

Glocester October 28 1783

Certainly my Dear Sir, that situation must be truly painful, which lays us under the necessity of concealing the finest feelings of the soul - I say the finest feelings - for that soft regret with which we view expiring Amity, that ardour with which we endeavour to rekindle the sacred flame, together with the upright motives which must then influence the conduct, cannot but ennoble - cannot but give birth to those most agreeable sensations, which result from self approbation - the efforts of good minds to conciliate, however unsuccessful, must be accompanied by a pleasing consciousness - they will obtain for us the plaudit which is indeed beyond all temporal competition - The lip of truth hath pronounced the Eulogy of the Peace-makers - pure and beatified spirits are theirs - yet I regret that any thing took place, during your short visit to Glocester to impel disguise - I know a more unnatural violence cannot be done to the frank, the generous, and sincere - but more than proportioned is my pleasure, while I present you with the well earned wreath of victory - I know you will receive ample compensation, when you are apprized of the happy event, which has crowned your salutary, your benign attempts. Let me hasten then to lay at your feet trophis which you may exhibit to grace a laudable, a rational triumph - Yes the Genius of harmony

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

(Coll. 2129, Box 1/3)

Date: Oct. 28, 1783

Description: Letter to Nathaniel Barrell from Mrs. Stevens

once more deigns to smile propitious upon us - the cloud which had well
near obscured the Angel of peace from our view is dispersing - and the
white robb'd Deity stands in full prospect before us - Amity revives -
Discord affrighted spreads her baleful wings - may she speed to eternal
oblivion, or at least find no shelter in the breast of a Professor of that
Philanthropy which is so splendid a trait in the character of the tender
Redeemer - My Aunt Sargent, a Lady who is one of the bright-
-est representatives which virtue, and sapient experience knows, and
whose approbation could give a sanction to every thing but vice - this
revered example of elegant propriety, attended by some others, among
whom I had the honor to be numbered, have paid Mr & Mrs Plummer the vi-
-sit of friendship - we were received with apparent kindness - modest plea-
-sure was pourtrayed in their every feature - the interview was highly social -
we did not recur to causes of displeasure - but we met as friends to whom a
separation had been painful, and whose spirits were exhilarated by a recon-
-ciliation - sincerity I dare pronounce presided, and we joined hands in full
affiance - We obtained a promise from Mrs Plummer, and the young Ladies, that
they would soon wait upon us at our several dwellings, and Mr Plummer has
already looked in upon us with the freedom of Amity - Thus Dear Sir I have
to approach you with congratulations - I know that you will receive my
intelligence with the highest zest - it would perhaps be too much, at present
to expect the Doctor and his Lady to concede thus far - however I do not
despair, but that aided by the Genius of Coalescence, provided he will once
more spread his wings, and hie from York to Gloucester, we shall obtain even

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this favorite point - and as a basis for such a conjecture, I must observe that the Docter, with that open Candor which is so essential to the Man of sense, and sentiment - upon being questioned previous to our visiting party, with out hesitation replied - I not only consent, but approve, and think it a step authorized by Duty - With respect to other parts of the favor by which you have honored me I can only say, that the well informed mind, knows vicissitudes in the domestic or moral world, to be as necessary as those in the natural - Observations therefore of this kind, would be superfluous, if not impertinent to Mr Barrell - The casualties of Life which we deem unavoidable, fortitude will enable us to support - but baseness armed with ingratitude bars the arrow, and strikes it home to the soul - our pride is hurt by having eminently distinguished objects, who afterwards prove unworthy, and they are capable of transfixing us with the deepest wounds.

Mr Tolliver I am told has set off with an intention to accommodate his affair with you - I concluded from this information, the necessity of applying to the Docter was superseded.

To your Amiable Family I beg to be remembered with the Compliments of respectful affection - I cannot wish them happy - since it seems this is too bold a word for Mortals - Yet I have the presumption to add, even to Docter - Young, and Mr Barrell, that if they are in possession of Contentment the distinction between that and felicity, is too subtle for me to investigate - In this however I perfectly agree, that genuine tranquility can only originate in the source of every good - I have the honor also to acknowledge, that my heart glows with sentiments similar to those which you avow - and that I am with unfeigned esteem yours &c
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