Leonard Smelt

July 18 1777

The humble Cottagers of Langton are most exceedingly honoured by every circumstance which recalls them Sir, to your gracious attention – If the most respectful gratitude however impotent, can from its degree of sensibility claim any merit, we flatter ourselves that ours from its fervour and constancy may be accepted as the Widows Mite, since it is all we are enabled to give in return for what we consider as the greatest of all honours. – You are pleased, Sir, to do us justice in being assured of our eagerness to obey Lord and Lady Holderness summons to attend them at Horsby – Our obligations to them are of the highest kind, for to them I owe the honour & the moment possess and the incontestable proof it affords me Sir of your gracious condescension & favour – I never can say how great an honour I think this, nor how great an obligation I have to Lord Holderness for it, but the sense of it must remain with me with unremitting force to the last moment of my existence. My two & thirty years friend feels it as I do and at the moment which our eyes first on the spring of Myrtle rising to a tree, they are filled with tears of

Leonard Smelt

July 18 1777

gratitude to you Sir, and to you Madam for your many, many condescensions towards us — Indeed Sir there wanted not the seats & surround us with proofs of your goodness if our minds could for a moment forget themselves and their favorite occupation they must be recalled & it by those inestimable favors which are our constant companions — I will confess to you Sir that I can not see Mons. de Solges without an agitation I can not wholly master, the was so intimately interwoven with all my thoughts for five Years, that he will revive every circumstance of that time, & the permission I am honoured with of seeing him again, is such a continued flow of goodness, that it seems to collect into one stream every source of our obligations — he will detail to you Sir our little employments and our little beauties, but our his eloquence will fail when he attempts to express to you Sir and to you, Madam, what these humble Cottagers feel for you Sir, for you Madam. —

How gracious is it in you Sir to mention my friend Major Dixon, in the terms you are pleased to do — could he know it I am sure he would esteem it as a reward for much greater services than he thinks he hath ever done. —

I have not yet seen the bona fide, as Mr. Chalaby had so many conjectures upon his return home, & I thought it was right impossible for me to leave my Workmen were I do then, till the Lumbers for Lord Aldborough came so accompanied as I convince us then in circumstances which every thing will give way to and this day sennight we shall be blessed with the sight of living witnesses of the health of those to whom we owe our utmost duty, respect, gratitude and zealous attachment. —

Langton. 18th July 1777.

Mr Peel.

Feb 10. 1846.