

Leonard Smelt

Sep. 13 1777

16130-1

When I reflect Sir upon all the acts of graciousness you have been pleased to honour me with - that you was pleased Sir, to check the usual flow of your Bounty to indulge my ideas of my publick duty. That you have deigned Sir, to continue a correspondence for fiftie Months in the midst of the most important and arduous occupations. That in every Letter you have been pleased Sir to descend to the height of a private friend, and to intimate your wish of our return to the South accompanying that wish with a present the most valuable this World could offer us, - that you have been pleased Sir, to declare you self satisfied of the sincerity of those principles which I professed to set upon in the short tryal of them, - there can remain only for me to prove the sincerity of my most respectful attachment and gratitude to you Sir by my

Leonard Smelt

Sep. 13 1777

16131

obedience to your pleasure, well assured that after all
the proofs I have experienced of your unbounded goodness
that you will, Sir, be graciously pleased to proportion
my obedience to the feebleness of my powers which my
present good health owing to the Country air, & the care
of my faithful companion by no means can give me
a higher opinion of than I had & permit it to be in the
line which can best prove my respectful attachment
and gratitude to you, Sir, rather than is any confidence
I can have in my abilities. —

Permit me, Sir, at the same time that I make my
humble acknowledgments for your unbounded condescen-
-sion towards me to add that I never felt a moment of
more anxiety and humiliation — Every passage of my
life rises up before me and I trace with a trembling
heart that unwearied goodness of providence which
hath attended me thro' every stage, & altho' conscious
inability had made me decline every benefit it had
bestowed upon me, in the moment in which the most
absolute retirement became my sole object & after having

endeavored to prepare a home for my children, my
faithful companion had consented to end one day in
a cottage, It hath been pleased still to advance in
degree and to make me the object of the most gracious
condescensions from the First and the Best of the
human Race — Conscious of what I am, I tremble
at such unbounded goodness and I shall approach
you Sir more humble than perhaps any train of
misfortunes could have made me — Is it possible
that the simple admiration of what is excellent
which I think I feel in the highest human degree
can atone in the Eyes of Heaven for a thousand im-
-perfections and stand in the place of any positive
virtue? pardon Sir the indulgence of the sensations
you have called out and which seem to constrain & be
that protection which I never stood more in need
of than when you are again pleased to call me
into the World —

Lanzetta. 13th Sept. 1777.

Mr. Smith

September 13. 1794