spoke of my affection for her, and was happy to find it warmly reciprocated – her prudence suggested the impropriety of keeping it a secret our parents and pointed out the only true and honourable course to be followed. I did not follow it – I wrote to her Father and declaring our mutual attachment solicited [illegible] tion of my visits. I enclose you a copy of my letter to him

I do not write from a conviction of having committed a folly – in having entered into an engagement with so enviable an object, God forbid. I glory in having obtained the undivided affections of [redacted] who in many traits of her character bears a marked resemblance to one whose loss you have cause so deeply to lament. But I make this communication from a sense of duty I owe to you – and to ask your approbation and forgiveness which I have forfeited by my want of confidence in you.

This attachment is not the mushroom of the moment, emanating from the heated brain of an ardent youth. But it is a pure desire of long