

Leonard Svelt to Queen Charlotte

Nov. 27 1791

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The most gracious condescensions with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour us, make me humbly trust that I shall not be thought too presumptuous in laying the following Statement before Your Majesty. — My irreparable loss had so far struck my mind as well as body, that when my daughter's affliction pressed so close upon it, I feared that I had no powers remaining to render me the least useful to Her, and therefore wished her, not to engage upon a Scale in the Country so different to what she had been accustomed, whilst I thought she might be deprived of my assistance before her affairs could be put in any train so as she might go on with ease to herself, and when His Majesty in His great goodness had most graciously offered us a present asylum. When I afterwards became able to reflect upon what I owed this excellent daughter not only for an unvaried course of the most attentive affection during her whole life, but for having submitted to a greatly diminished income in order to restore an ancestral Estate to the Family; when I saw how much the happiness of two of the best daughters, a parent was ever blessed with, seemed to depend upon my life, I became roused from my dejection and by constant employment in what I thought might prove useful or agreeable to them, I seemed to have recovered



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recourse both mental and bodily strength, so as to afford me a prospect  
 of being able to establish Her, where her residence had always been  
 intended. In the course of the two last Years a circumstance has taken place  
 of the greatest consequence to my daughter's property. A rapid river which  
 runs thro' the most valuable part of her estate, has been so confined by  
 embankments both above and below her part of it as to make it descend  
 in floods with very extraordinary violence and such as to require a  
 constant attention to prevent a serious injury to her property - I experienced  
 in the course of the last Summer, that by such attention, not only an increase  
 of injury may be prevented, but that the place itself may probably be rendered  
 more beautiful by the additional fulness of the River, but then it is absolute-  
 ly necessary that the occasional damages should be repaired immediately  
 and in the most effectual way, especially until the river has worn a sufficient  
 depth to contain the extraordinary floods without injury to the sides -  
 This attention will best be given by my self, both with least expense and most  
 security to her property; but then it implies our constant residence there  
 as well on account of the long and frequent absences which most often  
 arise, as of the great expense of the journeys. - The Mansion house is now  
 let to the Sisters of the Master of the Rolls, and from their great fondness  
 of It, they had been indulged with the promise of a Years Notice before they  
 were to quit, and as that must be given before the new Year, I am under  
 a necessity of mentioning this subject thus early, altho' we may repair  
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the object of His Majesties most gracious indulgence until the expiration of that term, or until these Ladies are otherwise provided. I have the comfort to think that the place which becomes my daughters habitation is sufficiently beautiful, and the apartments of the House of a sufficient size as to afford a prospect of health and amusement to one whose delicacy of constitution confines so much to the House. —

I have humbly presumed to state this subject so much at large, because were I to leave Her, under the best possible idea of not being blessed with His Majesties and Your Majesties approbation, I should feel an addition of misery which I well know I could in no degree support. I humbly trust that I need not say how deep a sense I have of His Majesties most generous condescensions towards me, nor endeavor to express that most dutiful and grateful attachment which has been the sole object of my conduct for twenty Years. — It is my Zeal only, not my Services, that I derive name; but even that, is now, become useless, and I am justly sensible, that I have no powers left to add a moments pleasure to His Majesties Relations and that I owe my present Residence to His Majesties indulgent goodness and sufferance alone. — Under these circumstances, my retiring with my daughters where I may in some degree be yet of Service in this World, will I humbly trust appear a duty which I ought to comply with and may therefore meet with His and Your Majesties approbation

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but permit me, Madam, most humbly and most earnestly to say, that if  
it does not, we can not for a moment hesitate to remain here and  
comply with that first duty which has ever so deeply influenced  
the heart of.

Madam

Your Majesties

most dutiful

and most grateful

humble servant

Kew. 27 Nov. 1791

James Smith

Kew  
27 Nov. 1791

James Smith