

S<sup>r</sup>.

You will certainly with the more  
 willingness excuse this impertinent freedom if I assure you  
 it proceeds from a mind no less full fraught with wonder  
 at the variety of those excellencies Heaven, or Nature have  
 bestowed on you, than love, or esteem of those civilities  
 wherewith I must acknowledge my self to be very much  
 oblig'd. It might seeme a complement (if all the know-  
 ing world did not beare witness w<sup>th</sup> me) to tell you, that  
 what all the Masters of Arts, & Sciences have propounded  
 to us in precept, you have recollect'd in your self, & far-  
 ther enforced on us by your Example. If I would prove the  
 admirable influence of learning, & the incomparable benefits it  
 brings to the mindes of men, w<sup>ch</sup> many of our grante naturall  
 wits doe seeme to contest against, slighting all other improve-  
 ments but what they derive from the stock of their  
 owne common-sens; if I would declare what reason hath  
 borrow'd from nature, what like a good huswife shew hath  
 spinn'd out of her owne bowells in the matter of Laws, &  
 Policy; if I would tell the world the secret Plots w<sup>ch</sup> the  
 Stars conspire together, what language it is that nature speaks  
 voluntarily, & what when forc'd, & constrain'd by fire: how  
 the ways of true honor are to be tract; what it is that  
 maintains the quick returns of courtesy, & Wit; what  
 the mysteries of pleasure are, the sweet strains, & lulling  
 reliques of it; the delightful propositions of an active playfully  
 & warme braine; what the true meaning of mirth, merriment

of poetry is, & how to use them without extravagance, ~~and~~  
by <sup>an</sup> antidote of vertue against moderate passions; I would  
hold forth your person, & conversation where they would find  
a compendious demonstration of what many voluminous Au-  
thors would never be able to propose as practi-<sup>all</sup>, though  
perhaps they might ~~be~~ <sup>useful</sup> in order to speculation, upon  
their faiths: All these <sup>shall</sup> stand open either in your practice  
or you have the key to let them out by your reasoning &  
discourse: And since I have taken upon me the privilege  
thus freely to let you understand my apprehension of  
these truths, it will be superfluous to add any farther  
expression of my just value, & esteem: And therefore  
I only engage you to believe that I believe what  
I profess, & by this means you will best know how much  
I must needs be

S<sup>r</sup>.

Your most humble,  
& faithfull servant

Vtrecht  
May 14.



John de Witt



Aen myn Heer

Myn Heer van Eylocom



in den Afgehe.