

2. lost a friend — besides my Parents, I
have lost five persons — & that within a
short space of time & at an early period of my
life that I was attached to, either from
gratitude for their partial affection for me
or from my love of them — of oldest of these
not more than 40 years — Some time my
God is required to deaden the impression
of grief — I trust the weakness of my
nature will be pardoned, for I am per-
fectly sensible of y^e. Duty of acquiescence
& resignation to y^e. Supreme Will.
Do me y^e. favor to read, what has pleased me
much, a Poem by Johnson, — The Variety
of human Wishes &c &c &c

10th Nov^r 1779 - I thank you my friend for
your last kind & affectionate & affecting Note
~~I had promised to endeavour~~ I again promise
to endeavour to dissipate the gloomy melancholy
turn you so constantly complain of in verse,
but you must allow that the return of the seasons
will forcibly bring to mind the awful solemn
scene I was witness to last year - a thousand
circumstances you cannot enter into, & wth I
cannot communicate, makes me shed many
tears bitter tears upon my pillow - Yet,
(O Almighty God I thank thee for it)
I am enabled to derive comfort from y^e
reflection, that from my earliest days
I never deviated from the strictest ties of
duty either in word or deed - You have
never lost