

Honored Sir:

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

Respectfully and with much esteem,
Your servant
Abel Harwood

Tyler Batchellor

Dec 13, 1838

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