

Leonard Smelt

June 13 1777

16119_20

It hath been impossible for us, Sir, to read
the Letter with which we have been honoured thisday, without
an agitation which almost overcomes us - dare I, ought I
to presume to say that there are such evident marks
of grace and unobscured affections to us, as when we
consider whence they flow can not but be too much for
minds already grateful to their extreme of power - My
faithful companion who never speaks, or scarce ever
thinks with dry eyes upon the respectable persons we
daily and almost hourly see in our minds eye, is not
equal to the joy she the day met with, I almost repeated
shew'd it to be so eagerly - Now that she is more composed
she says that it is like the return of the Sun & the Laplander
I remember Sir, to have had the honour of hearing you say
(how good as my memory is it never fails me there) that it was
easier to bear the utmost pains of fortune, than the tender
marks of affection - If you, Sir, in your situation can have
found this, what must we in ours do at the moment. It by

Leonard Svelt

June 13 1777

16120

by accident, Sir, you read over the Letters we have been
honoured with, you must have perceived in it every thing
that could be most trying to us. —

You are pleased, Sir, most graciously to accept our duties
on the days on which all are eager to pay theirs. — We can
not do it in person, and we know not which way to do it
with propriety by Letters. My Note to Mrs Haggerdown on the 15th May
& my Letter to Mr. De Boudé against the 4th June, were all the means
that suggested themselves to us. — But will you Sir, will you
Madam, be condescendingly pleased to think that there is
not an interesting occasion relative to you in which our
hearts do not glow with the warmest and most dutiful good
wishes — Every principle that can interest the affections of the
heart is too constantly awake to leave it quiescent, on any
occasion of joy or anxiety, & if the best and most grateful
good wishes of the Cottagers can in any degree encrease the
happiness, of those to whom they owe so much, or add to their
health and safety under all circumstances, ours must be
felt because not ardent. —

How good, Sir, are you to suffer a thought of adorning the
place to interrupt the few moments of leisure you have —

I am proposing the best points of view for them, but alas Sir
the labours will not be seen from them, & amidst all the
honour & the pleasure they will afford us, many many a
sigh & many a tear will flow in them — Mrs. de Salzer
flatters us with a sight of them — I will confess to you Sir
that it will agitate us, much as we wish for it, but if the
brings us the same good by doing of the health of them we
are most interested in, our agitation will soon subside into
joy. — He will add most sensibly to our constant regale
which is dwelling upon the honours and the good days to
have been the objects of, which it is our great ambition to
be blessed with during the short remainder of our lives —

Laxton.

13th June 1777.

[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting on aged paper, possibly a letter or document fragment.]

Mr. [illegible]
June 13. 1777