

Leonard Smell

16097-8

12th August 1776

I beg leave to offer our humble congratulations upon this day and to assure You Sir, and Madam, that our most fervent prayers will be most constantly offer'd up that it may prove the source of every comfort blessing and satisfaction to the truly Noble Parents and all their beautiful Offspring - I know not Sir how it comes that persons presume to offer up prayers for those they think so much better than themselves but it seems to be the strongest mark of attachment, being that which accompanies us to our closets, and to our most sacred and most secret intercourse, and from its being a natural & unsolicited act of the mind it seems as if our gracious maker permitted this indulgence of our attachment to distinguished merit, as not unacceptable to Him. - I flatter my self that Col: Hotham will receive on this very day my request to offer my humble congratulations where so due - I sent to enquire after Lord H. - health upon his arrival in the Country and to desire he would fix the day for our paying our respects to Him; His Lordship

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16098

both fixed upon this - how evidently doth Duty and attachment
operate upon that amiable mind: He hath the warm affection of a
Parent added to the zeal of the most loyal Subject, and altho' he
had an object of the truest and noblest ambition, he yet much
ever be equally interested in its success, notwithstanding he hath
no longer the honour of contributing to it. I read the operations
of his dutiful heart in fixing this day for our Meeting, altho'
he doth not in this Letter drop the most distant allusion to
it. O Sir, to those who know him intimately there never was a
sweeter disposition upon earth - I know Sir you will pardon this
effusion of gratitude to the Man who hath confer'd the utmost
of human honours upon me, in his attested proof of his opinion
of me and in the most unexpected consequences which have attend'd
it - for I read the Letter I have been honour'd with this day
or there which have preced'd it, without the most least felt
gratitude to him, thro' whose auspices we have attain'd such
distinguished honours, an honour not dependant on external circumstances
but constant and uninterrupted to a grateful heart, which owns may
attest themselves to be - It is well Madam, It is well, Sir, that he hath
not the honour of being present with you upon a thousand occasions
when he can not contain the effusion of our hearts - but we have

this advantage that you are both always present to us and that
we are only saved the impropriety of such a personal indulgence
In this way Sir my poor talents only will allow me to enjoy
such an honour, I can feast my mind with an indulgence of
its favorite attachment without a fear of trespass, for I know Sir
you will pardon the liberty, I write no copy, my pen follows the
immediate dictates of my heart, which is affected beyond what
I ever can express - Be rejoice in the thoughts of the happy
day this will prove at Windsor happy as it may prove, may
every year exceed it, by growing perfumptions, increasing affections
and established virtues -

My cottage goes on very ill, we have nothing but rain, and as
it is upon a Clay the ground about it is rook'd up so as to be very
uncomfortable to the work people - notwithstanding I daily visit it upon a
Galloway set or lead, high; sometimes carry my dishes in my pocket
& my dining room is the farmers best Bedchamber in which his best Cheeses
are kept, but it is lucky for me that the Yorkshire Milk doth not make
the rich Cheshire cheese, for ours hath no smell to compensate for its
want of taste. M^{rs} Smell and M^{rs} & M^{rs} Goulton go this week to Whitty Abbey
my affairs at Langton are in too critical a situation to admit of my
accompanying them, as some of our future comfort depends upon the careful
execution of our little retreat altho' we carry with us whether all that is most essential
to our happiness in the favourable opinion of those I have the honour to address
Hutton Bonville. —

L-S

Mr Smith

August 12. 1896