Leonard Smelt

Sept. 1 1776

Sir,

I am very happy that my constant and ardent wishes have been acceptable on the days upon which they are most usually tendered - I am well assured Sir, that we are placed to do mankind justice and to know that they are neither confined to days nor years but that they flow in a stream as constant as the pulsations of my heart - I do not wonder that the Inhabitants of Windsor were charmed with the sights of such a family, and I am clear that it wants but to be shewn in other parts of the Kingdom to have multiplied Portsmouths & Windsors - Every heart can not but hope that the Virtues of the Parents will be perpetuated & shewn thro' so numerous and beautiful an Offspring. -

How good is it in you Sir to honour me with an account of the late conversation upon a certain subject - I can not but wonder that any scruples should remain in those Tender Minds towards a person whose whole conduct but in the single instance which banished himself

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from them was a continued series of the most tuteful and most affectionate intercourse. It was not natural at their age to find out of themselves an antipathy for his office from an occasional & severe illness which could not prevent his continually thinking of means to promote their improvement as well as pleasure and amusement; to an unprejudiced young mind such an illness must rather have been a source of tenderness than disgust. I never allowed myself to fix any unpleasant epithet any harsher person must be the respectable person in those neighbourhood. I have since general murmurs made not an insinuation highly improbable but it is merely credible that the cause can have originated in such very minds — however it hath arisen the time will come when they will feel a conscious blush upon the recollection of this passage of their infancy; the only one I hope they will ever experience during a very long, happy and degagified life — They are very good & think of me as they are pleased to say they do — I had no doubt of their doing me more that justice, the utmost of my ambition could have been gratified could I have been of real use to them. The consciousness of my inability carries this comfort along with it that where I could not benefit I have not remained a burthen, & with the poverty of my interest I have the riches I most coveted, the approbation of my sovereigns — Sir you can have no idea of the real riches this proves to me, let it but be continued to me, and this remains not a wishful wish ungratified —

L. Smelt

Hutton Bonville. 1st Sept. 1776.

Mr Snell

September 1. 1776