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1837

Letter to Mary A. Stevens, ca 1837

March 19

Oliver Winn Stevens

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Walthamville Mar. 19. 1839

Dearest M—

I cannot let this last opportunity pass without dropping a line to you. You perceive I have concluded to deny myself the exquisite pleasure of enjoying your society before the 28th. It matters not whether it be a case of necessity or not; circumstances forbade my visiting you the last week, and you know I should be considered an intruder after today. But, thanks to my stars, though I am denied the privilege of seeing you, I am by this very circumstance afforded with one more opportunity of ~~writing you~~ before our anticipated union. And dearest M— what do you think of it, as the hour draws near? No repentings as yet, no forebodings of ill? Then may our union be cemented with love, strong as death, enduring as life.

There can be no repentings hereafter. The nature of the marriage tie is such as not to be severed by any common occurrence in this life. But why need I write in this strain? I am persuaded, Heaven sanctions the step that has been, and is about to be taken. Then I am satisfied. What our may transpire hereafter to meet our happiness, I trust I shall be submissive to the will of my Heavenly Father.

Our engagement has been of short duration comparatively, and our interviews have

been "far and far between": This may account for
the embarrassment which we have both experien-
ced and exhibited at times. But it cannot be so
much longer; the fears and misapprehensions,
sometimes experienced in the state of courtship,
must soon give place to confidence and security,
and this diffidence, to unreserved familiarity, enjoy-
ed only by wedded lovers. But I must stop; you
will ^{not} allow me to proceed. You will have all things
ready on the 28th. for the Bridgroom cometh."

My attendants, Ward & Law have promised to be
punctual. I offered to carry Olivia to Palmers
yesterday but she does not ^{visit to} come until the 27th.
I shall go to Sturbury on that day;

Have you the following names on your list?

Mrs Thomsen
Miss Mary T
Mr Lottrop
Mr Gray
Miss Sarah Law

I do not insist on an answer unless you have
time. My love to your mother, and tell her I think
it best that we should furnish our room principally.
Give Lou a kiss.

As ever your loving
S.

P. S. I received a letter from Hylthier two days ago, apologizing for his negligence. He says in respect to you, Give my very best respects to your very dear Mary, and tell her that I do most sincerely congratulate my first lieutenant upon the destiny that awaits him.

Do excuse this scrawl and blot, for I am in haste
S.

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