

May 20/13

that they had an opportunity to proceed towards their home, & join their beloved friends in praise to their Almighty Deliverer, who rescued them in so gracious a manner from the watery deep, & delivered them out of the hands of unreasonable men.

Be pleased to present my dutiful & affectionate regards to those gentlemen whom I have met at the vestry room of St John's Chapel Bedford Row. A little of their instruction would now be very useful to me; for I have not only to guard against the profaneness of men who are totally ignorant of themselves & the way of salvation, but I am also beset with men who pour contempt upon all Religion and reject as futile every idea of Divine Revelation. A crafty systematic opposer of the Religion of the Bible, might I have no doubt in several points puzzle me. But still in vain must the disciples of ^{the} Paine & Volney exalt their Godless Reason above the Heavens; she must descend to her own element when she exclaims, "that if the Bible be true the greatest possible good must await them who cordially believe it, and if it be merely a Fable, the least possible harm." For when you have set aside those essential truths which to the humble believer will ever be the most dear, the Bible contains all the rules of morality which trifling reasoners can invent who oppose it. And to show my opponents ^(in opinion) here the high estimation in which the Bible is held by numbers who could not be supposed to be destitute of reason I have calmly recommended to them

some references
(a) we have Paine's & Volney's works on board