

Leonard Smelt

Oct. 20. 1776

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How good, how gracious are you, Sir, how
very kind is the Letter I have been honoured with this morning,
not only to pardon the liberty I took of trespassing upon you
without the usual permission, but to receive it with so great
a degree of benevolence, is what I dared not to have hoped
and yet, Sir, as I had no other way of making my bow and of
indulging the joy and dutiful attachment I felt, I ventured it
without daring to expect so gracious an acceptance — that you are
pleas'd to say Sir of your sensation when you pass the Bow
window, and the dream, would have rewarded me to the utmost
of my fondest hopes, could I in effect have been of that use in
the Office I bore which I so ardently wish'd — your Letters Sir
are the honour and solace of my present and future life, My worthy
Yours faithful friend and companion only shares with me in this
happiness and at my death they are to be disposed of as you are
pleas'd to direct. — I think Sir as far as I can judge of my self, that
I have

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ambition or vanity have so share in the infinite ^{pleasure} These Letters
 have given me - I have often asked Mr. De Salgues if he thought
 that the excessive attachment I felt for you was to be doubted
 of as being in some measure influenced by the rank of the party
 as I thought it exceeded any thing I had ever felt before - He
 sometimes said & think it might be so and I was almost
 doubtful - but surely my examination hath now gone as far as
 it ought to do to satisfy me of its purity - the attachment increases
 daily if possible to the two most respectable persons in the World;
 I have set a wish that any human creature should know the
 honour I receive, I have set another object of ambition in the World
 and my plan of retirement is accomplished - why then should
 I deprive my self of the pleasure of thinking that I possess
 as pure and as disinterested an admiration and affection for
 what is most excellent in this world as ever entered into the heart
 of Man. -

You are pleased to allow me to inform you of
 my progress in my little matters - My House is papering that is to
 say the roof is covering and I hope the end of the next week
 will see it in a state of serenity for the winter - and by the Duke

after I shall set to my faithful companions who ^{had} a little
 of the estate since she hath been in the North but in other
 respects is perfectly well - Mr. Chelmsley is by all accounts
 surprisingly recovered but as the situation of Whitley Abbey is
 very much exposed Mr. Chelmsley hath thought of carrying
 her to a warmer climate before it was which whenever it happens
 will give her an opportunity of paying the duty when it is
 so much due - I have promised to stay with them till they
 set out for London - Mr. Goulton hath not been so well for
 some time as I could have wish'd but I hope I shall leave
 her perfectly recovered -

Added to my Building, I have had much to do in combating
 with an unruly River very near it before I begin my little
 plantation upon its Shore - when all is done I hope it will
 prove a comfortable place to our Children and to us till the
 infirmity of age drive us to an Apothecary Village - the greatest
 happiness I can enjoy there or any where will be the reflection that
 we have been honored with the most gracious and kindest
 attention from the most respectable of human beings - J. S.
 20th October 1776.

Mr. Smith
Boston Ms 1946