

24 June 1777 as vicinity of all Virtues is what my particular
color disposition is most delighted with & seems most
indispensable - I cannot tell you my friend that my
great dread of your future change of sentiments, respecting
the friendship you w^d now establish & of knowledge I had
of my own sensibility - is what occasioned me so strongly
to point out what in all human probability will happen.

I do you the justice to think you are now near all you say -
but do not do not ask me to continue a friendship, if
I am hereafter to be treated with contempt & neglect -
pardon me but indeed I cannot help thinking that
you ^{now} fancy you wish for my friendship - & that in a
few months you will fancy - no such thing - you
will perhaps think this freedom a presumption -
I am in truth your inferior - but I never will
have a friendship with a person who w^d not be as happy
or even feel as proud of my friendship as I was of
thine - & let me assure you that I expect no
embarrassment from you - Yours truly - Yours fortune
are no

or inducements for me to wish the continuance of
it - on the contrary it is for that very reason I so
long hesitated to say I would accept it - from me
You will have no adulation or flattery, & if our friend-
ship is to continue - I shall behave as a real friend
ought - your happiness - your honor will be dear to me
as my own & I solemnly promise, & you may depend
on it as if sworn, never to betray any confidence you
may place in me - Adieu - remember - if you please -
that I never shall require any thing more of you, - if
fate should permit us to be friends through life, then
strict ^{strict} sincerity, in the true spirit of
which I assure you I am your friend,