Leonard Smelt

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How inexhaustible Sir are the Sources of your benevolence, when the benefits you are pleased to confer are accompanied with such gracious and condescending expressions that gratitude itself at least with my power of language fails in every attempt to express her sensations. These invaluable pictures Sir want no persuasive powers to carry us where we had the least chance of beholding their most respectable originals, we find this Month a thousand times a day in the joy we feel in gazing upon them, & had our circumstances & situation allowed it, we had made a part of that happy crowd who beheld every thing that ought to be most dear to them upon Windsor Terrace. — My conscious want of ability, my Ideas of duty to my King & Country & the State of my private fortune, have put such an indulgence out of my power, but to your great benevolence Sir & Madam we owe all the happyness that such a distance will allow us & we flatter ourselves that greater as that distance is, in every sense of the Word, that it doth not prevent you

being graciously pleased to do justice to our hearts, and to see us, as we are, amongst the most grateful and most devoted of Servants. —

You have been pleased, Sir, to make me present to the several fêtes which every part of the Family have enjoyd — I see the raptures of the Elder Bravehes when they found that their late dinner visit was to be lengthened into a three days residence; & the happyness they must have enjoyd in those rides which made them so well acquainted with the neighbourhood of Windsor — I feel rejoyced that the Inhabitants of Richmond and its Environs shared in these fêtes; & that the Thames streamed with marks of its Sovereigns favour, but permit me Sir to observe that Windsor seems to give upon you as it doth upon all the other it is viewd — It hath a natural Majesty about it which is congenial to the Rank of its possessor & seems to give a free breath to Greatness which the humble Vale scarce admits. — Rousseau remarks in his Emilius that as he ascended the Mountain, the little cares which had so much engrossed him subsided; his mind was filled with the immensity of the Objects which surrounded him — You, Sir,

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have risen still higher, the care you have taken to awaken the voice of piety in your Chapel, shews the source of Greatness to which you have directed your thoughts — May you, Sir, May your Madam, May all your Family, be the marked Favourites of that Great One, & may every happyness and every honour attend you here, and crown you hereafter.

Langton 31st August 1777.

Mr Smell

August 31. 1777