, or at least by such kind of Expositions, as <sup>the first Verse</sup> I Remark & say of the verse Remark &c. Or thus, On Herods's slaughter of the Infants I Observe, &c. Of the travel of Christ into Egypt I Remark &c. Or from the Song of Simeon or the Prophecy, <sup>or a Legend</sup> &c. Or in any other manner that you please, so there are but Rest and pauses, and such Distinctions of your several Remarks and the Subjects from which they are drawn that may give a very distinct Idea of each Inference to the hearers, and may assist their Memory: whereas this seems too much to be neglected by the whole Improvement running on as it were in an harangue from one End to the other.

4. I would ask whether the insertions in y<sup>e</sup> thank Page were not much better placed just over against the place where they should come in?

Since I see pair of making any other sort of Remarks than those I would not withhold the <sup>any</sup> ~~any~~

any longer from your own hand, or the hand of any Friend to whom you shall recommend it, since as far as I can see it is as well done that it will receive no Improvement by striding with me.

I am glad ~~that~~ your Daughter is growing into health: May her Life be spared for your comfort! I am glad Mr Bulkeley appears a promising Lad: May Divine Grace under your Care fit him for <sup>for you</sup> service of our L<sup>d</sup>.

I have no advice about taking houses, having never been a housekeeper. You need better Counsellors than I am. May Grace be ever w<sup>th</sup> you to fit you in soul & body for your great & important work, & bless it with Divine success. W<sup>th</sup> Salutations to Mrs Dodson & Jam

Dear Sir

Your affec<sup>to</sup> Bro.  
Shumble sent

J. Watts.

I only this latter part  
(with the interlineations)  
is D. W.'s own hand writing  
the other parts, by Mr Parker [James Parker,  
Watts' amanuensis]

To the Reverend  
 Dr Philip Dodridge  
 in Northampton 2

May 1835  
 497  
 1835  
 1835

MS-6587  
 1835

1835

Copy of the letter in the  
 Baptist Magazine, May, 1835.

PLEADWELL  
 COLLECTION  
 HONOLULU

Newington Augt. 14 1736

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Since I despair of making any other sort of Remarks than these I would not withhold the Msst any longer from your hand, or the

hand of any Friend to whom you shall recommend it, since so far as I can see it is so well done that it will receive no Improvement by abiding with me.

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Your affect Bro<sup>r</sup> & humble Servt

To the Reverend  
Dr Philip Doddridge  
Northampton

I Watts

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(On the back are numerous stenographic (?) notes, and an entry in pencil reading "Copy of the letter in the Baptist Magazine May 18'35) It is known that Doddridge wrote in a system of shorthand.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) English clergyman and hymn writer.

Bulkley, Charles (1719-1797), baptist minister; educated at Northampton academy, 1736; presbyterian minister at Welford, Northamptonshire and Colchester; joined the general baptists; minister of that denomination in London, 1743-97; published philosophical tracts and sermons.

Philip Doddridge(1702-1751), the English non-conformist divine was born in London, and died in Lisbon, where he had gone to recover his health. From 1729 he was pastor of the independent congregation at Northampton. The manuscript of the work which Dr Watts has remarked upon in the letter was The Family Expositor, published in 6 volumes from 1739 to 1756.

(Collection of Captain F. L. Pleadwell)