

Leonard Smelt

Aug 12 1777

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You are pleased Sir to make this in all respects a day of most interesting joy to me, I had scarce poured out my ardent congratulations upon the anniversary of my little Arab family who are now all about me, when I was surpris'd Sir with your most gracious letter - The Box, the contents of which I am only allow'd to guess at, will not arrive till to morrow at the soonest, & too late for that day's post, none goes from hence on Thursday, so that Friday would be the soonest I could write after the receipt of it, and I am too impatient to make my most humble acknowledgements & delay my grateful thanks so long - And ever on that day Sir you your self may have put it out of my power to do it. You will smile Sir when I explain this - My Daughter Chelaby most agreeably surpris'd us on Saturday and ever since her arrival hath insist'd upon it that I should not refuse to send her safe back (as she can alone) especially as it would give

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in an opportunity of paying my respects to the Archbishop
which I ought to do in person notwithstanding my retirement -
Damo Sifer joined her with all her energy - I pleaded
my plan of life, & the necessity of attending my work people
but as this could not satisfy them it remained as formerly
subject of debate - The letter I have been honored with &
day, decides the point and Damo Sifer who both see it
wrings in her judgement since the remark upon Mr. De
Salgas' visit to Bishop Thorpe, shows clearly how right the
act is - I obey and attend her retorts, I had already
made my excuses by letter - May I presume to therefore
to take the first moment I have after the receipt of this
most valuable box to acknowledge its contents what ever
they are and our gratitude: that the fibre of the day
might be complete Lord Walsingham & Lord & Lady Carruther
hop'd in upon us in our Cottage & gave us an opportunity of
multiplying our congratulations - Mr. De Salgas is at
the present sharing in those honours which if any man
can be so richly deserved - the happiness I had in seeing him
was indeed great - for many years I have not had a thought
sent from him - How gracious is it, Sir, in you, still to retain

an interest in any thing that relates to us - My heart
is I humbly hope, open to my God, my King, & my friend -
I am that my failings will meet with compassion, and my
duty with gracious acceptance. -

May we hope that you Sir, & you Madam will
be graciously pleased to accept of the ardent wishes
of the little Family that an evening of every happiness to
the Parents and of every honor to the Son may be the
consequence of this happy day, & that the humble Cottagers
and their Children however unworthy in other respects, may
yet be graciously remembered for their dutiful and zealous
attachment -

Langton. 12th August 1777.

Mr. Bull

August 12. 1799