

A Diaconal Epistle, 1790.

To the Rev. James Dore,
Pastor of the Church in Maze Pond.

October 1790.

Much esteemed and honored Sir,

When we observe the wonderful Revolution, that a neighbouring Nation heretofore groaning under ecclesiastical and civil Tyranny has so recently experienced; and the ardor for Liberty extending itself to other Countries; We desire to unite our voices in thanksgiving to Almighty God for such apparent interpositions of his power and goodness—We cannot but regard them as additional proofs of his providential kindness to his Creatures, and as links in that great chain of Events foretold in Scripture, which will finally issue in his Glory and the happiness of Mankind.

But while we rejoice at the success which has crowned the noble efforts of our fellow Men in other Countries feeling the same emotions we cannot but regret that we have much to complain of in this;—that the Consciences of Britons are tampered with by the allurements of temporal advantage, and their minds shackled by the terrors of persecution—nevertheless we encourage hopes, that by the divine blessing accompanying a steady, temperate and persevering discussion of the subject, such an alteration will be produced in the opinions of the Public, and in the resolves of the Legislature, as may raise us to a degree of eminence on the scale of Freedom, which we have never yet attained.

With this view therefore, We beg leave to request of you, to prepare against the ensuing Winter, a Course of Lectures on the principles of Nonconformity, and of civil and religious Liberty.

We cannot conclude without testifying the satisfaction we feel in your repeated exertions to advance the cause of Humanity and Universal Freedom—Persevere in the noble cause and may success attend your endeavours.

That your Life may long be spared, a Blessing to the Age in which you live, is the ardent prayer, of

Your affectionate Friends

THOS. FLIGHT.	JOHN COOPER.	HENRY KEENE.
BENJN. TOMKINS.	W. ALLUM.	SIMON LEE.
WILLIAM GILLMAN.	JOSEPH GURNEY.	THOS. HAYWARD.
JOHN GURNEY.	ROBERT HILLS.	JOB HEATH.
HENRY SMITHERS.	ARCHD. CAMPL. RUSSELL.	SAML. BEDDOME.