

Mr Snell
September 12. 1796.

16101

Altho' I have hitherto thought it my duty
not to trespass upon the honors done me by too immediate a
correspondence yet upon the present occasion my heart will
not allow me to delay a moment an indulgence of its grateful
feelings for the intelligence of this day - that in every the least
circumstances was happy as it might be complete and that
it might be most commensurate in you our family hath been
and most ever be my most ardent wish. Be pleased then
to judge of the satisfaction I must feel in the confirmation
you have had both of the benevolence and discernment of those
so nearly allied to you - I have always thought that Mr. De Solene
was not only one of the wisest but one of the best of Men, & as far
as I can judge of my self, upon my death bed, I should give that
very character of him which Lady Mordaunt received - His Learning
which is so great is all resolved into the whole Man, and altho' he never

Abstruses as opinions yet he will answer as fully as the Enquirer
desires and carry his information on to the living purposes of life
if such is the object - He is a Dictionary, but not of words alone for you
may perceive him to the fullest combinations and relations of words &
Actions and I think his head can only be guided by his heart -
How often Sir I have wish'd him to be indiscreetly attracted to your
person is more than I dare say, but whether is best & most
worthy I have ever wish'd to be in that situation - There is not
an office so merited that I should not have gloried in, either
about you, Sir, or the most respectable of Men, had I entertain'd
the same opinion of my head that I think my heart deems
that I should have of it; but my zeal so far out goes my powers
of execution, that there is no life calculated for me but the
most private and retired; but no distance or solitude can
lessen the ardour of my prayers that every thing that is good
and wise may be your only pursuits and that the most perfect
happiness the scene of things can afford may be yours, Sir, and
your amiable & most respectable Family's constant attendant.

L. Smith

12th Sept. 1776.