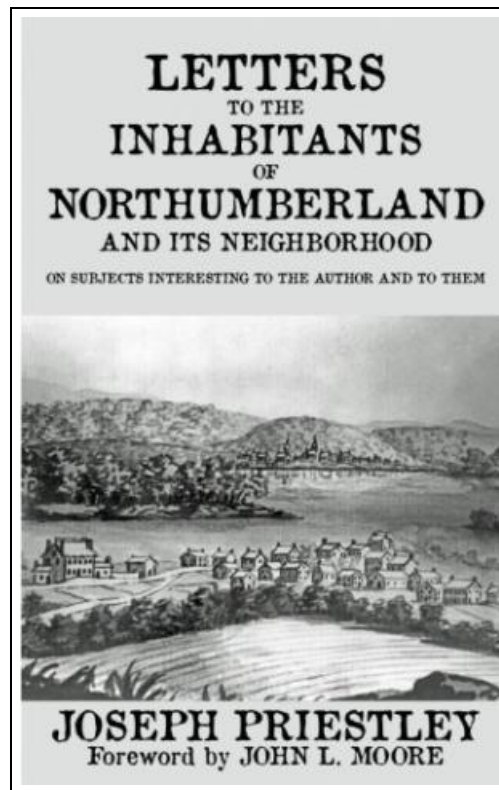


## Letters to the Inhabitants of Northumberland: and its Neighborhood on Subjects Interesting to the Author and to Them



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## LETTERS TO THE INHABITANTS OF NORTHUMBERLAND: AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD ON SUBJECTS INTERESTING TO THE AUTHOR AND TO THEM



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Sunbury Press, Inc. Paperback. Condition: New. 100 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.0in. x 0.2in. A world-famous Englishman, Dr. Joseph Priestley addressed the 12 letters in this little book to the Inhabitants of Northumberland and its Neighborhood. Nearly 150 miles northwest of Philadelphia, the locale was an obscure village of log houses that had grown up at the confluence of the Susquehanna Rivers North and West branches. Priestley was in his early 60s when he decided to settle there in 1794. The clergymanscientist had originally intended to devote his sunset years to writing about theological topics and conducting scientific experiments, but controversy over his political and theological beliefs followed him from Great Britain. He soon found himself the target of frequent and caustic attacks in newspapers throughout the United States that aligned themselves with the Federalist government and policies of President John Adams. On one occasion, when relations between the U. S. and French governments had deteriorated, Priestley was even accused to being a spy for France. When he found himself increasingly unpopular and misunderstood by the people of his new hometown, Priestley responded by writing these letters. He explained his political and religious beliefs, but also told how, why, and when he had become an honorary citizen of France; listed the reasons why he admired the U. S. Constitution; and justified his decision not to become a U. S. citizen. Priestley also attacked his critics, especially William Cobbett who wrote under a pen name, Peter Porcupine. It is commonly said, Priestley wrote, that when much dirt is thrown, some will stick; and on this principle I suppose it is that I have been distinguished so often by my principal antagonist, Mr. Cobbett. In 1799 the letters were reprinted in book form by Northumberland printer Andrew Kennedy. The book consisted of two...

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