

Leonard Smelt

Jan. 10 1777

16114

We are overcome by an excess of goodness to us and to our Child - Sir - Madam - You could not mean to distress us by your graciousness, but tears of gratitude obstruct the expressions of our feelings even to each other, and almost deprive me of intelligent sentiment - My Twenty third Year friend says she can not speak, she can give no utterance to her gratitude but she will wear the Jewel she hath been honoured with next her heart in which the image of the Gracious Donor is ever present; and I will say It is a Jewel not unworthy of It, since there can not be one in which an Human Object can be more sincerely respected - She humbly requests these may be read as her own Words, that if the 190 Steps were even as many thousands, estimated as she is she would labour with the highest pleasure to ascend them if her reward was to be a peck of the Labadie which she used to watch with so much eagerness.

I have been blessed with many friends in my life for it hath been a series of Obligations received; but in that whole life I have never received letters of more tender kindness than those  
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with which I have been honoured from Son - Sir. - When I consider  
from whom they come, what must I not feel? To have a daughter  
so received as scarce to be able to relate it to her parents from the  
fullness of her heart, and to be honoured at the same time with an  
assurance of her health and the most gracious marks of kind  
recognition from those most respected persons who had thus  
overwhelmed her, are instances of condescension and goodness, that  
must for ever be present with me, and gild our retreat and declining  
days with the most cheering sunshine. I dare not trespass  
more upon your time, I must check a pen that could never for ever  
upon this subject; may the happiness you so graciously bestow  
recoil upon you selves & make you the most distinguished pair for  
every good this world can give and the next promising must be ever  
the constant prayer of L. S.

Dutton Courtille 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1777.



Mr & Mrs Bell  
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