

Staatsburg 5th August 27

My dear Sir,

I yesterday received your very flattering favour of the preceding day, and would with the greatest pleasure accept the honor intended me, was I twenty years younger. Time that destroyer of all Things, has completely prostrated the few rhetorical Powers I ever possessed, and has totally incapacitated me for doing merited justice to a Subject which must arouse feelings, that three score and thirteen would be very unlikely to give due expression to. I must therefore beg of you to excuse me, and to select some younger Orator who has not outlived the requisite qualifications. I do not think it very important that he should be a revolutionary Character.

When you pay your intended visit to your Son, I shall be very happy, if your convenience will permit, to see you at my house; and you will add to the obligation by dining and passing a night with me.

most respectfully
your Obedt. Servant

Morgan Lewis

The Honble

Gen: Pierre Van Cortlandt

to be left at Doctor Allen's

Hyde Park.

