

Leonard Smett

Oct. 27 1776

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It I presume to acknowledge the reasons I have
received to day, so immediately I flatter my self I have a
justifiable excuse as it seems my duty to mention an intended
journey to Whitby on Monday the 4th November if a ridiculous
circumstance doth not totally preclude me from that visit. I have
within these few days been seized with a very violent cough so
like the hooping cough (with which a piece of Mr. G. had been
sometime seized here), that till I am clear whether I have before
had it I must not let Mr. C. little daughter run the risk of it,
but as upon this depends my seeing Mrs. C. before she goes to London
there is not a relation or old servant of the Family to whom Mrs. G.
hath not written to know if they remember my having had it -
All this I do stand by way of humble apology for my indulging
so immediately the impulses of gratitude for the most generous letter
I have been honoured with, permit me, Sir, to offer my most grateful
thanks to you Sir and to that excellent Lady whose many virtues
and uncessant benevolence are ever present with me. As for my worthy friend

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at Whitchy who is so much honoured by the generous mention
made of her, I think it no breach of to transcribe a part of a
letter I have this day received from her, but which she little expects
would ever have been made such a use of - she says "Your letter this
"morning gave me a thousand pleasures, the same part of it the
"contrary, why would you keep the contents of M^{rs} B's letter (your sis.) so
"long from me? (it was only one post sis.) or rather why would you not
"send it me? it hath cost me a world of tears; I have already read it
"over several times and as often wept. Why should not gratitude pay
"this tribute, it is all I have to offer to that Dear Dear M^{rs} B. & her Dear
"Dear I. - that would I could give that I could but once a day behold the
"Cecilia was at a distance, so that they were in it, how my heart would
"leap with joy, & joy believe me words can not express, yet what you can
"have a perfect Idea of - I attempted to read M^{rs} B's letter in confidence
"to Miss (Traytraps) this morning but before I had got three lines, tears
"choaked my words & I could not read so as to be understood. Again I
"tried but in vain, so was forced to give it her (Traytraps) to read - And
"I tell you that she was our own child on this occasion, & it was fit that
"her loyal little heart had such a reward, as it was but the night before
"that we were talking of the gallant defence that M^{rs} Cholmondeley
"great Grand father made when Governor of Scarborough Castle against
"the rebels & the courage and loyalty as well as affection, that Lady

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"Cholmondeley should she would not leave M^{rs} Hugh during the whole siege, but
"shut her self up with him notwithstanding the Garrison was very
"sickly - This made Miss declare that if any thing like a civil war
"was ever to have happened in her time, that she could do all that, or
"more, for a husband or father, but if they had happened to have
"been on the other side she declared she could not have lived with a
"rebel but would have run away and hid herself in some cave - You
"never saw any thing in such a heat as she put her self in on this subject
"I can not imagine how delighted I was to see it - We wait with the
"utmost impatience to hear of New York being surrendered, the moment
"the express comes to town all the Quakers are to be set a ringing, & then will
"be benevolently played of & which we are to contribute very largely, you
"can not imagine how warm we are in our politics - Thus far the honest
"Woman who I dare say will trouble when I see the use I have made
"of this part of her letter but I could not do more justice to her dutiful &
"grateful sentiments than by betraying the overflowing of her heart to me
"I know the length of the letter will be pardoned by that benevolence
"which knows no bounds towards the grateful. -

My House - is I hope secure for the winter with its paper roof which I am
"much pleased with since I have seen the execution of it - You will smile
"to see I add that my little carpet of Phosun green is likewise
"by formed, I have two pleasant points for seats and if you see, & your most

