

Honored Sir

It is with no little diffidence I attempt to address a few words to you on a subject that is near my heart. The virtuous and amicable merits of your eldest daughter, have caused me for a considerable period, to feel a respect and attachment which it is my sincere desire ever to cherish. At an interview I, not long since, experienced the pleasure of having with her. I presumed to propose, ^{a correspondence} and I am happy to believe it met her own feelings, not unfavorably. It seems now ^{to be} only necessary that you as her beloved and worthy parent should give it your approbation, and, Kind Sir, permit me to say the object of these ^{lines}, is, that I may know whether ^{for you} to do this would be comfortable with your feelings. Please do me the singular favor of answering as soon as it shall be convenient

Syler Botchell

Respectfully and with much esteem

Your Obedt Servt

Abel Harwood

Templeton Dec. 13th, 1838.

M. B. I have for several days, been looking for a line from Mary, but receiving none, I conclude that she has ^{been} expecting that I should first write to you as I now do. I think very likely she might infer that I should from what was said between us. I regret that you were not at home while I was in town.