the confidence you repose in me — the candour implied in enclosing me the Copy of a most severe paragraph from me you state — one of yr dearest friends — impress me with various sensations — I wish not to pry into yr affairs further than you may incline to acquaint me voluntarily — I wish not the name of that person who thus severely writes — who thus harshly [illegible] (Hard [illegible] and such as my friend Gibbs never merited) but I confess you have excited Surprise, Curiosity, a Jumble of tumultuous Ideas floated in my brain in perusing the paragraph exclamation succeeded exclamation — I perus'd and reperus'd the paragraph and was lost as to a conclusion — I could make nothing of it [illegible]

that you do not merit the sense of the paragraph I am positive and that it was dictated by passion I readily suppos'd — but how reconcile the Idea — that the dearest friend of my friend Gibbs — should be so much under the influence of passion — how imagine yr want of discernment in forming such attachments — however I must either Criminate you or suppose you had erred in placing your Esteem on the unworthy — the former I cannot do — have I not known you almost from Infancy — a few years older than yourself — was I not censur'd for my conduct — for not bridling my passions — (tho' they never led me to commit actions injurious to any but myself) when you preserv'd a perfect mastery over yours —

have you not had a worthy man for an Instructor who ever attended as much to the Morals as the other branches of the Education of his pupils — have you not ever possess'd the Esteem of all good men — and knowing this could I independant of the friendship I feel for you — could I affix credibility to a paragraph replete with the severest expressions that could with Justice be applied to the most abandon'd [illegible] my friend you have misplac'd your Esteem — and it will be a Lesson that may prove serviceable in yr passage thro' Life

A thousand thanks for yr Congratul[illegible] and believe me when I tell you 'tis not in my power to shew [illegible] friendship more than when I wish you united with a worthy [illegible] who is the object of yr affections — this I most sincerely do — and by the warmth and force of your Style when on this Subject — I have hopes of 'ere long congratulating you in return — if not

I will in answer to your regrets at not having continued the past winter in Charleston — say that I hope it will be an inducement to draw you here the next — when no one will be more happy to embrace you than yr friend Barker