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1836

Letter to Mary A. Stevens, ca 1836 December 10

Oliver Winn Stevens

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Sunbury Dec. 10th 1836.

My dear Mrs Stevens,

My object in sending you this letter is, to ascertain whether I may not obtain your consent to offer myself to your daughter Miss M— for marriage: This is a question of serious import to me at least and after mature and prayerful deliberation, I cannot resist the conviction that a sense of duty sanctions it. You may think that the feelings which prompt me to take such a step in respect to Miss M— are premature, but I assure you main that they are not of recent origin. For years past, I have had an extraordinary degree of regard and esteem for her, but, having resolved never to marry until I should have at least a prospect of supporting a family, I have been enabled to control my feelings in so far as to prevent them from ripening into real affection: but since my return from the North, and upon more mature reflection and at further examination of my feelings, I am obliged to admit that Miss M— is, and has been the only object of my affections since I was a school-boy. Deeming it therefore a bounden duty to solicit her hand in matrimony, I have thought it proper, first to ask your consent. If therefore you are willing that I should take the proposed step, you will please intimate it to Mrs Maxwell who has consented to hand you this.

Yours with deference. Oliver W. Stevens