

**PIONEERS OF PROGRESS.  
MEN OF SCIENCE.  
JOSEPH PRIESTLEY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649334445

Pioneers of progress. Men of science. Joseph Priestley by D. H. Peacock & S. Chapman

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**D. H. PEACOCK & S. CHAPMAN**

**PIONEERS OF PROGRESS.  
MEN OF SCIENCE.  
JOSEPH PRIESTLEY**





JOSEPH PRIESTLEY

FROM A DRAWING IN PASTEL BY JAMES SHARPLES IN THE  
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

PIONEERS OF PROGRESS

MEN OF SCIENCE

EDITED BY S. CHAPMAN, M.A., D.Sc.

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY

BY

Dr H<sup>o</sup> PEACOCK, B.A., M.Sc., F.I.C.

SOMETIME SCHOLAR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

LONDON:  
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING  
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE  
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1919

Booth  
8085  
Chem.

4-18-1923

gen.  
10

04-21-23 v. w.

## CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. PARENTAGE—HOME LIFE—EARLY EDUCATION . . . . .	5
II. NEEDHAM MARKET—NANTWICH—WARRINGTON . . . . .	12
III. LEEDS—CALNE . . . . .	25
IV. BIRMINGHAM AND EXPERIMENTS ON AIR . . . . .	35
V. "BIRMINGHAM RIOTS"—EMIGRATION—DEATH . . . . .	58

421900



1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial matters. The text notes that without clear records, it becomes difficult to track expenses, revenues, and other critical data points.

2. The second section focuses on the role of technology in streamlining operations. It highlights how digital tools and software can significantly reduce manual errors and improve efficiency. By leveraging automation, organizations can save time and resources while ensuring that all data is consistently updated and accessible. This section also touches upon the importance of data security and privacy in the digital age.

3. The third part of the document addresses the need for regular communication and reporting. It stresses that stakeholders, including management, investors, and regulatory bodies, rely on timely and accurate information to make informed decisions. Regular reports and updates help build trust and ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding the organization's performance and goals.

4. The fourth section discusses the importance of compliance with relevant laws and regulations. It notes that staying up-to-date with legal requirements is crucial to avoid penalties and legal issues. Organizations should implement robust internal controls and audit procedures to ensure they are fully compliant with all applicable laws and standards.

5. Finally, the document concludes by emphasizing the value of continuous improvement and innovation. It encourages organizations to regularly evaluate their processes and seek out new ways to optimize their operations. By fostering a culture of innovation and learning, companies can stay competitive in a rapidly changing market and achieve long-term success.

## CHAPTER I.

### PARENTAGE—HOME LIFE—EARLY EDUCATION.

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY is probably one of the most interesting of the notable men of the eighteenth century. To his age he was perhaps most famous as a dauntless controversialist in politics and religion ; he himself regarded the study of Christian Religion and Theology as his life-work, while to-day his chief title to fame rests on his scientific work.

Joseph Priestley was born at Fieldhead, a hamlet included in the parish of Birstall, which lies about six miles south-west of Leeds ; the district is now closely dotted with the manufacturing towns which give the West Riding of Yorkshire its wealth and fame and unfortunately also its grime and murk. Leeds, Halifax, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Bradford, are all within a comparatively short distance of Birstall. Nevertheless in Priestley's day the district must have been a charming one ; it is a gently undulating region, sufficiently far from the bleak moorlands of the Central Pennine Chain to be free from the grimness which so deeply influenced the lives and characters of the Brontë family, but yet sufficiently hilly to develop that sturdiness of character usually assumed to be lacking from the dwellers in flatter regions. Priestley was born on 13th March, 1733, the eldest child of Jonas and Mary Priestley, and was

named after his grandfather, Joseph Priestley, a maker and dresser of woollen cloth, or after his maternal grandfather, Joseph Swift, a farmer and maltster of Shafton, a village situated about six miles south-east of Wakefield. Jonas Priestley, his father, was also a weaver and dresser of cloth; this occupation was of course carried on at home according to the custom of the period, and in the district may still be seen many old houses possessing the numerous small windows necessary to give light to the looms. The Priestleys were a sturdy, long-lived stock with the evenness of temperament that comes from generations of healthy ancestors.

Priestley's mother died in 1740, soon after the birth of her youngest son. She had, in all, four sons and two daughters, and owing to the difficulty of looking after such a numerous and young family, Joseph and his brother Timothy were early committed to the care of their grandfather, Joseph Swift, with whom they remained almost uninterruptedly till their mother's death. Of his mother Priestley says: "It is but little that I can recollect of my mother. I remember, however, that she was careful to teach me the Assembly's Catechism, and to give me the best instructions the little time I was at home. Once in particular, when I was playing with a pin, she asked me where I got it; and on telling her that I found it at my uncle's who lived very near to my father, and where I had been playing with my cousins, she made me carry it back again—no doubt to impress my mind, as it could not fail to do, with a clear idea of the distinction of property and the importance of attending to it." As to his home life Priestley tells us: "My mother was a woman of exemplary piety, and my father also had a strong sense of