

Leonard Smelt

Aug. 24 1782

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What language, Sir, can enable me to express the deep sense of humble respect and gratitude with which I am penetrated, for so gracious a mark of remembrance is so trying a moment. — Condescension founded in perfect benevolence, is unwearied in the honours It confers; but however undiscerning the object of them may be in some respects, my heart tells me that in humble, dutiful, and zealous affection, and the most grateful and respectful attachment, I can not easily be excused. — That which is ever present to me, that which calls out the utmost sensibility of my heart, in all situations, at all times, and in all places, has fixed its indelible impression and I must be lost to every sense of existence when this fails me —

Wonderful, indeed, Sir, have been the trials you have undergone — pardon the presumption when I say, by sympathy, as well as Duty, I have felt them. Providence is pleased to permit

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permit them to the most diserving of Ith Creatures, for ends which can not but be most happy for them — Wretched indeed must that mind be, which is not impressed with this great truth that the Hard which inflicts can more than compensate, and render seeming miseries the source of greater happiness than could have been attainable without such trials. — You have lived, Sir, in a time when the links which formed the great Chain of Societies have been separated, and instead of acting with an united momentum, have counteracted each other — But real Virtue knows & preserves Ith course, whether aided by the stream, or opposed by conflicting torrents, and we are most grateful to Providence, that your health, Sir, has again recovered from an attack which nothing but such a purity of life, could have resisted. —

How justly, Sir, do you reason upon the change which our Religion affords us, our Sweet Prince Alfred has undergone — What did not the Prince, from whom he took his great Name, undergo before he was permitted to have

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His reward — But we are told, of such as this young Prince, is the Kingdom of Heaven. — So early called from, a World in awfull Tumult, — Called — to happiness eternal — What greater source of comfort can be afforded — or what other, prove necessary. — But even this (such is the state of humanity) could not free us from the utmost anxiety for Her Majesties Health — How gracious is it therefore, Sir, in You, to permit the General to relieve our fears, where every duty, every sense of gratitude keeps them so much awake. —

24th August 1782

W. Smith
August 14 1802