

W. Hall 1824

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My dear Sir I sent you a copy of the first Edition of my "Strictures on the Plymouth Antinomians" as soon as the work was published, thro' the medium of Mr. Hachett, but I have reason to believe, you did not receive it for some time after it should have been deliver'd. I mention this circumstance to obviate any appearance of neglect, which must, on every possible occasion be the farthest from my intention.

In order to avoid a similar delay, I here send you a copy of the 2^d Edition of the "Strictures" by the Coach, one week before it will be published in London. — The bold & decisive Language which I have thought it right to adopt, in this Edition, demands a more than ordinary conviction that I am standing on firm ground. My conscience would be severely wounded if the least apprehension prevailed of my being unnecessarily contemned.

and wounded the very least of Christ's flock; but it appeared impossible to defend Truth without exposing those who most flagrantly pervert it. Should I be so happy as to obtain the concurrence of the few friends upon whose Piety and Judgment I rely, it would relieve my mind from an anxious burden, & it is hardly necessary to add, that a few lines from you would be esteem'd a favour.

Permit me also to remark that the obligation would be enhanced if you would frankly tell me where my chief faults lie, and particularly if any of the sentiments are questionable, and also whether it appears to you that a spirit has been manifested, in any part of the work which you think unchristian, or such as is not quite accordant with our Great Example.

I am indeed more than ordinarily solicitous to know in what degree the present enlarged work stands in your estimation, for in one sense I may pronounce you to be its Foster-Father. In all probability it would never have been published, had it not been for the favourable opinion you were pleas-

to express of the first brief M.S. - which I submitted to your inspection. This encouragement in no inconsiderable degree, prompted me to hazard an attack upon one, who (as an excellent Minister has expressed it,) has, "for many years defied the whole Christian World" and it will, hereafter, appear almost incredible that a period should ever have occurred, in which such corrupt sentiments as Dr Huxley has long disseminated, should have experienced so little opposition. Those to whom the Religious Public look up, as to the Guardians of their Faith, have been almost asleep. You indeed have borne a noble testimony; & most heartily should I have rejoiced, to have every serious individual in the Kingdom, if instead of my feeble effort, your prowess had been brought into the conflict, and Antinomianism have wither'd before your learning, eloquence & argument. I do not quite despair of seeing you still formally enlisted in the Controversy.

With cordant prayers for your health & usefulness - I am my dear Sir friend & send
your very sincere friend
Joseph Little