



# Love Letters and How to Write Them.

6970

AN INVALUABLE WORK ON THE ETIQUETTE  
OF INTRODUCTION, COURTSHIP AND PRO-  
POSALS, WITH DIRECTIONS WHEN AND  
HOW TO WRITE LOVE LETTERS, MAKE  
AND ACCEPT PROPOSALS. . . . .

BY  
INGOLDSBY NORTH



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# INTRODUCTION.

What would this world be without love? Transient as it is, life would not be worth the living were it not seasoned with love—affection—the inward promptings that lift men upward to a higher plane of existence.

A glance at the contents of this book reveals a world of thought on the finer feelings of men, and after a careful reading of the hundred or more letters contained herein, the reader cannot truthfully say, "This dear old world of ours is not so bad after all," then he or she must indeed be void of the instincts of true manhood or womanhood.

It is with a view of assisting all who have found difficulty in letter writing that the author has prepared this book, introducing various



forms and styles of letters and notes pertaining to Love, Romance, Courtship and Marriage. Not all of the letters herein pertain to the softer affections of the heart, nor do all of them express undying devotion, for there are times when differences arise between young people that must be settled without resorting to the superlative use of innumerable adjectives.

There are some general rules in connection with letter writing which are not always remembered even by those who never feel it necessary to consult a book like *Love Letters and How to Write Them*, by Ingoldsby North, and who are able to express themselves in writing without difficulty. Yet if the general rules presented in this introduction are ignored or forgotten, there is defect in all written compositions which no fluency or ease of expression can hide, even though it may not always be easy to point out such defect. Those, therefore, who from want of practice or from a natural disinclination to letter-writing, find such a work as the present helpful to them, would do well to master these general rules even before paying attention to the details in connection with the style, which is given in the various divisions of the book. For this purpose the author has set out these general rules in order,

so that they may be the less easily lost sight of.

To begin with, then, it is necessary to reflect that a letter is nothing more than a speech on paper. It is a simple matter of fact that in most cases a letter would never be written if it were possible to conveniently meet the person to whom the letter is addressed, and so to discuss the subject of the letter face to face. In most cases be it observed—for there are instances where, from various causes, chiefly the nature of the subject, or from nervousness, or from an excess of reserve, or through inability to fully express themselves verbally—persons have been known to write to others whom they meet twice a day at the same table, and who live with them under the same roof. It is safe, however, to say that, generally, letters are not written where personal interviews are possible, and that the letter is generally a substitute for the personal interview. From this it follows that the letter should be as *natural* and *direct* in its treatment of the subject written about as the actual discussion of the subject would be if the parties were to meet.

Generally it is best that the purpose of the letter should appear in its earlier portion; that is, the most important part of the letter should be first; that which is less important com-

ing next; and any interesting information—whether disconnected or otherwise—bringing up the concluding part of the letter. This method is, of course, the opposite of the plan which has been known over and over again to have been followed, viz., of making up the letter of all sorts of odds and ends of information, and putting in a two- or three-line postscript, in a few words, perhaps, and expressed bluntly—or, may be, dragged in as though it were an afterthought—the real message the letter was intended to convey. Readers of this book would do well to possess a copy of Brown's *Business Letter Writer and Book of Social Forms*, by Charles W. Brown, published by Frederick J. Drake Company, Chicago, which treats fully the importance of a proper construction of a letter.

Readers of "Waverly," by Scott, will remember an incident, if they cannot find one in their own experience; and the case of the capture and incarceration of the hero of the story, and how his lady-love, writing to her uncle, whom she knew was able to save him, made up her letter in a string of commonplaces which scarcely needed writing about, and having finished the letter proper, proceeded to inform him, in a very short postscript, that she "had

heard that his friend had been captured and was in danger." This method of course may be commended as clever on the part of the young lady who wished to serve her lover without the apparent desire to reveal her purpose, or, as we say, without "showing her hand." And, frankly, the editor of this little book would be the last person in the world to condemn this method in any similar case; nay, more, he would be the first to follow her example in like circumstances. But her method is certainly not to be a model to be generally followed in letter-writing. Good, excellent—nay, perhaps the only wise thing to do, in certain rare and very exceptional cases; but never to be raised to the position of a general rule.

The purpose of the letter should never be lost sight of, nor should its influence on the mind of the person addressed, by being either unduly or insufficiently pressed.

There may be sins of omission as well as sins of commission. It is not usual to use a steam engine to pull a cart or a toy squirt as a hydraulic lift. Nor should the main subject of a letter be too elaborately treated, or too strongly pressed; just as little should be inadequately treated. In this, as in most other things, there is a middle way, easily found and kept

by all whose minds are well balanced by the everyday cultivation of that moderation which avoids extremes on all occasions.

The use of stereotyped phrases and expressions should be avoided. Who does not know the old time-worn sentence with which countless letters have been commenced and which perhaps does duty regularly, in many cases, even in these days of educational progress? Who has not over and over again commenced with: "I write these few lines hoping they will find you in good health, as they leave me at present"? Now, to fall into the habit of using exactly the same words on all occasions, whether in beginning a letter, or in reference to any subject either written or spoken about, is inexcusably slovenly and is to be considered as by no means the proper thing to do, simply because with many it may be the fashion. And here, just at this point, it is convenient and appropriate to guard against copying word for word any letter given in this book as an example. It should be remembered they are given, not for the purpose of being reproduced in every particular, but as showing the method only in which similar letters should be written. It is quite possible, nay, more than possible, that thousands of letters might be read as

examples of, say, applying for a given situation, and that not one of several thousand would serve in a particular case, if copied in all respects and used word for word. This applies more specifically to letters contained in "Brown's Business Letter Writer." Similar letters, however, contained in this book, though of affairs of the heart, might be cited.

It is necessary, then, in consulting any of the examples here given, to ask the question, How does the example agree in its details with the object intended? In this way the points of difference as well as the points of resemblance will appear, and common sense and a very small portion of tact will enable the most inexperienced letter writer to steer himself into the haven where he would be.

It is curious, but it is a fact, that many people who may generally be relied upon to act sensibly in ordinary everyday transactions, lose their heads when they take up a pen, and act as though they had no brains and as if a copy of somebody else's letters on a totally different subject would bring about the state of things on which the mind is set. Borrowed wit very rarely fits the occasion on which it is used; so borrowed phraseology, whether in speech or

writing, oftener exposes than helps the borrower.

There are some defects which are very common in letter-writing, even among fairly educated people. They are somewhat delayed, it may be, answering a letter from a friend. They proceed, therefore, at an undue length to apologize for such delay, giving often such trivial reasons for the same and expressing their regrets in long-drawn-out sentences, that they produce an effect on the mind of the recipient just the opposite of what they intended.

Very much more might be said by way of caution, but it is believed that the reader fully understands the importance of avoiding using the exact language presented in the following letters, for they are intended only to convey style and form, and not phraseology.

With many punctuation is a life-long difficulty. There is no mystery about it, and a very moderate amount of attention, combined with common sense, will overcome whatever difficulties may appear to surround it. The use of the various points depends entirely upon the meaning of the sentence, and this meaning they certainly help to make more obvious. Some sentences, however, if pointed in two or more ways, may be made to bear as many different

meanings, or shades of meanings. This fact has a curious bearing on legal documents, which are never punctuated; perhaps because it is desirable to make them bear more than one meaning, according to convenience.

The points more commonly used are the Comma (,), the Full-stop or Period (.), the Colon (:), and the Semi-colon (;). The other points are the Note of Exclamation (!), the Note of Interrogation (?), the Brackets [], the Parenthesis (), Quotation Marks (" "), and the Dash (—).

The Comma (,) is most frequently used, as it marks the shorter division of a sentence, or the divisions of the principal parts of a sentence. This, broadly speaking, is its use.

1. It is used to separate words between which the word "and" has been omitted, and to prevent the frequent repetition of that word; as, "Men, women, boys, and girls, were present"; "The statesman was wise, patient, determined, and courteous."

2. It is placed after the subject of a sentence, and its enlargement, when that subject is expanded by a thought which is in opposition to it, or which could be quite conveniently omitted if desired; as, "England, *the mother of free peoples*, is the enemy of slavery." In this



example perfect sense would be preserved, although less would be conveyed to the mind of the reader, if all the words in italics between the two sentences were omitted.

3. It is placed after all adverbial expressions standing at the beginning of a sentence, thus: "As he had started before getting your letter, he carried out his plan and kept his promise"; "Late in the evening, we called on him together."

4. The comma is also needed when the subject of the sentence is rather long, as: "Why he should write to me about this matter, passes my comprehension." The comma would not be needed if the sentence were expressed shortly, thus: "Why he writes to me I do not know."

5. It is placed after expressions used in addressing others, as: "Man, who told you this?"

6. It comes after short sentences which form parts of long sentences: "The man was industrious, but he made no progress." "The merchant came to London, sold his cloth, and machinery, made many extensive purchases, and left for Paris the following week."

The Period (.) is simply a dot.

1. Its principal use is to mark the end of a sentence, long or short.

2. It has other uses. It is placed after all contractions or abbreviations; that is, words which are represented either by a syllable or initial, as: "U. S. A. (United States of America), M.P., H.R.H., W. H. (William Henry), B. A., Esq., mem. con., R. T. S. (Religious Tract Society), Sept. (September), etc.

The Colon (:).

1. The chief use of the colon is to indicate that what has gone before will be better understood when that what follows it has been read; for example: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it and is safe."

2. Sometimes the two parts of a compound sentence are equally important; they are then said to be co-ordinate; as, for example: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and to depart from evil, that is understanding." In such cases a colon marks the division of the compound sentence.

3. Whenever a sentence is followed by a list, or details are given, the colon marks the division of such details, as: "The following is a summary of the contents of the box: two volumes of poems, fourteen volumes of essays," etc.

4. Whenever a quotation is given either from a book or speech, or whenever a speaker is

reported at full length, the speech or quotation is preceded by a colon. Thus: "The Chancellor of the Exchequer said:—The House will bear with me," etc. "The account of the recent riots is as follows:—

The Semi-colon (;) indicates a greater and more important division than that marked by a comma, but not so much as that indicated by a full stop.

1. It is used to divide sentences each of which contains groups, the members of which are related to each other. Thus: "The room contained several suites of furniture crowded together. There **was** an oak suite, consisting of sofa, table, six ordinary chairs, a lady's chair, and an arm chair; a mahogany suite, consisting of sideboard, twelve chairs, a card-table, a horsehair sofa, and a book-case; and a walnut suite, comprising much the same articles as the oak suite."

2. When several subordinate sentences are all equally dependent on a previous sentence, these subordinate sentences are marked by a semi-colon. Thus: "The man who puts no restraints on himself acts as though he believed there is no judgment day; that self-gratification is the great object of this life; that to be self-denying is to be miserable; and that, in short,

there is no such thing as moral responsibility.”

3. When several contrasts are drawn in a succession of short sentences, it is better to divide them by semi-colons than by commas, as indicating greater deliberation, and a slightly more emphatic pause. Thus: “Pride is repellant in whatever form it shows itself: the pride of dignity is ridiculous; the pride of learning is pitiable; the pride of wealth is contemptible; the pride of bigotry is insupportable; and the pride of humility is perhaps the most repellant of all.”

[This sentence gives a good illustration of both the colon and semi-colon.]

The Note of Exclamation (!) is placed after expressions of surprise, danger, or admiration. Thus: “They refuse!” Here the words do not simply give the information that a refusal is given, but the speaker’s surprise (it may be indignant surprise—or the opposite) that they refuse. “How large!” does not ask how large a thing is, but expresses the speaker’s attitude of mind, as though the thing spoken of were larger than it was expected to be.

The Note of Interrogation (?) is placed after every sentence or phrase which is really a question.

The Brackets [] are used to enclose words

which are not necessary to the sentence, but which give some information or explanation which makes the sentence clearer, or which may do so to some who read it. Thus: "I tell you what my visitor said his friend [who was present at the accident] told him was a positive fact."

The Parenthesis ( ) is contained between two curves. The words so contained are not necessary to the sentence, but they serve to strengthen or enforce the argument, or to illustrate the thought. Thus: "I tell you this, that envenomed speeches (such as those to which we have just listened) will not help this assembly to form a deliberate judgment on this or any question."

The Dash (—) is perhaps one of the most useful of all the signs in use. As we have seen, it is used

1. After a colon preceding a quotation or extract.

2. It is also used instead of parenthesis, as: "Beaconsfield was prime minister not only once—as his biographer ought to know—but twice."

3. When a speaker or writer breaks off from his subject, the break is marked by using the dash; thus: "I have written to you to say that I bid farewell to this subject forever, and that

I—but why should I trouble you further with my thoughts? I turn, now to other matters.”

4. The dash marks a consecutive series; as, “Everybody’s Series, vols. i—ix.”

5. Also it may be used with effect instead of a colon, before the concluding thought of a sentence; thus: “In all probability you would have forsaken me, and have left the neighborhood; but you would have tried to quiet your conscience by sending me a check for a thousand dollars—as though money could ever be an equivalent for a life-long injury.”

Quotation Marks.—These consist of two commas inverted at the beginning of the extract or speech quoted; and two apostrophes at the end of the extract. If it is necessary to mark a speech or extract without the passage which is being quoted, that is done by a single inverted comma at the beginning, and a single apostrophe at the end. Thus, for example, in the speech of Lord Rosebery, on the Home Rule Bill, we find him saying:—“Every one of their speeches is couched in the spirit of Marc Antony in the Senate House: ‘I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.’ I almost think, under the very delicate circumstances, that noble lords below the gangway might spare us details in view of the fact that they have made up their minds to defeat the Bill.”

## HOW TO BEGIN CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter has been a problem for lovers ever since—well, I suppose that it has puzzled the suitor of all ages and of all nations. I can fancy the youth of ancient Rome standing before the scribe, sitting at street corner with papyrus unrolled and stylus poised, waiting for that first word which is to color all that shall follow it, just as well as I can fancy the youth of Young America, with lifted pen, thinking how he shall address his beloved. May be—who knows?—I have gone through that pupilage myself. For one who seeks permission to write in terms of endearment to commence his epistle with “My dearest Lillian,” or “My adored Edith,” would be absurd and quite unjustifiable until Lillian or Edith had first called the said “one” my dear. In this matter, therefore, there is some discretion proper. As a rule, a gentleman will never err if he says “Dear Miss” (surname), if not of long or very intimate acquaintance; or “Dear Miss” (given name) if more intimately acquainted; or “Dear” (given name) if a little more so; or “My Dear” (given name) if more so still. “Dear Madam,” “My dear Madam,” “Dearest Madam,” and, finally “Dearest” (given name) should be adopted only as the gentleman feels

authorized by his inspirer. One rule may be adopted without a doubt of its propriety. The lady must always be treated with respectful delicacy, and, that said, my male reader will, on reflection, need no more instruction. In the lady's case, instruction is scarcely needed. She will instinctively use the phrase which is suggested by the refined nature of her sex. I do not think, and in this view I am supported by more than one woman of culture and high principle, that the letters of women, of whatever age, should express attachment in passionate or even ardent terms. "Dear Mr." (surname) is warm enough for some time, and unless there is close intimacy. "Dear" (given name) comes next, and "My Dear" (given name), next. I should not like to see a lady's letter begin, "My Dearest" So and So, and as for such adjectives as "sweetest," etc., or such nicknames as "Duck," "Pet," "Honey," and many others that have been put on paper—out upon them except for lunatics or infants.



A GENTLEMAN INQUIRING WHETHER  
HE MAY NOT BE A SUITOR PRE-  
FERRED OVER SEVERAL  
OTHERS

Dear Miss (*or Madam*):—Permit me, sharing as I do the admiration which is so universally tendered you by the gentlemen who have the happiness of your acquaintance, to lay at your feet the expression of my most earnest hope that you will favor me with your kind consideration of the following. In common with others, I have been rendered your devoted worshipper, and would appear as a suppliant for your affection. It would appear mere affectation if I were to deny to others what I would wish granted to myself, namely, your belief in my sincere and ardent love for you. Nor do I claim to be more worthy than they are. But my happiness is so entirely in your keeping—I have loved you so long, and do love you so deeply, that if I were the one destined to be your choice, there will be for me a joy which I vainly attempt even by anticipation to hint at. If I had dreamed that you had ceased to be free in this matter I would not dare to approach you with this confession of my feelings. But I am not aware that you have expressed a prefer-

ence for either of the aspirants for your hand. One of us may be honored by that preference—only one of us can be. Oh that I may be that one, and that you may commit to me that precious gift of which my whole life will be the guardian and proud possessor. It is impossible that any one can feel more love for you than I do—I will not be so unjust as to assert that any feel less. I should be an unworthy competitor did I not be thus candid. May I pray that you will at the same time believe me when I say that upon your decision rests all that I hope for of peace of mind in the future. Give me the right to prove my attachment, and there is nothing more that I desire in this world. A line from you will be most anxiously watched for. I pray Heaven that I may be then at liberty to address you with a warmer conclusion to my correspondence than I venture now to employ, when I thus subscribe myself

Most respectfully your devoted admirer,

FELIX HOLT.

### REPLY

Dear Mr. Holt:—I thank you for the generosity with which you write of any gentlemen

of my acquaintance whom you suppose may have done me the honor of sustaining toward me a feeling stronger than friendship. I am, as you think probable, still free, although, as I will imitate your candor in adding, I have had the opportunity of giving up my liberty more than once. I do not doubt the sincerity of the feelings, which others than yourself have expressed, but there has been no corresponding emotion on my side. No one letter has so deeply touched me as yours. I do not say yes to your request at once, but I will own that if there is any one in whose favor I would change refusal to acceptance, it would be yourself. Do not ask me now to say more than this. Had I not reciprocated some of the regard which you have for me I would not have said so much,

Believe me, sincerely yours,

MAUD BLACKSTONE.

A GENTLEMAN, HAVING ATTENDED A GOLDEN, SILVER, CRYSTAL, TIN, PAPER, OR, AS SOME ONE PROPOSED, A BASKET WEDDING, WRITES TO ONE OF THE GUESTS AS FOLLOWS:

My Dear Miss Hamilton:—The very delight-

ful party of last night was one which will long be remembered by those present, and by none longer than myself. I hope you enjoyed it thoroughly. How exquisite a spectacle, that of the lovers of years ago once more assembling their friends as witnesses to the union of hearts which age has not withered nor the passing of time cooled toward each other. To me there was great significance in the ceremonies of the evening. For those who aspire toward such a union themselves there almost seemed to be a wish and a prophecy of like love and similar history. To me they spoke words of encouragement and gave me hope. May I not take to myself that courage and hope, and ask you to return a love which is as fond, and which will be as enduring as that of our dear host and hostess. My dear Miss Hamilton, I have longed to say this to you before. I have often nearly broken the silence which in plain truth I need not have kept. I will do so now. I will at once assure you of my earnest love, and beg you to think of me with favor. You are to me dearer than all the world besides, and you will always be. Tell me that I may come to you and say it, and you will make me happier than words can express. This may seem too abrupt—but were I to write a million pages, they would but repeat that I love you and ask

you to love me. Am I too bold in signing myself  
 Ever your most affectionate  
 JOHN W. COLE.

### REPLY

My Dear Mr. Cole:—You are rather bold; but I forgive you. I am not even angry enough to scold. Yes, it was a delightful party, and the happiness which was diffused around brought tears to my eyes more than once. Not that I am sentimental—but the scene was so full of joyfulness. You ask me to love you. I am not a coquette, and therefore confess that I love you already. Silly boy—don't you know it? But I think you do. You see I am perfectly candid. Why should I not be? You may come and tell me again what you have written, and I will repeat your own phrase that I am  
 Ever your most affectionate,  
 CORA HAMILTON.

### A LOGICAL LOVER

My Dear Sarah:—Except when I have had occasion to be absent from your neighborhood, I have never addressed you in writing. I do

so now to fulfill a long-conceived purpose, some indication of which must have been apparent to you during our acquaintance and association. Our **mutual** attachment I will not merely suppose—it is a fact. This fact has tended to but one end. I am sure you will pardon me if I appear hasty in proposing that our mutual relation take a more perfect and definite form—one which exalts and refines those who submit to its conditions willingly and understandingly. I mean, of course, marriage. I have prepared myself for all the exigencies of married life, so far, that is, as an experienced mortal can foresee them. I only wait, therefore, your intimation that you, being thus duly assured, are also ready to enter into that state into which I believe us to be called. Awaiting which, I remain,

Yours most affectionately,

ANDREW LUX.

### REPLY

My Dear Andrew:—To attempt to expatiate upon the subject of your letter would seem to imply the necessity for an argument, which I do not wish. Therefore, as I have not only learned to love you, but also to respect your

judgment, believing also that you have fully weighed the whole matter with that discretion which has always characterized you, I have only to say that I accept your proposition, and am

Ever yours,

SARAH MATTHEWS.

PROPOSAL FROM A GENTLEMAN WHO  
IS NOT AWARE OF THE LADY'S  
PRE-ENGAGEMENT

My Dear Miss Howard:—Not being aware that any gentleman has been so fortunate as to be distinguished by your preference, I venture to address you upon a subject upon which I have hitherto with difficulty kept silence. I mean the very sincere and deep admiration and love with which you have inspired me, and the great ambition which I feel to be honored and delighted by the knowledge that my feelings are not misplaced, and that my hopes are not in vain. It is true that the intimacy which you have permitted me to enjoy has not been very great, nor have I had very frequent opportunities of being in your society. But both have sufficed to convince me that I am earnestly

attached to you, and that you have it in your power to render me the happiest of men.

May I then, my dear Miss Howard, request the kindness of some intimation that what I have ventured upon saying causes you no disagreeable emotion, if, that is, your feelings will allow you to make such an avowal? Perhaps I may be more formal in the manner of expressing myself, but after much reflection concluded that you would not feel flattered by undue circumlocution, and that you would not think more of me if I failed to speak plainly and to the point. All that I have to say, and can say, is that I love you, and that the gift of your own affection is one which I would aspire to as my greatest hope, and should guard as my greatest treasure. Pardon me if I am in error—it would be very painful to me if I were. At all events, you will not, I trust, refuse a few lines to

Your devoted admirer,

ALFRED G. ROBIN.

### REPLY

Dear Sir:—I have been much more pained by the receipt of your letter than I feel willing to acknowledge, nor is that pain alleviated by the



flattering opinion which you are kind enough to express. If I had imagined that you had contemplated writing to me, or, indeed, that you had conceived so strong an interest in me, I should have taken some means of acquainting you with a circumstance which, indeed, I had thought not altogether unknown to you among my other friends. I feel, therefore, that I am in no way responsible for the error into which you have unhappily fallen, much as I regret it. I should be undeserving of your respect if I said less than this, nor need I say more. The fact that I have been engaged for some time remaining for me to make known to you. I now state it, at the same time hoping that you may meet with some lady for whom you will be able to experience far more affection than that to which I am unable to respond.

You may, of course, rely upon my keeping your offer secret from everyone, as indeed I am bound by every sentiment of honor to do. You will, of course, destroy this letter, as I have already yours—both must be as though they had never been written, and as if the occasion for them had never arisen. Yours truly,

LAURA HOWARD.

FROM A GENTLEMAN TO THE MOTHER  
OF A LADY WHOSE HAND  
HE SOLICITS.

Madam:—Permit me, most respectfully, to inform you that for some time past I have entertained a tender regard for your daughter, and I now solicit the happy privilege of visiting her, and, at the same time, of paying my respects to you.

My means are amply sufficient to maintain in comfort and respectability the lady who would honor me with her hand, and I trust that my disposition is such as to leave a daughter no cause to regret that she had exchanged a mother's home for a husband's roof.

As I have the honor of being known to Mr. and Mrs. Carr, who are, I believe, intimate friends of yours, they will be able to satisfy you upon many points upon which it would be scarcely becoming of me to enlarge.

Trusting I may have the pleasure of receiving a favorable reply,

I remain, Madam, yours truly and respectfully,  
JAMES M. BEARDSLEY.

FAVORABLE REPLY

Dear Sir:—I have consulted my daughter

respecting the communication with which you favored me, and have also made inquiries of Mr. and Mrs. Carr concerning you. The result is that I feel it would be selfish of me to interpose any obstacle to your wishes, and you have, therefore, my consent to pay your addresses to my daughter.

It may not be out of place here to remind you how devotedly I am attached to this my only tie upon earth, and with what tenderness and care Clara has been reared; while to me she has been the most dutiful and affectionate of daughters, and I believe will make the best of wives.

Some of our relations from the country are coming to spend the day with us on Monday, and in the evening we shall be happy to see you.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

MRS. WHITENER.

### UNFAVORABLE REPLY

Sir:—I regret being compelled to return a negative reply to your letter. Ever since my daughter has been left fatherless, her existence and mine have been bound up in each other, and neither of us would consent to take a step  
was not calculated to promote mutual as

well as individual happiness. To you it may appear that I am harsh and selfish in deciding adversely to your wishes, but I can conscientiously acquit myself of any such feelings and motives, and assure you that in declining to receive your proposals, I believe I am best consulting the interests of all parties concerned.

I do this with the greatest respect, and at the same time acknowledging your worth of character and personal good qualities; and trusting you will accept the wishes of my daughter in unison with my own, that your future may be prosperous and happy,

I am, sir, yours very respectfully,

MRS. WHITENER.

## LETTERS BETWEEN TWO VERY ACTIVE MEMBERS OF A CHURCH

My Dear Grace:—Although I have had for several years the pleasure of most agreeable intercourse with you, through the happy instrumentality of our joint labors in the good work in which we have been, and still are, so deeply interested, I do not approach the subject of this communication without some fears of the result. At first taught to respect and admire you as an

earnest and loving worker for the good of souls, an affection of a more selfish nature, but I trust I may say not less pure in character, has grown upon me until it asks for an avowal. Association with you has become a necessity to my happiness, and while I shall feel it my duty to submit patiently to your decision, if adverse to my hopes, I cannot but feel that in such an event I have failed unhappily to secure the companionship through life of a truly Christian woman, whose place in my heart can never be occupied by another.

In return for the affection which I ask from you, but I can offer you an unsullied name and that sincerest love which, based upon true esteem, gives highest assurance of its unchangeable character.

To be anxious for an early reply is natural, yet I refrain from urging you to a hasty decision on a matter so important to us both. I shall await your convenience, and only add that I am, with deep respect, your devoted admirer,

WILL.

### REPLY

My Dear Will:—If I have not long delayed

replying to your letter you will not, I hope, charge me with unbecoming haste, but rather give me credit for a wish to relieve from anxiety a friend always dear to me, and now most dear.

It cannot surely be unmaidenly if I now confess that our friendship has given me peculiar pleasure, and that that pleasure, sanctified by the character of the work which brought us together, has gradually become closely allied with my own happiness. Knowing you as possessed of all that can command the honor and love of a woman's affectionate heart, and the esteem of all who know you, and being wedded to you in the Spirit by our joint labors in the vineyard of Christ, I have dared secretly to hope that some day our hearts might be opened to each other, and that I might be blessed by the return of an affection which was not the less real because of its being impossible for me unasked to avow it.

I think I have said enough for the present, and will only add that I remain,

Yours affectionately,

GRACE.

### A NEGATIVE REPLY

Dear Will:—Your letter, in which you pay

me the highest compliment that can come from man to woman—the offer of your hand—occasions me more sorrow than I can well express, seeing that I must occasion you sorrow, and that you have fallen into such an error as allowing yourself to feel for me anything beyond the affection of a friend.

Our labors in connection with our church have brought us much together, and our intercourse has always been to me most agreeable and instructive. Since our acquaintance so ripened that I learned your real worth, I have esteemed you very highly, and our friendship has been greatly prized by me. But I cannot claim to feel that deeper feeling of affection which ought to exist in the heart of a woman toward the man with whom she is willing to link her destiny.

If I have by word, or even the most trivial action, led you to believe that I felt otherwise toward you than as to a dear friend, sympathiz-

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NOTE.—In social or personal correspondence the name and address as well as the date is, by common consent, placed at the end of the letter and in the lower left hand corner. In business correspondence the name of the person addressed is usually placed at the beginning of the letter. See Brown's Business Letter Writer, published by Frederick J. Drake & Company, Chicago.

ing with you in many things, but above all, in religious affairs and work, I ask your pardon with all sincerity. I cannot but deeply regret if there has been anything arising from our intercourse which was capable of being misunderstood, and I am grieved if in repairing the mischief I am giving you unmerited pain. But in this, as in all other affairs, we are in God's hands. It is His will that you are reading now, and neither you nor I must forget the lesson of trust in Him, and faith in His dispensations, which we have both endeavored to impress upon others.

Dear Will, may we continue to labor toward the same end in His service, although what you desire cannot be! I feel sure that you will be blessed by a companionship which will be as dear to you as you now imagine mine would be. I repeat that I am honored by your proposal, and grateful for the offer of your love, though I cannot accept it. I shall always esteem and respect you, and hope that I may always remain

Your sincere friend,

GRACE.



FROM A GENTLEMAN OF MIDDLE AGE,  
TO AN INTIMATE FRIEND OF ABOUT  
THE SAME AGE

Dear Madam:—The long friendship which you have allowed to subsist between us, and which is a source of the most sincere pleasure to me, leads me to hope that I may address you upon a subject which I have very much at heart. I have always admired you, dear madam, with the real and settled admiration which one of my age is best capable of feeling. It has grown steadily in depth and strength, until I have realized to myself the truth that a warmer sentiment inspires me which I cannot overcome, and that all my hopes have become centered upon yourself. In saying this, believe me, I use no empty compliments, such as younger men might employ. There are many who would say much better what I would express, but they could not speak more directly from the heart than I do, when I declare that I esteem, admire and love you.

If I thought that this letter would cause you any painful surprise it would not, I assure you, have ever been written. On the contrary, I am not without hope that you may receive it without disfavor. We are both able to judge of

what circumstances are most likely to conduce to our happiness, and the worldly position and history of each is well known to the other of us. You may rest assured that your welfare and comfort will be the constant study of all my life, if you will consent to reward my devotion by giving me your hand.

I shall await your reply with great anxiety, and pray that it may not be unfavorable to my dearest hopes, and, meanwhile, with every wish that true respect and affection could dictate, I remain, dear madam,

Respectfully yours,

THEODORE KELLY.

### REPLY

Dear Mr. Kelly:—Your letter has reached me safely, and I will not delay replying to it, hoping at the same time to be as candid as yourself. I should be unworthy of the kind feelings which you express did I not acknowledge that I am flattered and obliged. As you truly say, we are well known to each other, and I may confess to you that my regard is neither new nor slight. If I could cast my lot with any gentleman I think you are the only one with whom

I could do so with confidence. Still, such a step is a very serious one to consider, and I hope you have weighed all the consequences. For me, I am old enough to know that the society of a dear friend through life is always a great blessing, but are you equally sure upon the subject? I am past the time of romance, though not of real affection, but will not say how much of the latter I feel for yourself. I think that we should not be hasty in any case, and that it would be well not to decide anything at once. Reflect, therefore, my dear sir, upon these few lines, as I will upon what you have said, and until I hear again from you, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

FREDA JOHNSON.

### REJOINDER

My Dear Madam:—Your letter has filled me with the greatest pleasure, and made me more hopeful than ever that you will permit my addresses. May I not call and speak the words which your answer has made me too happy to write.

Ever yours,

THEODORE KELLY.

## REPLY

My Dear Mr. Kelly:—You know that you are always welcome. I will make no appointment, for you know when I am always at home from the experience of some time.

Most sincerely yours,

FREDA JOHNSON.

A gentleman, having attended a golden, silver, crystal, tin, paper, or as some one proposed, a basket wedding, writes to one of the guests as follows:

My Dear Miss Wilt:—The very delightful party of last night was one which will long be remembered by those present, and by none longer than myself. I hope you enjoyed it thoroughly. How exquisite a spectacle, that of the lovers of years ago once more assembling their friends as witnesses to the union of hearts which age has not withered nor the passing of time cooled toward each other. To me there was great significance in the ceremonies of the evening. For those who aspire toward such a union themselves there almost seemed to be a wish and a prophecy of like love and a similar history. To me they spoke words of encourage-

ment and gave me hope. May I not take to myself that courage and that hope, and ask you to return a love which is as fond, and which will be as enduring as is that of our dear host and hostess. My Dear Miss Wilt, I have longed to say this to you before. I have often nearly broken a silence which in plain truth I need not have kept. I will do so now. I will at once assure you of my earnest love and beg you to think of me with favor. You are to me dearer than all the world besides, and you always will be. Tell me that I may come to you and say it, and you will make me happier than words can express. This may seem too abrupt—but were I to write a million pages, they would but repeat that I love you and ask you to love me. Am I too bold in signing myself

Ever your most affectionate

C. H. KESSLER.

#### ANSWER TO THE PRECEDING

My Dear Mr. Kessler:—You are rather bold, but I forgive you. I am not even angry enough to scold. Yes, it was a delightful party, and the happiness which was diffused around brought tears into my eyes more than once. Not that I

am sentimental—but the scene was so full of joyfulness. You ask me to love you. I am not a coquette, and therefore confess that I love you already. Silly boy—don't you know it? But I think you do. You see I am perfectly candid. Why should I not be? You may come and tell me again what you have written, and I will repeat your own phrase that I am,

Ever your most affectionate

MARTHA WILT.

### RENEWED OFFER BY A REJECTED SUITOR

Dear Miss Kennedy:—Forgive me if I again venture to address you upon the subject of my last letter, your reply to which was a great blow to me, and which I cannot forget. Is it not possible that you can view my wishes in a more favorable light? Is it not possible that although you will not now give me leave to aspire to your hand, time may work some change in my favor? This may seem to you as not paying due respect to your opinion and feelings on the matter, and I wish particularly to avoid such a construction of my words. But I cannot without one more effort relinquish hopes that are very dear to

me, and which have for so long centered in yourself. I will not ask you to reverse your decision. It would be impertinent to do so. But I do ask you to reconsider it. I ask you not to cast such a shadow on my life as will be cast if all my great love for you is hopeless and in vain. Any trial of my devotion, any probation, that you may suggest or wish I will very gladly undertake. My only desire is to prove that my happiness is in your keeping, and that there is nothing in this world within my power which I would not devote to gaining your esteem and affection. I cannot describe to you the pain which your letter caused me, nor can words express the anxiety with which I await the kindness of your answer to this, perhaps injudicious, even presuming, but certainly sincere appeal from

Ever your admirer and sincerely loving

STEPHEN BASTABLE.

LETTER OF A YOUNG MAN TO THE  
PARENT OR PARENTS OF A YOUNG  
LADY, ASKING PERMISSION TO PAY  
ADDRESSES

Dear Sir (*or Madame*):—I am sure that I

ought no longer to delay addressing you upon a subject with which is concerned not only my own happiness, but also my duty towards yourself. I have long felt a love for Miss Myrtha which it has been almost impossible to conceal from her, but although I may entertain some hope that she reciprocates my affection, I would not for any consideration so far violate your confidence as to speak to her upon the subject without your permission. To you I may say that I love her very deeply, and that if I am so happy as to secure your approval, it shall be the aim of my life to render her happy in the home I should be able to offer her. The many hours which I have spent in her society have endeared her to me more than I can express. There is nothing which I would not sacrifice for her sake, nor any ordeal of my affection which at your or her desire I would not undergo. If I may go to her and say that I do so with your sanction, you will have given me a prospect of obtaining the greatest blessing that I could ever hope for upon earth, and if she gives me her love in exchange for mine I shall regard it as the most sacred trust a man could undertake.

There are other subjects upon which you may wish precise information, such as my prospects, means of securing to your daughter her



proper position in the world, and other matters. Upon this and all other points I hope to be able to satisfy you entirely, and will give you all the information possible if you will allow me to do so. Meanwhile, I earnestly hope for your favorable consideration of my request, and anxiously awaiting your kind answer, I remain,

Dear sir (*or dear madame*)

Yours respectfully,

JOHN F. MEANY.

### REPLY

My Dear John:—I thank you for the candor with which you have written about Myrtha, and will give you the best answer possible at present. You must know how anxious I am (or “her mother and myself are”) that when my (or “our”) daughter marries, as it is natural she should some day, she should be united to one in whom not only her entire affection, but my (or “our”) confidence shall be fully or unrestrainedly placed. I (or “we”) do not so much desire for her a luxurious home, as that she should find in her husband not only a lover, but a true guide and life-long friend. Perhaps I (or “we”) as her parent(s), look upon the responsibilities of marriage more gravely than

young people do, but remember that it is the whole future life of my (or "our") daughter which is to be decided upon. In saying this I (or "we") do not intend to express a doubt of your sincerity or high character, as you must be aware. In allowing the intimacy between you and Myrtha I (or "we") have already shown that I (or "we") esteem you much. I (or "we") only wish that before a word further is said you should consult your own heart fully and fairly. Be quite sure you have not mistaken your feelings. Bear in mind that happiness in married life is a gift from Heaven beyond all gifts.

So far as worldly circumstances go, I (or "we") have no fears for your future. You have qualities which should make you succeed in life, and most probably will do so. But no prosperity can compensate for the absence of those enduring affections which a husband or wife must rely upon if their home is to be worthy of that sacred name. I (or "we") speak plainly, for Myrtha is very dear to us, not less dear than she can ever be to you. If after thinking over what I (or "we") say, you are still of the same mind, we will talk with her also, and if then we find that she entertains toward you the love without which marriage

could be only a misfortune to you both, you shall hear from me (or "us") again.

Meanwhile, with all good wishes for your welfare from Mrs. Gardiner and myself, I remain,

Sincerely your friend,

FRED C. GARDINER.

LETTER FROM A PLAIN-SPOKEN YOUNG  
MAN ABOUT TO SETTLE UPON A  
FARM, TO AN INTIMATE YOUNG  
FRIEND, WHO VERY PROBABLY  
EXPECTED SOME SUCH COMMUNI-  
CATION

Dear Miss Helen:—You will not be surprised to hear that I have decided upon removing from here and settling upon a farm of my own. This step I am sure is a wise one. There is a capital chance in ——, in fact a certainty, for a man who is not afraid of work, and is willing to rough it for a while. I have enough capital to ensure a good start, and have no fear of the result. Father and mother approve of my intention, and so do all my friends, although, to tell the honest truth, I do not think that if their advice had been against the change, my

purpose would be altered in the least. In fact, I feel like being independent, and working my own way in the world.

And now, dear Miss Helen, cannot you guess why I am telling you all this? It is because beyond all my wishes and hopes is the hope that my start in life may be with you at my side. Dearest, I have never told you how I loved you. I have not enough words to tell you now. But if a life-long devotion to you, if a love that cannot turn or change be worthy of your acceptance from me, I offer it to you with all my heart. Do not reject it. I picture to myself how happy we may be in our own home-stand, you and I together. How many times I have thought over the time when I could honorably ask you to be my wife. I would not do so until I had made all my plans, for I would not ask you to marry on an uncertainty.

Now, Helen, if I did not think that I could make you happy, I would not ask you to be my wife. We have had many a pleasant time together, and somehow I do not think you have learned quite to hate me.

This is a curious letter, perhaps you will say, but you know it is just me all over. I cannot make it any better, and at all events I hope it says just what it means, which is, that I love

you very dearly, and want you to be my wife and preside over the new home that I am preparing for you. So, dearest Helen, do not say "No" to

Your sincere and affectionate admirer,

LOUIS CLEVENBERG.

### REPLY

Dear Louis:—Really, you hardly give me a chance to object to any of your arrangements. You have the farm, and think as a matter of course you must have me too. But suppose I do say No, and decline to be taken possession of in the way you propose? I think I ought to be very angry with you, for leaving out what young ladies expect in a love-letter. You should have filled it with all sorts of compliments to my beauty, if I have any, my qualifications for the presidency, you speak of, and many other excellencies which of course I possess.

Still, dear Louis, I will not scold, and will even own that in ever so long a time I might come to love you just a little. As for your proposal, I would promise to think about it, but where would be the use? You have evidently made up your mind, and all that is left for me

is to do the same; and, as some people say, that the first duty of a wife is obedience, to begin to practice its exercise at once. Will that suit you, sir?

Seriously, you make me very happy. I try to write as if I were unaware of how great the change is which you offer me, but my heart will try to make itself heard all the time, and I cannot restrain it. I accept your love, Louis, as freely as it is given, and all mine is yours in return. I will try to be a good wife to you with God's help and my own best endeavor. I have no fears for my future if you are with me, and if that future be not a bright one, my efforts to make it so will not have been wanting. Until we meet, then, believe me, dear Louis,

Yours affectionately,

HELEN REED.

## A YOUNG GENTLEMAN WHO SPEAKS STRONGLY

Dear Miss Clara:—I can no longer restrain myself from writing to you, dearest and best, what has often been upon my tongue to speak. I love you so much that I cannot find words in which adequately to express myself. I have

loved you from the very first day we met, and shall always. Do you blame me because I write thus boldly?—I should indeed be unworthy of you did I not tell the whole truth. Oh, Clara, can you love me in return? I am sure I shall never be able to bear it if you look coldly upon me. I will study your every wish if you will give me the right to do so. May I hope? Send just one kind word to your sincere adorer,

AMOS C. DEAN.

#### REPLY, THE FLAME BEING MUTUAL.

My Dear Amos:—Thank you for your dear letter—it has made me very happy. My heart has long been yours, as I will own, although you may think less of me for the frank avowal, and I am blushing for myself while I make it. Of course we must consult our parents first before thinking of any serious engagement. Meanwhile believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

CLARA M. WEST.

#### FROM A FOREIGNER TO AN AMERICAN LADY

Dear Madam:—The kindness with which you

have permitted me, a stranger from the other hemisphere, to appear among the number of your friends, emboldens me to open my mind upon a subject which I sincerely hope will not subject me to your displeasure. To become a citizen of this great country was long my ambition. I perceived that in America alone could I find that liberty of thought, and those opportunities for advancement which are sought by every one who can see beyond the circle of his early surroundings. I came here alone, without friends. I was generously received, and if for a time I looked back to the country of my birth with regret, I soon learned how deeply graven in the heart of your countrymen and countrywomen is the word *Excelsior*, and adopted it as my own guide and compass. But not till I met you did I realize the full measure of how happy I might hope to be. I found here friends, and companionship of whom I am proud. It is here that for the first time my heart tells me that I love.

I almost tremble as I write the words. I remember that I am an alien to your country, although I have foresworn my own. It may be that I am wrong in alluding to the fact that I am a foreigner and that the large and generous sympathy evinced by Americans toward all who



seek to cast their lot with them is practiced also in affairs of the heart. I tell myself that love should be cosmopolitan, and that while I love you, I may not necessarily love you in vain. I bid myself hope. I tell the truth too without concealment, and await my answer. My dear madam, I see in you my world, my nation, my home. I would with all the earnestness of which language is capable assure you that all my future happiness is centered in you. And I have resolved to ask whether it is possible that you can think of me in a new light—as your accepted lover.

This letter is imperfectly expressed—pardon whatever it deserves of rebuke. But, above all, give me just one line to say that you are not angry with

Yours respectfully,

JOSEPH K. LARUE.

### ANSWER TO THE PRECEDING

Dear Sir:—You may be assured that the personal esteem which I experience toward my friends is not determined by any other than the qualities which have created the feeling. I may say at once that your being an emigrant does not affect me unfavorably toward you. Besides, you are, or will be, my fellow-citizen,

and have therefore all the rights which I myself enjoy—there cannot be female presidents as yet!

I thank you for your expression of preference for me, and am not angry. Your society has been very acceptable, and I have a sincere friendship for you, which I believe to be enduring. More than that I will not say, except indeed that I shall be happy to continue our correspondence, and that I remain,

Sincerely your friend,

FRANCIS M. MILLER.

#### LETTER TO AN ENTIRE STRANGER SEEN AT CHURCH

Miss Brooks:—I hardly know how to address a lady to whom it is my misfortune to be unknown, and to whom my first duty must be an apology for the liberty which I am now taking. I can only hope that the circumstance that I have no other means of seeking an introduction will be accepted as my best excuse. In asking the great privilege of your acquaintance, or, at all events, an opportunity of making it, it is impossible to avoid saying that I am irresistibly impelled by the deep impression which you have made upon me. I have now for several weeks seen you at church, and every time that

I have gazed upon you, have been more intensely desirous of seeing you again. May I beg of you to extend to me the favor which I so much covet, and allow this letter to commence a friendship which will make me more happy that I have any right to say I shall be. Again requesting if but even a line, I beg to subscribe myself,

Your sincere admirer,  
WILLIAM A. ARMSTRONG.

#### REPLY

Sir:—I have received your letter, and must own to being surprised at your request. I am not sure that I ought to answer at all, and I should not, were it not that I do not think you mean to be discourteous. The accidental meetings at church hardly justify me in admitting a strange gentleman to a correspondence, and if I so far break through the rules of society, you may in turn say that my conduct is bolder than your own. Still, I venture to say that I may possibly give by recognition the opportunity which you seek for our becoming mutually acquainted. More than this I cannot, need not write, and will therefore only add that

I am yours truly,  
KATHRINE N. BROOKS.

## LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Dear Miss Field:—It is with no little trepidation that I venture thus to address a lady in whose presence I have only once had the exquisite pleasure of being. Forgive me for the liberty I take, and believe me that I am quite unable to restrain myself from giving utterance to the deep admiration and love which that one occasion has created in my heart. Before I saw you I had never been possessed by the feelings which I entertain toward you. In the short time, during which I gazed upon you, I became eternally devoted to you. I shall never again regain the heart which I then lost forever. If you would confer upon me the inestimable boon of your nearer acquaintance, I should be the happiest of beings. I am, I know, transgressing the rules of strict etiquette in thus writing to you, but cannot avoid it; and must only trust to your great kindness to excuse me. One line even to say that you are not displeased, and that we may meet again, will make me thankful for life.

I remain, dear Miss Field,

Your devoted admirer,

CHARLES WALKER.

## ANSWER TO THE PRECEDING

Sir:—You must excuse me when I reply to your letter that it very much surprises me and that it would be very strange if I answered it in the manner which you seem to desire. There may be, and no doubt is, such a thing as love at first sight. But if that love be worth the attention of any young lady it would be as timid as it is ardent, and as respectful and delicate as it professes to be sincere. I will not, however, do you the injustice of doubting your sincerity. I will even own that I am somewhat flattered by your professions of regard. But you must be aware that self-respect and the respect I should seek from others will not allow me to say more than that chance alone must determine the question of our future meeting, and that I cannot consent at present to correspond with you. Yours truly,

LOUISE R. FIELD.

LETTER TO A YOUNG LADY AFTER  
SEEING HER IN A STORE

Madam:—You will perhaps think it extraordinary that a young man should take the liberty of addressing you without even the formality

of a previous introduction. I have to apologize, therefore, and I hope that you will at least forgive me if you cannot confer the favor which I would ask. I have so far seen you only through the window of ——'s store, but cannot explain to you how great a desire I feel that I should enjoy the very great pleasure of your acquaintance. I might perhaps obtain this, if you allowed me to do so, by means of some mutual friend, but I know of none. There is no alternative for me but a direct request, and I thought it more respectful to make it by letter. It would be at this moment impertinent to allude further to the great admiration which I have for you, in begging you to give me an opportunity of introducing myself, and, I must add, of satisfying you of my respectability. I feel that I have already run the risk of causing you annoyance. To have done so would be a source of deep regret. I trust that you will be so kind as to give me even the slightest intimation of your wishes, and you may depend upon my intruding no further without your permission.

Respectfully,

JOHN DUPEE.

## REPLY

Sir:—Your note has very much surprised me. You are so entirely unknown to me that I cannot guess what my correspondent's appearance even may be. Under these circumstances I must decline saying more than that I can neither refuse nor comply with your request. I think, indeed, that I ought at once to refuse it.

SADIE PLATT.

## REJOINDER

Madam:—I ought to have known better than presume that you had seen me as I passed by several times yesterday. I was under a contrary impression. Please notice the sidewalk to-morrow at two o'clock, when I will pass wearing a blue necktie, and will take the liberty of lifting my hat. Respectfully,

JOHN DUPEE.

## FROM A YOUNG MERCHANT'S CLERK

Dear Miss Frazer:—The time has, I hope, now arrived at which I may venture upon a topic which I have not before thought it right to intrude upon your notice. I have at length

attained to circumstances in which I would not, I trust, be rash in assuming the responsibilities of marriage, nor unjust to you in addressing you upon the subject. It has long been my ambition and hope to secure your affection and to offer you such a home as a lady has a right to expect. May I now without presumption ask your kindness in considering whether a proposal would be unacceptable to you? In saying this, I hope I need not assure you that I have loved you long and deeply, and that if you can return my affection you will render me the happiest of men. It will be the study of my life to repay that affection by the sincerest devotion and regard for your welfare and happiness. Anxiously awaiting your reply, I remain,

Most affectionately and respectfully yours,

JOHN C. BARCLAY.

### REPLY

My Dear Mr. Barclay:—I have to acknowledge your note of yesterday, and will reply without delay. I do not feel that I can in justice to my own predilection refuse the proposal which you make me, and I will therefore accept it. I have always thought that we should



not be hasty or imprudent in so important a step as marriage, but if you are satisfied that you can without rashness assume the care of a wife, I have no wish to doubt the propriety of your confidence. Yours very sincerely,

JOSEPHINE FRAZER.

### A LOVER WHO WILL NOT TAKE "NO "

Dear Miss Brown:—I read your letter with the utmost sorrow. I had dreamed such a bright dream of which you were the central figure of light; I had built such a castle in the air of which you were the princess; I had seen such a vision of a life made full of felicity, that your words shock and distress me more than I can tell you. I did not expect them. We have been, as I thought, so happy in each other's society, we have met in such entire confidence, we have, I thought, so well understood each other, that I had dared to think that my love for you was not unreturned. Even yet I can hardly believe that all my hopes are so suddenly dashed to the ground. Are you serious? Can you be so cruel? Oh, do not, I pray you, utterly reject me without a little respite. Let me once more say how much I love you. Do not be angry with me. I do not mean to be rude—

would not for the world. But surely you will not refuse to reconsider your reply and let me hope once more.

WARREN BAKER.

### REPLY

Dear Sir:—I am surprised by your note. I thought I was sufficiently explicit in my reply to your declaration. You will allow me to reaffirm my positive rejection of your suit. I should be sorry if your continued appeals compel me to withdraw not only my esteem but my acquaintance.

Yours truly,

ANNA E. RIPLEY.

### WHERE THE GENTLEMAN FEARS THAT THE LADY HAS NO PARTIC- ULAR LIKING FOR HIM

Dear Miss Clark:—There can be no more painful situation than that in which one is placed who, being anxious to secure the affection of another, yet has not been able to discover whether there is a probability of success. I have for some time found myself in that situation. I am most anxious that you should give

me some return of the feeling with which I regard you, and I am quite without any knowledge as to whether you look upon me with favor or not. May I take the liberty, if it be one, of solving my doubt by the straightforward process of a direct avowal of my love, and as straightforward a question as to how I am estimated by yourself? Nothing is worse than suspense. I would know the truth, and even bear its being the reverse of agreeable, rather than be left in uncertainty. You are, Miss Clark, most dear to me. I love you with a strong and fervent love, which I cannot if I would conquer. Is the confession one which I may make with hopefulness as to your reply? Upon that reply depends my peace of mind; in your hands rests the happiness or unhappiness of my future. May I be so blessed as to be endowed with your love? You do not blame me, I trust, for being thus distinct? Could I be otherwise? Would it elevate me in your esteem if I were? The whole story that I would tell is that I have lost my heart to you, and that I am eagerly seeking yours, but do not know whether it is mine or no. One line from you will make me happy or miserable—may it make me happy!

Yours with respect,

ALBERT G. ORR.

## REPLY

Miss Clark presents her compliments to Mr. Orr and trusts that his letter is sufficiently answered by itself. He is perfectly justified in his impression that Miss Clark has given him no grounds for imagining that she is possessed by any feeling toward him stronger than that which she entertains toward all whom she is happy to call her friends. If Mr. Orr is willing that his intimacy with her shall remain at that point, she has no objection to urge. It is probable that if she had been able to return to him an answer more in conformity with his wishes, the doubts which he expresses would have never arisen. She claims to be equally candid with himself, and when he acknowledges that she has testified no special liking for him, has only to say, that she has not experienced any.

## AN ELDERLY MAN TO A YOUNG LADY

Dear Miss Searles:—In addressing to you the following, I must ask your permission to speak with that freedom which the difference in our ages seems in some respects to justify. I am fifty-six years of age, you but twenty five.

There is in this a great disparity. I am led to hope, however, that the disparity may be more apparent than real, provided a mutual desire exists that it shall be so. Certainly, I have conceived for you as strong and sincere an affection as a younger man could express or feel. It may be, even, that my judgment enables me to perceive with more clearness than it could have done twenty years ago, what are the true sources of happiness in life, and under what circumstances married life may, with the most confidence, be entered upon. Believe me, that the feelings which I entertain toward yourself are, while very deep and sincere, approved by my experience of myself, and by the experience of others whom I see around me. While I offer you a love which I find it impossible to stifle, I offer you all the matured affection which one situated as I am is enabled to assure you of. You will not ask me for the glowing words of younger men, nor would your opinion of me be increased by my offering such. But I do venture to assure you that the words rise to my lips as I write, and that you will find in me as true an admirer and lover as I would be, if you would allow me, life-long protector and friend.

If you grant me your hand, you may seem to

submit to some sacrifices for my sake, but I will strive that you may be mistaken. If no other choice has been yours, if you are really free, and I trust that I am not in error in thinking you quite at liberty, will you think over these few lines? Your society has been to me a great delight, and your love would be to me so great a possession, that I beg you to consider whether it is not possible that you can regard me as your future husband. Do not let me find that in thus speaking, I have mistaken your friendship for me, and that I have allowed hopes to exist, the non-fulfillment of which would be the great misfortune of my life.

Believe me, most truly yours,

WILLIAM PERRIN.

### REPLY

Dear Sir:—I am almost afraid to commence a reply to your letter, for I am at a loss how to find a suitable expression for what I would say. First of all I will thank you for it, and at the same time tell you very frankly that I am disengaged. But I fear to write more. That your offer is not disagreeable to me would be to say that I accept it, and yet I am not prepared to

decline it. There is a great difference in our ages; still, others would observe that more than I should, and it may be that the mere number of years that we have lived are of less consequence than the world generally supposes. You must not ask me to confess more than a sincere regard for you—my duty I can promise to do in whatever condition of life I may happen to be placed. If you think that this regard will meet the requirements which you would look for in such a young woman as I, it is yours. I should try to be all to you that you desire, and if you feel that this assurance is sufficient, I will think more seriously of your kind offer than I think I ought at present. Yours,

EMOGENE SEARLES.

## ON MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BETWEEN PERSONS ENGAGED OR MARRIED

My Dear Laura:—A thousand thanks for your suggestion that we should exchange, not love letters of the kind usually known by that name, but epistles in which we both should endeavor to express our ideas of the obligations toward each other which we ought to respect, and the observance of which will tend to secure

us from many of the trials and dangers of married life. If I did not believe that we think alike on what our reciprocal duty is, I should have hesitated to accept your proposal. But I knew that our thoughts have so generally accorded, that I was sure we should not disagree upon the subjects which may happen to present themselves. You give me the privilege of opening this lovers' debate. I propose, as the first theme, one on the mutual confidence of engaged or married persons. It is my greatest happiness to belong to the first, and to aspire to the second class. I am therefore greatly interested on the subject. Well, as a starting point, I claim that there ought to be no secret of any kind, sort, or description, kept from wife by husband, or by husband from wife. In the case of lovers, the same rule is equally valuable, and ought to be equally binding. Let us see how the contrary operates. Secrets are the concealment of either what is good or what is bad. Nothing can be partly good and partly evil. If the one party has possession of a knowledge of what can confer happiness on the other, he or she does not *love* if that knowledge is not shared. If the knowledge be of an evil thing, then confession, if confession be needed; anxiety, if anxiety be felt; mis-



fortune, if misfortune be experienced; have each their panacea in forgiveness, or encouragement in consolation. My theory of marriage is that there should be no obedience of wife to husband, in the vulgar sense of the word, but that our governing principal of democracy—which means that every man is partner in the nation's business—may best of all apply to married life. *I say that the wife is the husband, and the husband the wife. "One and indivisible,"* my darling, does just as well for your and my motto, as for the motto of our great republic.

Now see how this theory works. I believe that nearly if not quite all of the troubles of married people arise from this forgetting that "these twain have become one flesh." Take the sources of trouble generally—they are not many. The vices of human nature lie at the bottom of them all. Those vices are of more or less magnitude. They range all the way from petty faults to absolute crime. But what vice is possible when the soul of the man is an open book to the woman and hers open to him. There could not be happiness from jealousy, for jealousy is the result of an unlawful secret. There could not be social dishonor, for the temptation confessed would be warned off by

the faithful partner who had staked his or her all in the life's venture arising from their love. We, dearest, will never depart from the golden rule of mutual confidence. Each a reflection of the other, no distorted views can be taken by either. Each knowing that no thought rests in the mind that may not be given to the other, we cannot disagree. And where we have opinions of our own, as all should have, we will make them but add to the harmony which, like that in music, is but the blending of different notes in one glorious and elevating sound.

Ever, dearest, your own

FRANK.

LETTER TO A LADY FROM ONE WHOM  
SHE HAS ATTENDED THROUGH  
A SEVERE ILLNESS

My Dear Friend and Kindest Benefactor:—  
It is impossible that I can ever pay the great debt of gratitude for your great kindness to me during my long trouble. It is to you that I owe my life. Had it not been for your care of me, helpless and suffering as I was, I had never survived to tell you how full my heart is of thankfulness to you. I bless your name

day and night. Your form, as it gently ministered to me those long hours which would have overcome one of less angelic benevolence, is constantly before my eyes. In fancy I am still in that sick room, and your dear presence still filling me with a bliss which makes all else as a fading picture, soon to be forgotten. Were it not for the tax on your endurance and risk to your health, I could wish that once more I were an invalid, and you my dear kind nurse again. That cannot be, however.

I try to express to you how grateful I am; but fear that I succeed but poorly. How shall I find words to describe the deep love which I could not but feel toward you? I would not speak of this before, because to have done so would seem like abusing your confidence and generosity. May I not now pour forth the ardent affection which cannot be restrained, and will be yours forever? When you were with me I worshiped you as an angel. Now I worship you with all the devotion of a strong, true love. Can you return it? Will you be to me for life the sweet companion whose soft voice and tender smile I know so well? I would offer you the homage of my whole being, and pray you to accept it.

Write to me, and as you write be once more

merciful. You saved me once, be my preserver from that deadliest sickness—the sickness of the soul—a love without requital. Let me be in sickness or in health,

Ever your own,

WILLIAM B. DICKEEMAN.

### REPLY

My Dear Patient:—I received your letter with sincere pleasure, affording, as it does, such strong proof of your complete recovery. You must, of course, be careful for some time still, and, above all, not allow exciting subjects to occupy your mind. As your nurse I must insist upon that. Any painful suspense, for instance, should be avoided—but you will judge of this as well as I, perhaps. Seriously, you overrate your obligations to me. I have ample compensation in the reflection that you are spared to your friends, and, I will add, to me. The last words are in some sort a confession which perhaps I should not make. But the trial which you had to bear, and which I witnessed, seems to have made you a different person from that one who was before abroad with his companions, and different, indeed, now from any one

I know. I shall not say that I love you, but "pity is akin to love," and I pitied you very much, even shedding many tears when you were at your worst. You ask me a question which agitates me very much, but I will answer it frankly. I shall try to be to you as good a wife as you say I have been a nurse, and hope that you will think as well of me in one capacity as the other. Believe me, my dear patient,

Ever yours,

GRACE KEITH.

### A LETTER TO A LADY WHO ADVOCATES THE EQUAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN WITH MEN.

Dear Miss Armington:—It is with the sincerest admiration both of your talents and person that I venture to consult you upon a proposition which I desire greatly to submit to you. If I were to adopt the usual phraseology of persons similarly situated with myself I should at once avow the fact that I have conceived for you the most earnest and the deepest love. But I will rather affirm that the views which you have expressed upon the mutual duties and relations of the sexes in and toward society are

so eminently just, and your ideal of what should be the relative dependence or independence of men and women so conducive, if realized, to the most perfect happiness of both, that I would link my destiny with yours if I possibly could induce you to form such a union, and would endeavor by my appreciation and the truest and most equal companionship to justify you in acceding to my desire. I have studied the opinions which you hold upon the great problem of the age—namely, the part which women ought to take in the affairs of life—and I agree with them. I believe that marriage gives no right to the man to absorb the performance of duties closely connected with the welfare of both male and female humanity. This view is, it seems to me, perfectly reasonable and just. And it would be to me a source of the greatest pride if I could see in my wife one who is at the same time my dearest friend and of equal social consideration with myself.

It is an old doctrine that man shall be the ruler of the woman. I do not subscribe to that doctrine. I only recognize in it the worst relic of a bad age—an age when what is called the Mosaic dispensation degraded the woman, and no less morally degraded the man. What a sneering phrase is that which calls a wife her

husband's "better half." The expression is a taunt, a boast, and an insult. If you honor me with your favor, and give me the right to call you my own, never will you hear from me such a phrase. We may be identical in thought, in feeling, and in action, but never could I be happy with one with whom I could not live on terms of equality.

You will not ask me, I am sure, to enter further into this subject—I do love you, and must say so in spite of what my letter commences with. But I do not ask you to sacrifice your mental liberty. I would that you accepted my love, and that with yours and mine were given that mutual respect which the advocate of woman's right demands and foresees.

Most faithfully yours,

CHARLES R. HENNIG.

## FROM A CLERK TO A YOUNG LADY IN A BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT.

My Dear Miss Margaret:—I cannot longer restrain the expression of feelings which I entertain toward you, and which it is my dearest hope that you may perhaps reciprocate. I have loved you from the first of our acquaintance,

and shall love you always. It is the greatest desire that I have upon this earth to be permitted to pay my addresses to you. The many occasions of true happiness which I have enjoyed in your society have taught me that with you alone rests the continuance of that happiness in the future. May I, then, without reserve say that I shall regard the gift of your hand as the greatest blessing with which I could be endowed? It is due to you to say that I do not forget that we are young and neither of us overburdened with wealth, but that I think that need not be any obstacle. Together I think we may face a good deal of effort in life, and I know that the knowledge that it is you for whom I labor will give me increased strength and resolution. Give me, my dear Miss Margaret, the privilege of which I am so desirous, and of which I shall be so proud, of being your loving helpmate and companion. It is a true affection which I offer you for your acceptance, and if you will give that acceptance, the one effort of my life will be to prove that you have not mistaken me.

Yours sincerely,

CLYDE A. NEWMAN.



## REPLY

My Dear Friend (*or My Dear Mr. Newman*):  
—Your letter shall receive the best reply which it is in my power to make, and it is that I will not reject the offer which you think proper to make me. I ought, probably, not to be so straightforward as to say this at once, but confessing, as I do, my own feeling toward you, I should not be justified in departing from entire candor. Still, we must not be rash—so long as I feel secure in your affection I am content, nay desirous, that no hasty decision be arrived at. We shall, I hope, have many opportunities of being together, and any serious step need not be entered upon. At all events, I will only now say that if you wish it, I am,

Yours affectionately,

MARGARET WILSON.

## JEALOUSY—A LETTER FROM A JEALOUS MAN

Dear Miss Beckwith:—The position in which we stand toward each other renders it not only proper, but necessary, that there should be the most entire confidence between us, and that if either feels that there is any reason for com-

plaint, perfect candor alone can be the remedy. I will at once confess to you that I have of late been very uneasy, and that you are the cause. I have seen with much pain that attentions which I alone have the right to offer you have not only been paid by others (or "another") but that you have evidently been gratified thereby. This cannot last consistently with the engagement between us, as you will see on the least reflection. Believe me, I have no desire to deprive you of the fullest liberty in all that is reasonable, but you surely would not expect that I should allow a doubt of the regard you feel for me to exist without remonstrance. Forgive me if I seem exacting or unkind, for I do not mean to be either. I still hope that a few words from you will suffice to dispel the clouds which at present shadow my prospects in regard to yourself.

Anxiously awaiting your reply,

I am yours affectionately,

BENJ. A. TICHENOR.

### ANGRY REPLY

Sir:—You ask too much in demanding that I should decline to receive civility from my

friends. I have not yet promised to seclude myself entirely from those friends, nor do I consider that you have the right to expect that I should. Your letter is so uncomplimentary that no better answer can be given, and if our engagement is a burden to you, I for one shall wish it ended. Jealousy is worthy of no return but aversion and scorn.      EDITH BECKWITH.

### WISE REPLY

Dear Ben:—Are you not a little unkind? You have mistaken a few harmless gayeties for levity on my part, and I am very sorry that you have done so. Had I known that your mind was disturbed by any acts of mine, I would not have given you any occasion. I am not too proud to hope that you will forgive me, and to promise no future indiscretion, since you think I have been guilty of it. You say we should be candid, and so do I. Do not think me spiritless in thus expressing myself—where I may have done wrong I have no wish to give further offence by defending it.

Yours sincerely as ever,

EDITH BECKWITH.

A YOUNG LADY AND GENTLEMAN IN-  
TRODUCED FOR THE FIRST  
TIME AT A BALL

Dear Madam:—I trust that you experienced no inconvenience from attending the ball last night, and that the recollection of it may give you pleasure. To me it was the beginning of a new era in my life. I never before felt that I had been so much delighted, nor that its termination was so much a source of regret. I look forward with great hope to future opportunities of the kind, if such be the means of enabling me to renew the acquaintance which I then had the happiness of forming with yourself. Pardon me, if I am presumptuous in saying so much as this, but I feel unable to restrain the utterances of something more than those usual polite inquiries, which would follow my formal call in the usual manner. While saying this, I do not forget that my introduction to you is so recent. To me it seems as if it had occurred long since, if time is to be measured by one's feelings. If you will allow me to become upon still closer terms of friendship I should regard myself as most fortunate and happy; and I do not disguise from you that I wait with great eagerness the favor of a kind word or two.

Your sincere admirer,

SANFORD E. HATCH.

## REPLY

Dear Sir:—I am happy to say that I suffered nothing more serious than fatigue from the last night's gathering, and thank you for your kind inquiries. If you think my friendship would be a source of pleasure to you, I see no reason why I should deny it, and therefore shall be happy to meet you on any future occasion when chance should throw us together. As you justly say, however, our acquaintance has been of short duration, and therefore I am sure that you will excuse me saying more than that I remain,

Your obliged friend,

LUCILLE DEAL.

## WITH A PRESENT

My Dear Miss Smiley:—Having just returned from a visit to St. Louis (or elsewhere), I venture to request your acceptance of the little token of my regard which you will receive with this. It is not costly, but it is sent with my very best wishes. You will, perhaps, like to hear something of my doings while absent, but I will reserve all descriptions until we chance to meet. Really, however, there is little to

describe, for I was occupied with one subject, and my thoughts were so completely absorbed by one person that there was no room for anything or anybody else. Will you be very angry if I tell you that that person is a young lady! and that subject, my love for her? That young lady seemed never absent from me, her voice was always in my ears, her sweet face before me. What would you advise me to do? I want to tell her I love her—for I do love her very dearly. I want to ask her to wear an engagement ring, to be changed soon for another of deeper meaning still. Do you think she will repulse me? I am determined to try, at all risks, whether you advise me or not. The best way I thought might be to send the ring, to see whether it fits a certain left finger, and then, if she keeps it, to call and put it on myself. If she sends it back—but do not let me dream of so cruel an action toward

Your devoted admirer,

BAYARD DOMINICK.

### REPLY

Dear Bayard:—Young gentlemen should not send jewelry to young ladies unless they are

quite sure of its acceptance. The young lady you speak of was almost cross with you, and had nearly a mind to return your ring. Was it not provoking that she should try it on just out of mischief and not be able to get it off again? I think that as you are so experienced on the subject of fingers you had better call and see if you can remove the magic circlet—I have tried myself and cannot, nor do I believe you can.

Mamma sends her love; papa says that bonds are not good investments, while I join mamma in best wishes for your success,

And remain sincerely yours,

Alice Smiley.

### ANOTHER LETTER WITH A PRESENT

Dear Miss Smiley:—To be remembered by our friend is always pleasant, even when both are of what Mrs. Partington would call “one sect.” But when an aspiring young man, like myself, has a place in the thoughts of a charming young lady, like you, the sensation experienced by him is delightful. May I not endeavor to realize that sensation by begging your acceptance of the little present enclosed, which I send with my best wishes and warmest regard?

Not that I would imply the necessity for any visible reminder of me when absent from you. I am happy to believe that you will think of me without it. But I wish to offer you not only a memento of past hours, but a slight thank-offering for them, and a token of the ardent hopes which I venture to entertain of future happiness in your society. Do me the great favor of permitting this trifling gift—if my own inclinations were not governed by a sense of propriety and what is due to respect as well as sincere admiration for you, I would have sent you the costliest gift within my power.

A few lines saying that you will keep it—let me add, keep it for my sake—will be regarded as a great kindness, and will, if it were possible, deepen the feeling with which I subscribe myself,

Most sincerely yours,

BAYARD DOMINICK.

### REPLY

Dear Mr. Dominick:—Thank you very much for your kind present, which I shall keep and value very much, for your sake, as you wish. I will regard it as emblematic of a friendship very dear to me, and which is not likely to



change. It is not necessary that I should possess anything by which I could be reminded of you, for I think of you very often, and always with the wish for your presence. I do not know what more I should say, except that although I do not fear your forgetting me, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

ALICE SMILEY.

A GENTLEMAN INQUIRING WHETHER  
HE MAY NOT BE THE SUITOR PRE-  
FERRED OVER SEVERAL  
OTHERS

Dear Miss (*or Madam*):—Permit me, sharing as I do the admiration which is so universally tendered you by the gentlemen who have the happiness of your acquaintance, to lay at your feet the expression of my most earnest hope that you will favor me with your kind consideration of the following. In common with others, I have been rendered your devoted worshiper, and would appear as a suppliant for your affection. It would appear mere affectation if I were to deny to others what I would wish granted to myself, namely your belief in my sincere and ardent love for you. Nor do I claim to be more

worthy than they are. But my happiness is so entirely in your keeping—I have loved you so long, and do love you so deeply, that if I were the one destined to be your choice, there will be for me a joy which I vainly attempt even by anticipation to hint at. If I dreamed that you had ceased to be free in this matter I would not dare to approach you with this confession of my feelings. But I am not aware that you have expressed a preference for either of the aspirants for your hand. One of us may be honored by that preference—only one of us can be. Oh, that I may be that one, and that you may commit to me that precious gift of which my whole life will be the guardian and proud possessor. It is impossible that any one can feel more love for you than I do—I will not be so unjust as to assert that any feel less. I should be an unworthy competitor did I not be thus candid. May I pray that you will at the same time believe me when I say that upon your decision rests all that I hope for of peace of mind in the future. Give me the right to prove my attachment and there is nothing more that I desire in this world. A line from you will be most anxiously watched for. I pray Heaven that I may be then at liberty to address you with a warmer conclusion to my correspondence

than I venture to now employ, when I thus subscribe myself

Most respectfully your devoted admirer,  
OTTO F. PUTMAN.

### REPLY

Dear Mr. Putman:—I thank you for the generosity with which you write of any gentleman of my acquaintance whom you suppose may have done me the honor of sustaining toward me a feeling stronger than friendship. I am, as you think probable, still free, although, as I will imitate your own candor in adding, I have had the opportunity of giving up my liberty more than once. I do not doubt the sincerity of the feelings which others than yourself have expressed, but there has been no corresponding emotion on my side. No one letter has so deeply touched me as yours. I do not say yes to your request at once. but I will own that if there is any one in whose favor I would change refusal into acceptance, it would be yourself. Do not ask me now to say more than this. Had I not reciprocated something of the regard which you have for me I would not have said so much.

Believe me, sincerely yours,  
ELOISE M. SUMNER.

## A LADY'S REPLY TO A MATRIMONIAL ADVERTISEMENT

To X. Y. Z.

Sir:—I know not whether the advertisement which appeared in the ——— is dictated by a sincere desire to meet a lady who would be treated in a spirit of candor and respect, but I will presume that such is the case, and therefore send you this reply. I have at present no acquaintance to whom I am able to accord any very warm feeling of esteem, nor indeed have my inclinations or manner of life led me to form any distinct views upon the subject of marriage. At the same time I am free to confess that if a gentleman were introduced to me, in whom I could feel confidence, and for whom I could learn to feel affection, I should be willing to think seriously of a proposal. At all events, and supposing you to be actuated by the most honorable motives, I will give you the following information: I am —— years of age. I am in receipt of —— annually from property. I have been thought plain by some and the reverse by others—of the truth you, if we should become acquainted, must judge. And I am entirely free to act as I please. My social position is sufficiently good for me to claim the title of lady, and my accomplishments, such as they

are, have not been neglected. You will agree with me that I cannot properly say more than this at present. I shall be happy to correspond with you, and if our knowledge of each other as thus gained made it seem desirable that we should become better known to each other, I shall be pleased to receive your photograph, and will then send you my own. Your advertisement asks that the lady who replies to it send her likeness. The request is improper, but I will excuse that. It is due to myself, and under certain circumstances to you, that I should be very guarded as to the matter of our introduction. A letter to K. L., care of John White, at Station K, Post Office, will reach me. Both names are fictitious for obvious reasons.

Yours truly,  
FLORENCE D. PORTMAN.

### A GENTLEMAN TO LADY WHO ADVERTISES

Madam:—As I am entirely without any means of gaining an introduction to any lady whom I would ask to be my wife, I venture to reply to your advertisement. My circumstances are such as to render me capable of placing such a lady

at the head of a good establishment, and I feel much the want of such affection and sympathy as alone can render a home truly happy. I am not unreasonable as to the merits of my choice—an honorable woman, one whom I could respect as well as love, is what I seek. I am — — years old, and my appearance does not contradict the statement. My social position is secure. With respect to an introduction, I would desire to consult your own feelings and wishes, and at the same time would suggest some preliminary correspondence as most delicate toward yourself, and most satisfactory in other respects. If you will do me the honor to address a line to K. L. M., General Delivery, Post Office, I will receive it in the strictest confidence and lose no time in replying.

I am, madam, respectfully yours,

K. L. M.

CORRESPONDENCE OF A LADY AND  
GENTLEMAN DIFFERING IN  
RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Dear Miss Harris:—It is now several years since I was honored by an introduction to you, and kindly permitted to mature an acquaintance

which has proven one of the great blessings of my life. May I be allowed to confess entertaining the hope that you have found that we had tastes in common, although I would not assume more than a sincere desire to please you, and to render my society as agreeable as possible. It is natural that one should so desire, who discovers the woman whose virtues and many high qualities command his admiration and esteem, and whose beauty captivates him also. It was natural that I should so desire when I found that you had become very dear to me.

This confession of my love for you, for it is love for you which I must avow, has long been in contemplation. It has been delayed only by my knowledge of your faithfulness to a form of religious belief differing from my own. I feared perhaps wrongly, that however successful I might be in winning your affections, the fear of difficulties which might arise from this cause after marriage, might appear to you too well founded to allow you to think of entering into that sacred bond with me, who am not of your creed, nor of your church.

In the hope of removing this possible doubt in your mind I have waited, trusting that our familiar intercourse may convince you of my liberality in matters of faith. We have, I

think, seen that each of us respects the other's convictions, whether those convictions be the result of early association and training or of matured investigation into the religion we profess. Upon many points we agree already, however—I need not more than allude to the doctrine of the loving kindness of God, and his injunction that we do unto others as we would others should do unto us, as instances of what I mean. It has seemed to me that while on some matters we may not think alike, there are others on which we cannot disagree, and that with mutual love as our guide, and mutual toleration as our defence, we may enter into the path of married life without fear, if you will accept the deep love which I would offer you. If you do accept it, the labor and study of my life shall be to prove that you have not chosen unwisely for yourself, nor unhappily for either. With much respect, I remain,

Your sincere admirer,

GEORGE PETTINGILL.

#### FAVORABLE REPLY.

My Dear Mr. Pettingill:—I thank you very sincerely for the consideration and delicacy evinced by your letter, and the motives which



have led you to withhold it until now. I will let my heart speak freely in reply, and will first reply to the one question you ask in reference to our difference of religious opinion.

That difference prevented for some time after our first acquaintance, the acknowledgment to myself that your society was becoming more and more pleasant, and that my feelings toward you were warmer than accorded with a nominal friendship. I found as our familiarity increased that you, like myself, could be charitable to all Christians, of whatever faith—charitable to all, misinterpreting none, and confident in the mercy of God toward our errors of omission.

I have the utmost reliance in you; that we shall not endeavor to influence each other unduly, and that I may own to my preference for you without doubt or fear. I believe that nothing can change my love for you, nor yours for me, whatever we may believe on theological subjects, and I am not afraid to write myself

Affectionately yours,

CAROLINE HARRIS.

### UNFAVORABLE REPLY

**Dear Sir:—Your kind letter, in which you**

honor me with the offer of your hand, has received my most anxious consideration. I have prayerfully sought instruction from that Divine Source from which we all receive consolation in our moments of sorrow, and advice in our moments of difficulty. I can truly say that the struggle with myself as to how I should answer you affects me very painfully. I have to do my duty, while I contend with an affection which I cannot, nor need not disown—I have to judge whether any love can be blessed which is not founded upon the clearest principles of right.

But I trust that I have discovered what is the right way in which I may view your proposal without violence to my own conscience or untruthfulness to you. I think you must have misunderstood whatever I may have said on marriages between those who do not agree on religious matters, and that you suppose that I hold such marriages not necessarily unhappy, provided there be perfect liberty on both sides. I regret to be obliged to say that my common sense, if I may claim to possess any, points to a different conclusion. You and I might, indeed, reconcile ourselves to observances and opinions which would offend if fulfilled or held by those less dear to us. And so we **might for**

a time be happy. Alas! only for a time: The day might come (do not blame me for speaking of this, for you have left it to me to speak of) when the minds and religious sentiments of others would become our peculiar trust and anxiety, and the manner of whose worship and the form of whose belief we could not agree upon without faithlessness to what we ourselves hold to be the highest truth. Where would then be your toleration if you are as true to your church as I know I am to mine? No, my dear Mr. Pettingill, we may be friends, but we cannot be more than friends. I esteem you beyond all others whom I know. I am satisfied that you are perfectly sincere in your trust in the future, I have perfect faith in your honor, but because I have faith in your honor, I will not let you endanger it; because I esteem you, I will not let you enter into an engagement which must be unhappy in spite of ourselves.

I thank you for your proffered love—believe me, I am not insensible to it; it is with tears that I put it aside from me. But it is my duty. I dare not rebel against my conscience. All that I can do is to pray God to bless you, and so to direct your choice so that you may be happy. You could not be so with me nor I with you. Ever your friend.

CAROLIN L. HARRIS.

A LADY WRITES TO HER BETROTHED  
UPON CERTAIN HABITS HE  
IS ADDICTED TO

My Dear Joe:—I trust that you will believe that nothing but a very sincere regard for your welfare prompts me to ask you whether certain rumors which have reached me, concerning some habits which it is said you have contracted, are true. The subject is a very painful one and you may perhaps be angry with me for having introduced it. But it is necessary that we should exchange some few words upon it. I do not insist upon my right, from having allowed myself to be engaged to you, to ask any questions as to the manner of your private life, but you will I am sure, allow that no one is more interested than I in the question which I must ask, unless it be yourself. I will not refer to the particular accusations which have been made against you; it is quite unnecessary that I should. If true, you will, I hope, not fail of acknowledging the fact. I only trust with my whole heart that they are false. In great anxiety,

Yours affectionately,

ELIZABETH B. WHITE.

## REPLY

My Dear Lizzie:—You have been misinformed as to my personal habits, and I am very sorry that you should have given credence to malicious and idle reports from those who are not your real friends, and are my real enemies. It is entirely false that I either am intemperate, or am addicted to playing for money. Nor have I any acquaintances of either sex of whom I need be ashamed. Perhaps you are right in making the inquiry of me, but I am sorry that you thought it necessary. Of course the freedoms which are permitted to all other young men before marriage are open to me, but I have not been what some say I am, and never shall be. When I am happily united to her whom I love, I shall no longer be at liberty, nor shall I desire to be at liberty to be other than a truly domesticated man. You may place entire confidence in me, for I utterly deny that I have been unworthy even of doubt—from you, too, by whom I should last have expected to be suspected. Ever yours affectionately,

JOSEPH K. PULSIFER.

## REJOINER

Dear Mr. Pulsifer:—With great distress of

mind I rise from the perusal of your note. I do not find in it the kind of refutation for which I sincerely hoped. You name faults which I did not name, and thus betray a consciousness of errors which much afflict me. But I now have no right to allude further to them, for, however painful it is to me, I have no alternative than to withdraw from our engagement. There is a theory among some people that because a young gentleman is single he may therefore use his condition wrongfully. He *may* promise to be steady after marriage, and may be so really for a while. But the inclination for dissipation will certainly survive, and those whom he loves will suffer thereby.

You will never know what pain it gives me to say this to you. It is better that we part—we must part. I bid you farewell, with the earnest prayer that your life may be more happy than mine is likely to be, and believe that I have the sincerest wishes for your welfare, although I cannot be more than

Your friend,

ELIZABETH B. WHITE.

## RESULT OF A SLEIGH RIDE

My Dear Miss Aschcraft:—I hope that this

will find you with as pleasant a recollection of last evening as I have. To me it was perfect delight. I think that I could drive you in a sleigh for the whole term of my natural life—only winter does not last always, and snow will disappear whether we wish it to stay or not. Ah, Anna, I wonder whether you knew all that I would have said to you as our cutter slid along like swallows through the air? Many a time my heart beat faster than our horse's hoofs upon the ground, and yet I did not speak. The merry bells sang to me about you, and then your dear voice made me forget them. There you nestled in your furs, and I was so happy, yet so miserable; so triumphant, and yet such a coward! If you had known how many times I almost dared to steer for a snowbank, just to upset you into my arms for an instant, and hear you laugh and scold, and see you blush, full of fun and mischief. And then I should have gone upon my knees to you and begged for pardon and for—love. There! The word is written, that I would have spoken—"love." Yes, Anna, I love you. Can you guess how much? No words of mine can say. I love you so deeply, fondly, entirely, that it is impossible to express it. I have loved you for long, and shall love you always. You have become to me part of myself,

and I never, never, shall part from you in spirit, even if I am forced to in material life. You think me presumptuous, too aspiring. I do aspire, and am proud to do so. You alone can say whether I presume. But I cannot say so. We were so happy, Anna, we have been so happy before, that I cannot believe that you will be unkind. Write to me, dearest, if but one line, to bid me hope. Let me know that I am not in error when I write myself

Ever your adorer,

HARRY B. MOORE.

### REPLY

My Dear Harry:—I am sorry for your want of courage, and that I was so terrible a person as to frighten you into silence upon a certain subject. I enjoyed our drive very much indeed, quite as much as you did. Snow does melt, and winter does pass away. I do not think that I shall ever change from being

Your own.

ANNA.



OFFERING A HOME TO THE LADY'S  
MOTHER

My Dear Charlotte:—You have long known how much I love you and how anxious I am for the joyful day when I may indeed call you my own. I now write to ask you to consider seriously whether longer delay is necessary, and to be persuaded to name the day. While thus writing, there is one subject upon which I have, perhaps, not made myself understood but upon which I wish to be emphatic. It is my earnest desire that your mother (or father), who will be mine also I hope soon, should share our happy home. This arrangement will, I am sure, be very pleasant to you, and it will, I assure you, give me the greatest gratification. Under any circumstances, the society of your dear mother would be most agreeable to me as a permanent guest. But irrespective of this, the plan would be very desirable for her, I think, and hope she will adopt it. Please invite her with my kindest love, and say for me, that she will find in me a son who will honor her as much as her own children could. She will find that our house will be a home, where her presence is valued and loved, and there will be nothing which I will fail to do to secure her comfort and ease.

Write and tell me that she accepts, and  
believe me, Your ever affectionate,

THOMAS K. TURNER.

THE LADY'S MOTHER ACCEPTS—IT IS  
BETTER SHE WRITE THAN  
HER DAUGHTER

My Dear Thomas:—Your kind offer affects me very much—so kind a future son is indeed dear to me. I can only accept your invitation in the spirit with which it is made, and thank you most sincerely. It will be my pleasure, no less than my duty, to take care that Charlotte's influence in the house is not interfered with, and that you never repent your generosity. Nothing could make me happier than to remain with my girl and her husband, just as nothing, although I should not repine, would grieve me so much as to part with her. I should have felt very lonely—she would have you with her, but I no one. This separation among families is inevitable, I know, nor have I a right to have expected otherwise in my own particular case. But you have removed the prospect of that loneliness, and thank you, dear Thomas, many, many times. Yours affectionately,

FLORENCE CRANE.

## REPLY DECLINING, AND NOT UNWISELY

My Dear Thomas:—I thank you very much—more than I can express, for your kind and generous offer. But I think for both your own sakes I must not accept it. For a time you might not feel the presence of even your wife's mother an encumbrance or an embarrassment. But you might soon view my society in a new light, and repent your very noble impulse of to-day. I think, moreover, that a young couple should lean upon each other alone. Occasional advice, help or sympathy we all need, but the daily and hourly occasions when the wife seeks an aiding opinion and the husband the cheerful help of his wife are precisely those which are calculated to knit them in closer bonds, and to render them all in all to each other in mutual confidence and love. I love both my children very dearly—my Charlotte and you. I would not let even the shadow of another love, even though that of a mother's, come between their own. I am quite above the prejudices which people often have against a mother-in-law, and do not believe that I should ever degenerate into a realization of the popular idea of such a personage. But I have very exalted ideas of what the married state should be, and I firmly believe that the only love which can be permanently located

in your house with safety, and will be a tie between you and never a restraint upon your domestic freedom, is the love of your children, if the Almighty vouchsafe to you so great a blessing. We shall see each other, Thomas, often. But I will not live with you, for I love you too well to do so. Charlotte hesitates about the time of your marriage—I will tell you soon what my advice is and I am sure she will abide by it.

Believe me ever,      Your affectionate  
FLORENCE CRANE.

### FROM A LADY TO AN INCONSTANT LOVER

Dear Harry:—It is with great reluctance that I enter upon a subject which has given me great pain, and upon which silence has become impossible if I would preserve my self-respect. You cannot but be aware that I have just reason for saying that you have much displeased me. You have apparently forgotten what is due to me, circumstanced as we are, thus far at least. You cannot suppose that I can tamely see you disregard my feelings, by conduct toward other ladies from which I should naturally have the right to expect you to abstain. I am not so vul-

gar a person as to be jealous. When there is cause to infer changed feelings, or unfaithfulness to promises of chastity, jealousy is not the remedy. What the remedy is I need not say — we both of us have it in our own hands. I am sure you will agree with me that we must come to some understanding by which the future shall be governed. Neither you nor I can bear a divided allegiance. Believe me that I write more in sorrow than in anger. You have made me very unhappy, and perhaps thoughtlessly. But it will take much to reassure me of your unaltered regard.

Yours truly,

VERA PILLSBURY.

### FROM A WIDOWER TO A WIDOW

My Dear Mrs. Kinsley:—I would beg your kind consideration of the following, upon a subject with which my future life is very closely concerned. I need not say to you that my married life was a happy one, nor need I abstain from affectionate remembrance of her, who by the will of Providence has been removed from my side. We have both of us experienced the trials of such a parting, and both of us cherish recollections which will ever be sacred.

The very memories of the time when I was not, as now, solitary, render that solitude inexpressibly irksome to me, and, when to that feeling is added the very sincere regard and respect which I entertain toward yourself, simply unbearable. May I then approach you with an offer that we unite our future, and endeavor to confer that mutual happiness which we have both experienced before, and which I venture to hope we might revive. Were you and I, my dear Mrs. Kinsley, ignorant of the joys and consolation of married life, we should not speak freely with each other on such a subject. I take it that we are wiser than to be reticent. I think that while I say honestly that I shall never forget her whose place is vacant at my fireside, and yet can offer to you a sincere and honorable love, a heart that is your own, a hand that shall guide and protect you as faithfully as that in which you once placed your own, you will understand and appreciate my words. I think that I can make you happy. I know that such is my firm resolve and true instinct, if you will let me try. There may be a first love which is all sincerity, there may be a second love which is no less sincere. Such a love I feel for you, and if you will accept it, you will confer upon me the blessing of a companion-

ship for which I am very anxious, and which I trust you will not deny me. Pardon whatever shortcomings I may betray in these lines. All that I care for is that you believe me to be

Yours most truly and sincerely,

JAMES A. GOODWIN.

### REPLY TO THE FOREGOING

My Dear Sir:—It would be worse than affectation if I did not respond to your letter in the frank spirit in which it is written. There was a time when the thought of a second marriage would have been utterly repugnant to me. Whether the feeling was a proper one, I will not attempt to ask myself. As you say, and very truly, I was entirely happy. My loss was one which crushed me almost. I never thought that another could rest in my thoughts as he rested. And I still and ever shall dwell upon his memory and his too partial fondness. You ask me, can I allow you to take his place? I do not know. Very candidly will I own that I am not offended by your offer, nor will I lightly reject it; and when I say this, you will not force me to the further admission of any feelings of which you may be the object. Of course I can

appreciate what you suggest as to the possibility of sincere affection as attendant upon second marriage, and I may further say that in general I agree with you. We are forced by the circumstances which surround every human being to judge of what will most conduce to our own happiness and welfare. Happy are they who can judge without prejudice, and decide without injustice. I feel however that I have said enough, excepting indeed that I may add that I see no objection to my again uniting myself with one for whom I can feel very great esteem and friendship, and that if I do resolve upon such a step, there is no one but yourself with whom I would consent to take it.

Yours sincerely,

LUTIE C. KINSLEY.

LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN  
MODERATE CIRCUMSTANCES  
TO A WEALTHY LADY

Dear Madam:—I feel a peculiar difficulty in addressing you upon a subject which may very nearly concern both of us, but upon which I hope you will allow me to use the utmost candor. The sentiments with which I am inspired



toward you are such that I cannot avoid expressing them. I can no longer describe my feelings toward you as of friendship only, for they are of the deepest love and respect. Forgive me if I speak too plainly, but I could not truthfully be less distinct in my avowal. And yet, my dear madam, I find myself placed under circumstances of great delicacy. With all the ambition which prompts me to ask for your affection there is the recollection of one fact that is impossible to ignore. I cannot forget, and others may remember, that Fortune, who does not distribute her favors alike to all, has placed you far above me in the scale of her regard. I am, in short, of very moderate means, while you are differently situated. This is very painful to me, because, as the world goes, many consider that such a circumstance should interpose a barrier between two persons, which one of them at least should not endeavor to surmount. I love you for yourself alone, and do not hesitate to avow my passion. But I do hesitate to ask, I scarcely dare to ask, for your love in return. I am unfortunate enough not to be able to offer you more than an undying affection, and still more unfortunate in having to risk the slur upon me that the granting of my wish was prompted more by your generosity than prudence. Some

would not have alluded to these matters, perhaps. I may incur your displeasure by even dreaming that the opinion of other people would weigh with you on such a matter. But as an honorable man I cannot avoid a reference to what is so very embarrassing to me, and which cannot be left out of sight. I have while pleading my love for you to ask your pardon for having loved. I am powerless to repress the confession of that love, and I can only leave with you the rejection of it if I have done wrong. I wish that I could express myself better, but I cannot. I only beg your kind interpretation of what I have said so imperfectly, and to remain

Your most sincere admirer,

ARCHIE D. VALENTINE.

### REPLY

My Dear Mr. Valentine:—I fully appreciate the openness with which you have alluded to what I should certainly not have mentioned—the mere accidental difference in our incomes. In my view that fact has no significance, nor is there any reason why a woman as well as a man should not confer upon her life companion all the benefits possible. And certainly if money is to form a restriction upon one's choice, then

those who have none are the most happily situated. Let me dismiss this subject, therefore, assuring you at the same time that if I ever marry, there will be only one person whose opinion will be my guide in this and other matters. Still, I thank you for giving me the opportunity of saying so much.

You will perceive that if I were not disposed to think favorably of your offer I should have confined my reply to a single negative. Had I been indifferent to you I should not, moreover, have so far given you encouragement as to render such an offer possible. But the contrary has been the case—I have suffered my liking to become stronger and stronger, and I believe in accepting your proposal I shall best consult my happiness, and your own. You see I am as candid as yourself; I do not see, indeed, why it should be otherwise. If it be my lot to have inspired a real and lasting affection in one for whom I feel the same, I have cause for infinite contentment; and I am infinitely content.

Believe me, ever yours,

ALICE D. PALMER.

### ANOTHER REPLY

Sir:—If ever a woman had no other good

reason for rejecting the address of one who seeks her hand, she would find it in the apology which he makes for being poor, and his fear that the world will deem him a fortune hunter. Such a confession and fear prove in my estimation that his proffered love is but spurious, and that he is the very thing which he affects to despise. The next time that you fall in love, I would advise you to spare your correspondent the imputation that she could rate her pecuniary advantages above the dictates of her heart and her common sense. Whether I might have ever been disposed to place my future in your hands or not is now of no consequence. You have coupled with your declaration thoughts very repugnant to me, and which render it impossible that you can be more than one of my distant acquaintances.

ALICE D. PALMER.

### CORRESPONDENCE WHERE PARENTS UNREASONABLY OPPOSE AN ENGAGEMENT

My Dear Madeline:—In the very unfortunate circumstances in which we find ourselves, we have to consider what is our duty to our par-

ents and what we owe to our own happiness and our prospects. One thing is certain, I will not for one single moment consider that you will reject me in consequence of the disapproval of either your parents or mine. If their objections were just, the case might be different, but even then the withdrawal would have to be on your part, which I am sure it will never be. For my own part, I love you so devotedly, and shall always, that the whole of my future life would be affected if I could not call you mine. I believe you to be no less faithful to me. What then have we to fear, even if the displeasure against us should be more permanent than I think it will be? Surely it is ourselves who are most concerned in the matter. We both, I know, have every desire to do what is right, but duty does not always consist in blind obedience to unreasonable demands. Think over this, my dearest Madeline. Do not allow yourself to be forced into acquiescence with these demands. There is a point beyond which no one has a right to force us, and if we cannot call each other husband and wife with the sanction of those who should wish our happiness, we must do without that sanction. When once we are united, the question of obedience will be settled forever, and I solemnly believe that you are morally

bound to look upon me as having the best right, the right conferred by your love, to be your adviser. You know that I would not advise you to do wrong, nor would you consent to do so even if I was to wish it. I cannot and will not lose you. Ever your affectionate

RALPH RANSOM.

### REPLY

My Dear Ralph:—Your letter has only added to the great unhappiness which I feel. Whichever way I decide I seem, in spite of all you say, to be doing wrong. And yet I think we are both treated with great injustice, and cannot help saying so even at the risk of being thought undutiful. I have tried all I could to judge of what my duty is, and all I can remember is that we have promised each other to be faithful lovers. I think too that the objections raised are unreasonable, and have said so to myself many times. But oh, Ralph, think how sad it would be if we had each to accuse ourselves some day, of advising the other to disregard advice which was for our good. This will never be, however, I hope. I can trust to you, I am sure, to tell me what is right, and will abide by what you say. Do not think that

I mean by this to surrender my own judgment, for I do not. I quite agree with you, that we are treated unjustly, and that we have the chief voice in the disposal of our future. Why that should be denied us is more than I can understand. I do not wish to say anything that our parents may not hear, and least to be thought undutiful or wanting in affection. Nothing will alter my feeling toward you, and if your decision entail upon us greater trials than would otherwise be our lot I have the courage to bear them.

I remain, my dear Ralph,  
Ever yours,

MADÉLINE SAUL.

A GENTLEMAN TO A LADY WITH WHOM  
HE HAS BECOME ACQUAINTED DUR-  
ING A LONG JOURNEY

Dear Madam:—I seize the first possible moment after arriving at my destination, to inquire whether you also have reached your journey's end safely and without inconvenience. It was with great regret that I found myself unable to accompany you the whole distance, but I should have done so, had it not been for

your express desire that I should not, I thank you most sincerely for the permission which you so kindly gave to write to you occasionally, for the pleasure of having you as my fellow-traveler was so great as not easily, if at all, to be forgotten . It seemed to me as if the varied scenery through which we passed, and I have often passed over the same route before, bore a new aspect. I never saw the country look so beautiful, and never so truly regretted the time at which our paths separated. I trust, my dear madam, I may add, separated for a time only. It would be to me a source of the truest delight, could I see you again, and renew that conversé which to me was happiness itself. You said I might write to you. I would, if I dared, ask that I might write, not as a chance companion, not as a waif in your progress, not even as a friend, but as something beyond all these. I began that journey little knowing the influence it was to exercise upon my future. I ended it with a new experience—the experience of living with a love that, however rapid its growth, will last until my traveling on this earth is done with, and I am arrived at my last depot, and my final ticket is given up. How shall I journey — shall it be alone, or shall the sweet companion of yesterday cheer me on the way, with her beauty and her smiles ?



But I am reminded by the respect due to you as a lady, that I am stepping beyond the limit which I am justified in supposing you intended to the intimacy which you allowed me. I beg your pardon, most sincerely; but while I confess my fault, I am unable to promise that I will not repeat it. "Of the fulness of the heart the mouth speaks," and so must my pen write. I had intended to indite words of mere courtesy, but I find they will not come into my mind. I must throw myself upon your mercy and ask for your forgiveness, in that when I only should have used the phraseology of politeness I have wandered into the phraseology of love. You will tell me how far I offend—I wait with great eagerness to learn that this, my first letter, is not my sin and condemnation.

Yours with the greatest respect and admiration,  
BERNARD M. EPPERSON.

### REPLY

Dear Sir:—I have to thank you very sincerely for the attentions by which you rendered my journey so much more agreeable than without them it would have been, and to assure you that I shall always feel much obliged to you. I

only hope that if I should again be called upon to undertake a journey it may be in as pleasant company. In saying this, I must confess that the general tone of your letter gives me very much embarrassment. I was very willing that our acquaintance should not end in our parting on the road, and therefore consented to your occasionally writing to me. But I did not mean that your first letter, at least, should be such as you send me. I will not at present give my opinion as to its propriety or otherwise, nor as to whether you have given me cause to regret my rashness in allowing you to write at all. I will only say, that I am not likely to forget the pleasure which the journey gave me, and that, which is a great concession on my part, you may some day send me word of your goings on. I shall always be glad to hear of your welfare, and will, as occasion offers, reply to your notes.

Yours truly,

HATTIE R. WHEELER.

FROM A YOUNG MAN WHOSE ENGAGEMENT TO ANOTHER LADY HAS  
BEEN BROKEN OFF

Dear Miss Burnett:—Some time ago I

thought it impossible that I should ever find myself writing to a lady upon a subject which was then a very painful one to me. You are so well aware of the particulars of my engagement to Miss ---- that I need not describe them, but it is necessary that I say just a little about it. I own to you that I was really attached to that lady, and that but for reasons which arose we should have been united. Those reasons are of the past, and as they involve not discredit or want of honor in either, they need not be revived. But it is due to you to say that I was mistaken as to the nature of my feelings toward her, and that there is nothing to regret on either side that the engagement was broken off.

Since that time I speak of I have had the happiness of becoming (more) acquainted with yourself. I became awakened to new sensations, and found that what I formerly thought was love was but a faint reflection of the passion which now fills me. I know that I love, and know it for the first time. I recognize now that with you rests all my prospects of happiness in the future. The sensations of that former time were those of fancy, now they are of true devotion and earnest, enduring love. May I hope to ensure yours in return. I ask

you not only because I cannot again change, but because I think you will believe me from your heart. You have been long ever present with me in my thoughts; I trust that you may never be severed from me in reality. I am neither fickle nor inconstant, and I pray you that the one shadow which has now passed away, will not be recalled between me and the love which I aspire not only to possess, but to deserve.

Your devoted admirer,

WILLARD MARSHALL.

### REPLY

Dear Mr. Marshall:—I should be the last to reproach you for what was a mutual error of judgment between you and the young lady to whom you allude. Still less have I the right to question the truth or sincerity of your expressions toward myself. I am willing to accept them as indicating the real state of your feelings, and to reply with equal sincerity. You will not, I hope, expect me to say more than that your attentions have been a source of pleasure to me, and that I am not afraid to commit my future to your care. I believe that you love me, and will trust to you. Excuse a longer note

at present, for your own has rather unsteadied my mind for a while, but

Believe me ever

Yours sincerely,

CLARENCE W. DAWSON.

### ON INCOMPATIBILITY OF TEMPER.

Dear Mr. Gaylord:—I have hesitated some time before alluding to a subject which has caused me much uneasiness and even pain. It would be wrong, however, were I longer to defer saying what may be useful to both of us, considering the relations which we hold toward each other. Briefly, then, I have been very much grieved to observe that on several occasions there have been indications of a want of accord between us, and an evident impatience on your part which is, to say the least, extremely trying to my feelings. I do not accuse you of actual discourtesy, but I must say that you might often have been more tolerant of opinions which did not happen to agree with yours, and have been more observant of my right to think for myself upon many subjects. Added to this, there have been times when you have appeared unable to control an appearance of annoyance at matters

which are generally regarded as trifling, and which I need not specify. I must ask you, therefore, whether we are not in danger of mistaking each other in the future to a still greater extent? Upon mutual forbearance must depend the realization of married happiness, and if that forbearance is not now exercised by both of us, how can we hope that serious disagreement may not follow our union? This is to me a matter of deep and anxious thought. I believe that your affection is sincere, but still I pause, and doubt as to what should be the wisest course. I cannot bear the thought of an inharmonious home, nor should you. I cannot bear that for want of a little speaking now our whole lives may be rendered unhappy. Think of all this, I beg you. It is of great moment. I shall be very glad if I am mistaken, but do hope that you will regard yourself at liberty to use entire freedom in your reply. I have forced myself to undertake the task of beginning a consultation with you, and wish to be full and open. Although I have done this, I can with a clear conscience say that I am, with unaltered regard,

Yours,  
VERONICA McDERMOTT.

---

### REPLY

**My Dear Veronica:—**Your letter has given me

some surprise and no little mortification. I had no idea that I was the disagreeable person which it would seem to indicate. I am, perhaps, hasty and impetuous, and may unintentionally have been too earnest in the assertion of my own views and ideas. But you have mistaken an unfortunate manner for a really bad temper. I can only ask you to forgive me for it, and believe my promise not so to offend again. I should indeed be grieved if there could ever be a serious rupture between us, and there shall not be if I can help it. You are quite right to be candid, and I love you all the more for it. Do not imagine that you will ever be to me other than the dear one you are, and believe me,

Your penitent lover,

ROBERT GAYLORD.

### LETTER ASKING AN INTRODUCTION THROUGH A MUTUAL FRIEND

My Dear Simeon:—May I ask the kindness of your good offices in the following matter? I have the greatest desire to become acquainted with Miss George, with whom I believe you are upon terms of intimacy. She has made a very strong impression upon me, and I should be

delighted to be numbered among her friends, if she would allow me that privilege. But I have no means of being known to her, unless you will do me the favor of writing a note of introduction, which I could either send, or present myself. I am sure you will oblige me if you see no impropriety in my request.

I am very truly yours,

JOHN L. MALLETT.

### REPLY

My Dear John:—Enclosed is the note you seek—I think you should send it rather than hand it to Miss George yourself, since the former course would embarrass her less than the latter, should she not be inclined to admit you to her society.

Hoping for your success, I am

Yours very truly,

SIMEON J. CHAPMAN.

Dear Miss George:—Permit me to avail myself of our acquaintance on behalf of a friend, John L. Mallett, a gentleman for whom I entertain a warm friendship, and who is every way



worthy of your esteem. He is very anxious to be introduced to you, but has no other opportunity than that which I take the liberty of asking you thus to allow me to employ. I request him to send this note to you, in the hope that you will gratify his wish, and I need not say that I should feel it a compliment to myself if you do. At the same time please let me add that I hope you will not in the least regard my feeling on the subject if you are disinclined to accept this note as a proper method of introduction.

Yours with sincere respect,

SIMEON J. CHAPMAN.

LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN TO HIS  
BETROTHED ON HER UNKIND  
TREATMENT OF HIM.

My Dear Myra:—I hope you will forgive me for asking your attention on a subject to which I had thought it would never have been necessary to recur. Why is it, that after what has passed between us, and after you have given me the promise which made me so supremely happy, you are in manner so cold, and often in speech so unkind? If I could recollect a single

cause for this change in you I should have no right to complain. But I do not recollect one. I have sincerely tried to please you in every possible way, but do not appear to succeed. My devotion to you has been, and is, thorough and quite unchangeable, but you do not seem to recognize it. Surely it cannot be that your heart has altered, and that you do not entertain the sentiments which you once delighted me by reciprocating? My dear Myra, I ask these questions because I love you, not because I am grieved. It would be very wrong not to ask them, for upon such a subject there should be no misapprehension. It would be terrible for us to blind ourselves willfully on such a matter. Do write and tell me that I am in error and that you are all to me that you ever were. I shall be overjoyed to receive such an assurance, and will submit to be scolded for dreaming the contrary possible.

Ever your affectionate

ARTHUR L. WRIGHT.

### REPLY

My Dear Arthur:—Consider yourself scolded severely for your very treasonable doubt of me.

What I have done to deserve your letter I am unable to guess. I am perfectly sure I never intended to be otherwise than affectionate, nor do I wish to be now. Of course I am much pained by what you say, and hope never to have such to read again. No, I have not changed. Will that be answer enough, Arthur? It must suffice, excepting that I will add that I am, in spite of your, I must say, rather unjust accusation,

Ever yours sincerely,

MYRA.

### MARRYING POVERTY

“When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window,” says an old proverb.

“Lips though rosy must still be fed

And Love, even Love, cannot live on  
flowers,”

wrote Thomas Moore.

The authors of these warnings are partly right and partly wrong. There are few greater ordeals than those which poverty forces upon many people. There is, however, a middle course between waiting until you are rich and wedding with wallet and cupboard empty. The persons most interested are the only ones who

are able to judge of what is wise—provided, that is, that they possess the usual complement of eyes and reasoning powers. Make the leap into matrimony bravely and with a cheerful determination to be a credit to yourself and a blessing to your partner. Make the leap by all means, but look before you leap! which is just what so many girls and boys forget to do.

### SECRET CORRESPONDENCE

My Dear Lula:—I write to you under circumstances of great embarrassment, and trust to receive your full sympathy and help. You know (or may have heard) that Mr. ——— has paid his addresses to me, and from what point of view I regard them. I will confess to you, Lula, that I love him, and have promised to be his. My friends oppose our union, and without any good reason, for I need not say to you that there is nothing that can be said against him. Even my letters would be intercepted, so bitter is the opposition which we have to encounter. Now, Lulu, will you not, my dear friend, help us in this difficulty? I could easily write under cover to you, and so could he, if you will let us. I only hope that you may never be so

unfortunate as to require a similar service from me, though I would gladly undertake it if you did. Write to me soon, dear Lula, for I am very unhappy, and believe me,

Your ever affectionate friend,

GENEVIEVE COMSTOCK.

### FROM A WIDOWER WITH CHILDREN

My Dear Madam:—I trust that the very great admiration which I entertain for your many excellencies and charms will excuse me if I am presuming too far in asking you to consider a request which I am about to make. Situated as I am, with a family of motherless children, I have felt that a due regard for their welfare rendered it proper that my household should be presided over by a lady for whom they should at once evince respect, and for whom they should learn to feel affection. It had not, until I had the happiness to form your acquaintance, entered into my mind that I could, or ever should, marry again. I concluded that while my children required a guardian and friend, I knew no lady whom I could ask to be my wife, consistently with my view of the emotions which should govern so tender a relation. My

thoughts have undergone a complete change, and I now seek your consent to regard myself as a suitor for your hand, assured, as I am, that my happiness or otherwise rests with your decision. If you will give this consent you will confer upon me a boon the greatness of which I cannot adequately describe. May I not hope that you will grant me this precious gift? Believe me, my life will be devoted to deserving it.

In asking you to become a second mother to my little ones, I ask you to assume a trust which to me appears a very sacred one, but which I should share with you in the greatest faith and confidence. Under your guidance they will be an honor to us both. With you before them constantly they will imitate your graces and virtues. If they even approach to the high standard which belongs to you, they will indeed give me all the pride and delight which a father can experience. I know that I am asking you to undertake what some would think a burden and a difficult task. But I shall aid you in sustaining it, and my love for you will render me ever watchful, and no effort shall be spared to make your life happy and honored. I speak, my dear madam, less of my own affection and respect than I would, were

I not conscious that I ask you to make some sacrifices for my sake. But nothing that I could add would sufficiently express the depth of that affection and the sincerity of that respect.

In conclusion, permit me to subscribe myself,

Yours most sincerely,

EDWARD M. SHEPARD.

### REPLY

My Dear Sir:—I am flattered by the manner in which you convey your proposal that I should permit you to pay me your addresses. The subject is one requiring anxious thought, for I must not allow any preference which I may have for your society to blind me as to the great responsibility which you offer. I am not, however, afraid but that your dear children will love me, not, of course, as they would a real parent, but as much as is possible in the case of one who invited their affection by the example of her own for them. In accepting though with hesitation, your proposal, I have not a little reliance on the co-operation and judgment of yourself. I will do my duty so far as I can, and must trust that God will enable me to do it well. Pardon me if I say no more

than these few words, and only add that I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

VIOLA ALLEN.

LETTER FROM A COUPLE WHO ARE  
WILLING TO MARRY UPON  
A SMALL INCOME

My Dear Hazel:—Now that you have allowed me to claim you as my own as soon as we may think our union prudent, I would ask you to consider seriously a few thoughts which are upon my mind. I would like to ask your opinion as to what is really prudent in our case. There are some who say that young people should wait, though it be for years, until they are able to marry upon a good income. There are others who say just the reverse, and that the struggles of life are best borne in company, provided perfect love exists between the pair who resolve to undertake the struggle together. It is our greatest happiness to know that that perfect love does exist, and will never cease to exist between us. We know perfectly well that so far as that qualification is concerned we are safe in consulting the dictates of our own hearts. Are we not able, therefore, to act with courage,



and begin life humbly, and shall we not act most wisely if we begin to share each other's joys, and possible sorrows, too, my darling, at once? I think that those who make their marriage dependent upon money cannot be fully in love. A young man or woman who would postpone his or her wedding until wealth, or even competence, smiled upon the ceremony, would also sever the engagement if wealth or competence were long in coming. Not that you or I would do this—but should we think so well of each other? Ought not love to be impatient? Having agreed to join our destiny, shall we so little trust each other as to postpone our happiness? Now, Hazel, dearest, I am most anxious that you should agree with me on this subject. I do not belong to the believers in delay. I think, nay, I am sure, that even in our small way we can have a very happy home. You alone are all I desire to make me happy, and certainly you know that all my mind and heart and strength will be devoted to make you happy also. Let us fight the fight of life together. Lovers, friends, comrades, husband and wife, my word for it we will be victorious. Still I would not unduly influence you against your will. I want you to act with entire freedom, and

at the same time to name—the day when my Hazel shall be mine indeed.

Ever your loving

CHESTER PAYNE.

### REPLY

My Dear Chester:—I hardly know whether to laugh or to look grave at your letter. You give me liberty to decide according to my own opinion, only my opinion must be the same as yours! which should make me laugh. At the same time your proposal is a serious one, and ought to be reflected upon seriously. There is much to be said on both the waiting, and the not waiting side of the question. We both have heard that people may marry in haste and repent at leisure. Yet I do not know but that if a girl has allowed herself to love she should also have courage enough to trust in her lover's judgment on such a matter as the time when they should marry, and I do trust you. As for myself, I am not afraid of my own ability to bear my share of whatever difficulties or trials may be in store for us. I shall, if I accede to your wish, only begin my duty as a wife while I am young enough to do it with cheerfulness and confidence. We shall, if we are fortunate

in life, be prouder of our success if we earn it together, than if we waited until it came to us separately. We may, on the other hand, not be fortunate, and I should be ashamed that I could not help you with my sympathy and love. I will ask for no delay, therefore, beyond what may be necessary to make proper arrangements, and when I see you you *may* perhaps ask me to name the day.

Yours ever,

HAZEL

### IN CASE OF AN UNUSUALLY LONG ENGAGEMENT

My Dear Mabelle:—When I have hitherto, in conversation, ventured to approach the subject of this communication, you have invariably succeeded by wit, against which I wear no armor, or playful badinage, that disarms me, in driving me from your presence, hardly knowing whether to laugh or be mortified by my defeat. I am in the position of a general who, having laid siege to a fortress, at length is assured of victory by the submission of the enemy, but finds that capitulation does not mean the surrender of the object of attack. I thought that

you had capitulated, and that your surrender was unconditional. But I am still gazing vainly upon what I had deemed already conquered, and sigh in vain for the possession which I thought was my own.

Hopeless of success by any other tactics, I now propose to spring a mine upon you, capture you by general assault, blow down your defenses, and, in short, do all manner of terrible things that can be dreamed or thought of. But I will throw aside metaphor and speak plainly and seriously, trusting that you will read and judge kindly and considerately what I have to say.

We have now been engaged longer than is customary, and certainly long enough to enable each of us to be satisfied as to whether or not our engagement was wisely entered into. For me, I can only say that it has been long enough to convince me that my happiness is in your hands, and that, with God's help, yours is safe in mine. Let us then put an end to this long novitiate of love. Let us not tempt cruel fate to step between us and mar both our lives. but let us instead set out together, hand in hand and heart with heart, upon the path of life laid out before us, and upon which the sunshine of promise now falls brightly. Say when

shall this be? When shall I call you mine for  
ever, and this long delay be over?

Believe me, your ever faithful lover,

CHARLES E. WHEATON.

**[THE END.]**

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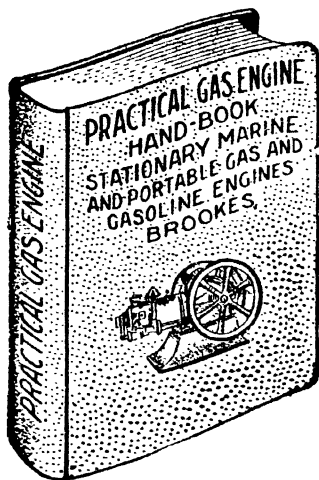
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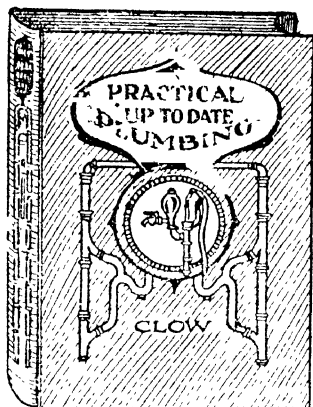
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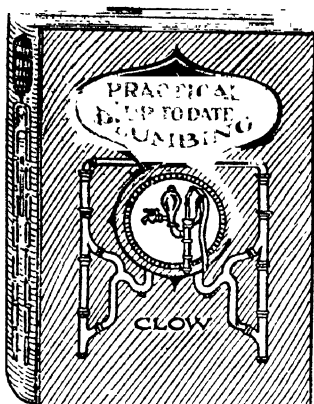
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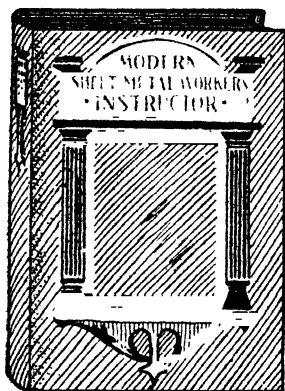
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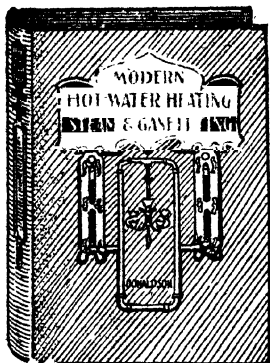
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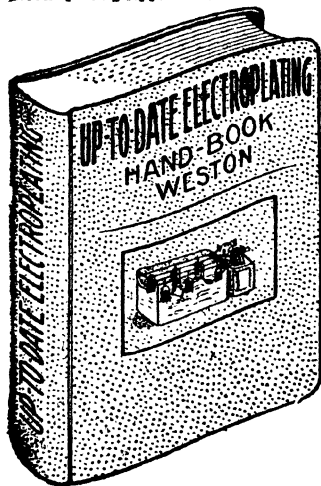
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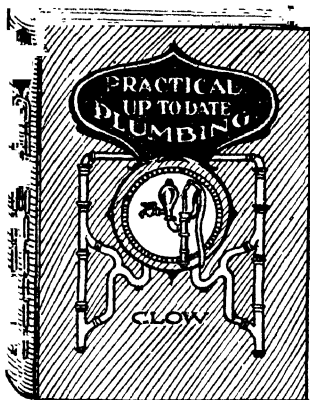
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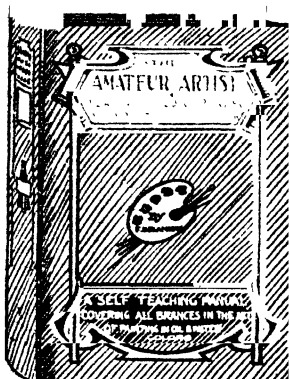
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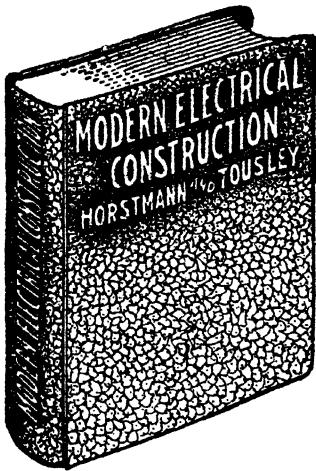
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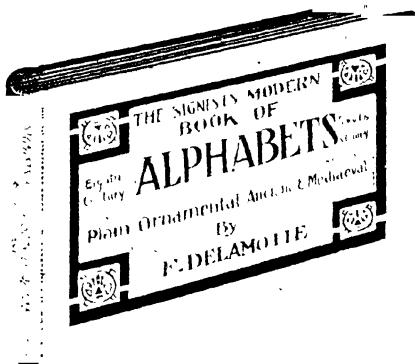
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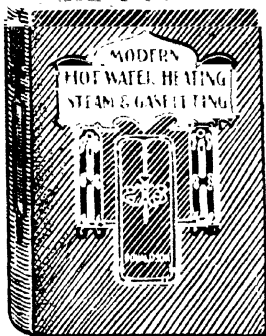
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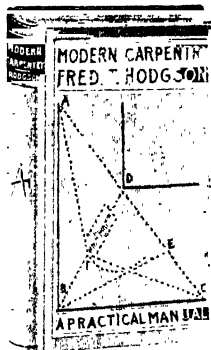
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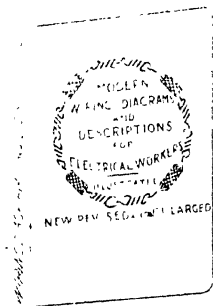
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