

S^r.

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 wth me) to tell you, that
 what all the Masters of Arts, & Sciences have propounded
 to us in precept, you have recollected 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^{ch} 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
 borrowed from nature, what like a good huswife shew hath
 spunne out of her owne bowells in the matter of Laws, &
 Policy; if I would tell the world the secret Plots w^{ch} the
 Stars conspire together, what language it is that nature speaks
 voluntarily, & what when forc't, & constrained 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 ^{an} 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 mispose as practi-^{all}, though
perhaps they might ~~be~~ ^{useful} in order to speculation, upon
their faiths. All these ^{utter} 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

sr.

Your most humble,
& faithfull servant

Vtrecht
May 14.

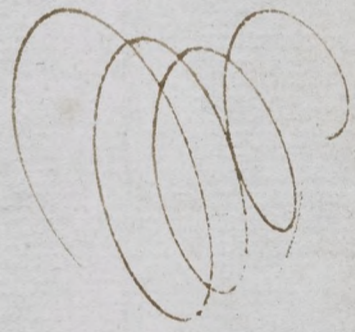


John de Witt



Aen myn Heer

Myn Heer van Eylocom



in den Afgehe.