

Plainfield, February 21, 1802 Sunday evening

Ever Dear and worthy Friend,

Once more I call the obedient pen to assist me in addressing one whom my heart is bound to love, and to whom it is strongly attached. Could the silent moments bear witness they might testify my hearts affection and my constant emotions of friendship and attachment. What shall time or distance extinguish the inward flame which friendship kindles? no. My own experience prove the stability and constancy of friendship. I have also proved its sweetness, felt its cordial moments, experienced its latent pleasures and tender sensation - Friendship is the richest blessing earth bestows. The purest pleasure which a mortal knows. Comparing to that heavenly love which glows to our creator source from whence it flows. How sweet are friendships charms and how gently glide the moments when cordial friends unite and mingle. How sweet is love You my dear, will understand me when I talk of friendship - for you have felt its power. you know how strong, yet gentle are its bonds and how pleasing its reign. O that we might once more experience its sweets clasped in each others arms.

I have received two letters from you since the date of my last (which now I think, Sept. 10) one dated Sept. 16 and the other Oct. 3 and I need not tell you the pleasure they afforded. In your first you inform me of your favorable situation at your Fathers. This indeed was welcome news and I participated in your happiness. You also inform me of the deprivation of your friend Miss Ford and here I partook of your sorrow Next you say you understand that Mr. D. has been paying her and ask "Is he the man your heart you wish for an answer Then I will freely answer no. Your ideas on the subject were reasonably expressed and deserve my thanks. But I must hasten to be done. One thing however let me tell you and you must be sensible of your The heart is naturally given to pride and self esteem and is easily invested by flattery - You cannot suppose that I am destitute of the passion which others and I cannot deserve the inconveniences which you heap on me in your letter. Your letter abound with communications which I must not and and you will see the impropriety of applause where it is not deserved. But I owe a debt of gratitude for your partiality in my favor for I cannot suppose that you deniably flatter. Tell me my faults and I shall be still more indebted. Write every opportunity. If you can convey letters to my friends in Abington they may perhaps convey them some more frequently than you have opportunity. I propose to commit this to the care of Miss Polly Shaw, a cousin of mine and hope she will soon convey it to you. Probably Mr. Bryant inform you of the state of your friends in Cummington and perhaps respecting your friend Miss Clark. I am in haste to send this and cannot enlarge. I have nothing peculiarly interesting to write at present and shall improve every opportunity of writing which presents. May every thorn which wounds your peace be destroyed and nothing disturb your repose and if it is so decreed that we shall meet no more in this state of existence nor enjoy each others society and friendly aid may we be prepared to meet in that state "Where life is without pain and friendship is immortal." Adieu my dear friend, adieu, and let angels protect thee from harm.

I am thy constant . L.R.