

Annapolis Jan 14th '59

Many thanks for your letter of yesterday, it has been a great comfort to me first because it makes me even care more for you if possible. When I see how troubled you have been all for me, & then because it helped me to come to what I hope & believe is a right determination.

If I had known of this opposition when it first occurred, I should most assuredly not have continued the engagement another moment, but as I was not last Sunday aware of it, I feel how that our happiness is so entirely locked up in it that it would be impulsive to both of us to do anything of the kind if you are satisfied – Now there is but one course left for me to pursue & it is this, darling, my darling. I can never be your wife until this consent is gained-

It would be (as you say it has to you) a cloud upon our brightest happiest days to feel that we had acted against the consent & approbation of one who has been a kind friend to you, your guardian & your nearest relative, whatever negative we may think there may be in it. If all is as you think it will be but waiting for a little while longer, for what are a few months & years to people that truly love each other if they believe that all will be right at last.

I am afraid from your letter that you too may have been a little hasty & inconsiderate in suddenly making up your mind to leave Washington & thus widening the breach. In that long letter you wrote me in July you say that circumstances had altered your intention of keeping this office for the four years, from that moment I have never been easy about your going away but I could do nothing because I had not any idea of this & there was but one construction for me to put upon it. But now darling I am one with my woman's reason that it is neither right nor forgiving for you to leave now, even if you should conclude to do so later. I have heard from others how very useful you are to your Uncle & how very difficult it would be to fill your place, & was it not an implied if not an actual promise when you took the offer that you would keep it for the whole term. [sic]

I am afraid it is right for you to keep it if your place has not been supplied, altho' for you personally I feel that the dissipation of the place are very bad & I know what sacrifice it will be to give up your cherished plans in New York & be separated for two years longer from me, but perhaps darling it will be the only way of not being separated altogether, & then you are so near me that you can see me very often & I don't believe that either are afraid of our love wearing out.

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And then too you may think it might be a loss in a pecuniary way to wait so long to establish yourself in your profession. Don't think of that you told me you can have some money. I don't know what it is, and that is a plenty & just as soon as this is over & your Uncle's consent gained & it is convenient to you I will be so willingly your own dear true loving wife to go with you anywhere never mind how far from my precious home. I believe you can appreciate this last for you know what a sore grief this has always been to me.

I think you told me that your arrangements with Mr. Schariff have not been concluded so he as your dear friend can understand it – Now darling forgive me if I have done wrong in thus advising you, but I have thought of it prayerfully & tearfully & I believe it is right that God may lead you to do what is right is my most constant earnest prayer for you my own dearest –

I am a great deal better today almost all my rheumatism gone & only a little weakness & tremulousness of hand left. So make yourself [?] about me for I hope to be down stairs in a day or two. I have just this moment had such a [?] long letter from dear Ella in which she tells me a great deal of news, among other things she says your friend Miss Bright has been to see her & had told her far more of my plans, she believes, that I have the least idea myself.

Ella says she looked incredulous, & Miss Bright said that she know it was all true for she was very intimate with Mr. Henry – Isn't it funny?

I am so very tired that I must say goodbye, I think it is quite time.

I feel sure that God will help us & it will all come right some day.

Your devotedly attached

M—N—

