

Shenning County [1825, Nov. 25]

My Dear Sir

Having received your letter of the
18th inst. by the Thursday's mail, and con-
sidering it a correspondence of import-
ance it appears necessary it should be
answered and that with the greatest
degree of candour otherwise I should
almost be tempted to defer writing, know-
ing my great inability in performing such
a task and more especially when compared
with one who in my opinion seems to have
but few competitors. I consider that the re-
marks observations and comparisons that you
have made with regard to the works of
nature are just and consonant with my own
opinion on that subject; particularly by the
observation on Sheep. My health is much
as usual at this time but the state of my
mind I need not tell you is somewhat
affected by the weight of so important a
matter as appears to be before me for I
do assure you that it is the first time
in my life that I have seriously and
maturely deliberated upon this most im-
portant subject. After reflection and
exercising my best judgement every
Obstacle is removed and I do assure you
have my entire confidence and affection
with out reserve ^{truly}