

1839

The American Polite Letter Writer

John Kenedy

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THE
AMERICAN
POLITE
LETTER WRITER,

CONTAINING

ABOUT SIXTY LETTERS,

WRITTEN *IN* THE MOST FASHIONABLE STYLE

BY JOHN KENEDY.

NEW YORK;

PUBLISHED BY N. C. NAFLS,

98 Catharine Street

1839.



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DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, SS.

Be it Remembered, That on the eleventh day of July, in the fifty third year of the independence of the United States of America, JOHN KENEDY, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, to wit:

"The American Polite Letter Writer, containing about Sixty Letters, written in the most Fashionable Style. By John Kenedy."

In conformity to the act of Congress of the United States entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times there in mentioned;" and also to the act entitled, "An act supplementary to the act, entitled, an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

PHILIP MOORE,
Clerk of the District of Maryland.

STEREOTYPED BY H. SIMMONS & CO.

LETTER I.

A Letter from a Young Man to a Rich Young Lady

BALTIMORE, Sept. 10th, 1828.

MISS—

SINCE I had the pleasure of beholding your lovely face, and of taking notice of your slender and genteel shape, I could not refrain from thinking of you, and the more I think of you, the more I admire you. I have inquired concerning your character, and have been informed that your amiable and friendly disposition makes you to be universally liked by all that know you. I hope that these few lines may be acceptable to you, as my intention is a pure one towards you, and should I be fortunate enough to attract your notice, I should think myself one of the happiest men in the world. I hope, Miss, that you will make some private inquiry concerning my character and family, as I expect you'll be fully satisfied in that respect, and at the same time, I must entertain hopes of a more intimate acquaintance with you, and would wish you to write as quick as possible

I remain your well wisher,

LETTER II.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR -

I RECEIVED your letter of the 18th of July, mentioning of your admiring my person and extolling my character, as also that of my friends. I hope that we will always deserve that name; but it surprises me to hear protestations of love from a person that is altogether unknown to me. However, it would not seem prudent in me to hold a correspondence with any young man until I would know him, specially in this deceitful world, where there are so many females led astray by listening to false protestations of love, whereas, if not listened to, there would not be so many prostitutes in the world. I would not impute any falsehood to your letter, but at the same time cannot help making the above remarks, as you well know them to be true. I have no objection in having you visit my father and mother, and perhaps after more intimate acquaintance, we may be better known to each other.—until then, I cannot give you any more encouragement.

I remain your well wisher,

LETTER III.

*An Introductory Letter from a Young Man to
a Beautiful Young Lady, with a Large
Fortune.*

BALTIMORE, July 31st, 1828.

MISS CATHARINE—

ALTHOUGH I have not the pleasure at the present time to get acquainted with you by a personal interview, I hope you will not take it amiss to send you these few lines, as it is with the purest intention that I send them to you. I have seen you a few times, and the more I take notice of you, the better I like you. Perhaps you have no knowledge of me, but if you wish to inquire concerning my character, you will find it unblemished, and that is my greatest boast, to bear a good name and support it, as I value it as dear as life.— You may say that I have been too forward in writing to you before I got acquainted with you, but my passionate love for you urges me to solicit your favour. I have sent this letter by ——. An answer to which I hope you'll favour me with by the same source as soon as possible. At the same time I remain in expectation of a kind answer, which will gladden the heart of your well wisher,

PIERCE LOVEMUCH.

LETTER IV.

The Rich Lady's Answer.

SIR—

I CANNOT but smile at a young man of your boasted character, to transmit a letter to a person that is wholly unacquainted with you, and if you are candid in your opinion of me, I cannot but think well of you for your encomiums, provided you are in earnest; but there are so many instances of false protestations and flattery, especially from young men, that I really cannot but doubt of your sincerity. However, I do not want to put you off abruptly, lest you might think me too proud or unmannerly, but if you wish to see me, you may come to my father's house, and after my parents and you get acquainted, then, and not until then, will I consider myself an acquaintance, much less a lover. I am too young to get married yet, and would be obliged to you to give up all thoughts of me for the present.

I remain, respectfully,

CATHARINE YOUNG.

LETTER V.

From a Young Man to a very Young Lady.

MISS SOPHIA--

You will pardon my boldness for writing this letter to you, and addressing you in the warm language which my heart dictates to me. I feel as if I could write every thing in your praise that a lover could write, but I mean to confine myself to a few words, wishing at the same time that you may enjoy as good health as your unceasing lover enjoys at present.

Please to recollect the time you were a walking in ———, where I was first captivated by your lovely shape and angelic looks. I know you could not perceive me at the time, but such was my ecstasy of joy at beholding so lovely a creature, that the idea of beholding again that lovely form almost took up all my thoughts, and with your permission, Miss —, I entreat you to have compassion on me, and let not my solicitations be in vain. I want no friendship from you, but the happiness of being admitted a few moments into your company, whose beauty and virtue are so great, that none in this world can equal you, and in

hopes of this letter meeting with a good reception from you,

I remain for ever yours,

LOVE.

P. S. Please write on receipt of this.



LETTER VI.

The Young Lady's Answer.

SIR

THE praises you were pleased to bestow on me, were altogether unnecessary on your part, as I consider myself too young to form any acquaintance with young men of any kind, and indeed I could not well excuse you for writing to a person like me, with whom you had not much acquaintance. In the first place, it would not be prudent in me to answer a letter of the kind that you have sent me; and in the second place, I would not displease my parents in holding correspondence with any person without their knowledge, a liberty that would perhaps soon annihilate the future prospects of my destiny. But if you were to get acquainted with my father and mother, and that they would like your conduct, it is then, and not until then, that I could with propri-

ty give you any permission to address me. wish that you may find some other object at present to pass your encomiums on, as I am too tender in years to be flattered in that way.

I am, respectfully,

SOPHIA.



LETTER VII.

*From a Young Man that follows the water, to
a Beautiful Young Lady.*

MISS—

My passage was only a pleasure to me when the lovely thoughts of my dear —— has kept up my spirits. I am fully persuaded, in my mind, that you are thinking of me in like manner—please to compose your mind, and believe me to be as sincere in my love to you, as ever a young man was with his sweetheart; and, indeed, why should I not regard you, even beyond all creatures on earth, as your modest, discreet, and amiable disposition, cannot but captivate my heart. I will make all possible haste to settle my business and return home, as every minute seems to me an hour, until I have the pleasure of beholding your

lovely face. I hope you'll pardon me for, perhaps, saying so much in your praise, but when you consider the love I bear to you, you cannot then blame me so much. I have no more to add, but remain your lover until death.



LETTER VIII.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR—

I MUST own that I respect you, and I almost could say that I love you. If a long acquaintance, and a correct deportment, ensure my respect for you, I cannot but feel a certain warmth in my mind and heart for you: but until my parents would give you their consent,

cannot say any thing to you concerning any nearer friendship, as I always had a strict adherence to my parents' directions and commands to me. I would have no objection to own you as a well wisher, and I may say, a lover, but cannot depend too much on what young men say, in respect to their love to any of our sex, as they too often make such themes of love the object of their hatred, afterwards, and having heard of such things happening so

Often to my sex, I cannot encourage your solicitations, until first forming a nearer acquaintance with my parents—at the same time, believe me to be your humble servant,



LETTER IX

From a Young Man, to a Beautiful Young Lady, with whom he is only slightly acquainted.

MISS JANE—

SINCE I had the happiness to see you, I have been very desirous of a greater happiness, which is, to be admitted a few minutes into your company, in order to lay open my mind to you. I have often wished to have an opportunity of speaking a few words to you, as I know it would ease my almost broken heart. I have seen you at different times, and had not an opportunity of speaking to you. I have now made bold to send these few lines, hoping that you will regard them as coming from a person who values your modest and genteel behaviour, as much as he does his existence. I need not mention anything concerning your beauty and virtue, as every one who is acquainted with you, knows

how much you are possessed of both—indeed, when I see your beautiful face, I cannot help being ravished, and the oftener I happen to see you, the more I love you. Please to excuse me for being too bold in writing in this manner, but when you'll perceive that my intention is pure, and that it is in expectation of a reciprocal love from you, that causes me to dwell on your praises, I hope you'll think of one who values you more than any other person in this world.

I remain your affectionate lover,

WILLIAM PRETTY



LETTER X.

From one Brother to Another.

BALTIMORE, July 28th, 1828.

DEAR BROTHER—

I WRITE these few lines to you, hoping to find you in as good health as I am at present. Give my love to all inquiring friends, and in particular to ———. Let me know how you are doing, and be particular in mentioning every particular concerning the family, as there is nothing gives me more pleasure than to hear that all of you are well. I have on-

joyed very good health, since I left you, and have been introduced into decent company, together with a prospect of doing well; three great blessings, indeed. Send me an answer to this as soon as possible, as I am desirous of hearing from you, as you know what brotherly love I always shewed to you; and, indeed, you were well deserving of my love and friendship. Perhaps, before many months, we could have the pleasure of enjoying one another's company, as there is nothing would give me more pleasure than to be once more in the company of them whom I dearly love.

I conclude these few lines, my Dear Brother, by wishing yourself, and the rest of our relations, more happy days.

Your's until death,

JOHN BURNE



LETTER XI.

From a Young Gentleman, to a Rich Merchant's Daughter, with whom he was slightly acquainted.

Miss—

You will please to excuse my writing to you without perm

14 THE AMERICAN POLITE LETTER WRITER.

you knew how I loved you, you could not blame me, as I am never at rest but when I'm thinking of you, and how great would be my pleasure, were I in the possession of so inestimable a jewel as you are. I cannot express, with words, the love I bear you; but permit me to say, that unless I have the favour of your esteem, I consider myself undone for ever; for what the tongue cannot fully express, the heart does feel, perhaps ten times more. Please to inquire into my character and qualifications, which, if you take the least trouble in so doing, you will find every thing to your satisfaction. If I have the happiness of your friendship, I shall consider myself one of the happiest men in the world, and in expectation of an answer, I remain, with the greatest esteem,

Your faithful lover,



LETTER XII.

From a Young Tradesman, to a Beautiful Young Lady, he had seen taking a walk.

MISS—

PERHAPS you may be surprised to receive a letter from a person with whom you are un-

acquainted, but permit me to tell you that I have often seen you, although it never was in my power to get an opportunity of speaking to you; and if you could only reflect, how so charming a face as your's has captivated my heart, you could not blame me for sending you these few lines, as a small token of my love towards you; and it is with the greatest pleasure that I now express with the pen, a part of the friendship and love which I entertain for you; and if I was to write ten times as much in your praise, it would not be enough, as I think you are the most beautiful lady in the world. Please to take pity on me, and consider that my love is sincere, and pure, and always the same. Believe me at the same time to be, respectfully, your's,

CHARLES DUNCAN.

P. S. Direct to C. Duncan, No. 20.



LETTER XIII.

A Letter from a Beautiful Young Lady, to a Handsome Young Man, whom she suspects to slight her.

BALTIMORE, September 30, 1828.

SIR—

I HAVE taken the liberty of transmitting these few lines, or rather, these few remarks

10 THE AMERICAN POLITE LETTER WRITER.

to you, concerning some news that I heard of late, concerning you, which, if I kept secret in my breast, would be of more pain to me, than by disclosing it to them, that I may say, knows all my thoughts in respect to my regard for him. I am credibly informed that you are paying your addresses to Miss —, which, after so many professions of your attachment to me, seems very curious. Had you said to me, I cannot visit you any more, and gave your reasons, I should be fully satisfied; but to pretend to be in love with me, and then to turn to and court another, without giving you the least reason to doubt my friendship and love, I cannot but feel astonished; however, as soon as this letter reaches you, I hope that you'll give me an explanation of your conduct, as, at present, I cannot but doubt your sincerity on the subject.

I remain,

ELEANOR FAIRFIELD.

P. S. Direct your letter to E. Fairfield.

LETTER XIV

SALISBURY, October 1, 1828.

DEAR ELEANOR—

I AM very sorry that you have been misinformed concerning my courtship with another girl, as it is altogether wrong in any person to make such report—but I know that there are malicious persons in the world, that try to breed a disturbance between young and tender lovers as we are; but I hope after this reaches you, that you'll be convinced of my faithful professions of love made to you on former occasions—at the same time you must not believe reports of that kind, from any person, unless from a particular friend, as there are many persons would pretend to be your friends, who really are not; and I beg of you to believe nothing of that kind, until I see you, and give you an explanation of the matter; therefore, content yourself my love, and believe me at the same time to be your most affectionate friend and lover,

JAMES LYNCH.

LETTER XV.

From a Widow Lady, to a Widower

SIR—

IT has been my misfortune to lose one of the best of husbands that America ever produced, which leaves me at present exposed to the world and its deceitful ways. I had been talking with a friend of mine, a few days ago, who earnestly advised me to enter again into the married state, recommending you at the same time as a man of good sense and steady habits, (virtues very rare to be found in men at this period) I have been very much taken up with the discourse, and cannot refrain from thinking of it since; so, in order to ease my mind, I thought I'd send you a few lines, inviting you to come and see me, where you will be politely received by your obliging humble servant.

SUSAN LONESOME.

To Mr. J. Love.

LETTER XVI.

The Widow's Answer.

MADAM—

I HEARTILY accept your invitation, and will go to see you next week, as I am very happy to be introduced to a woman whom I esteem, and, indeed, I wanted only an invitation, as I am naturally of a shy, backward disposition: moreover, since I lost my partner, I cannot find any pleasure in any thing—but all our sighs and tears will avail nothing, when once parted, for ever, from our dear partners; so, I am fully determined to drop my wailings for the future, and accept of your invitation wishing at the same time, that if it is God's will that we should be joined together in the holy bands of matrimony, that we may live happier than since the decease of our partners, and console yourself on the happy prospect of being joined to a man of my disposition, as you can very seldom find a man equal to your humble servant,

JAMES WORTHY.

P. S. Write, & receipt of this letter.

LETTER XVII.

*A Letter from a Young Lady to her Sweetheart,
in Baltimore.*

ST. MARK'S, July 28, 1828.

DEAR JAMES—

IT seems to me as if every minute was an hour, since the time you have gone to Baltimore. I hope that these few lines I send you may find you in good health as I am at present. I am fully persuaded of your true attachment to me, and hope that the time will come when the sacred ties of marriage will bind us together for ever. I have very singular dreams concerning you, but console myself with the thoughts of your safe return. I pay no attention to dreams, as I know they ought not to be accredited, but merely mentioned my dreaming of you because it flowed from a heart that is entirely yours. I know your sincere attachment to me during these five years, and have reason enough to believe of your pure intention. Write an answer to this letter, and let me know when you intend setting sail for home, as also what luck you had, and I remain with impatience for your quick return, and believe me my dear James,

to be steadfast in my promise to you for ever

Your's affectionately,

MARY COLWELL.



LETTER XVIII.

The Young Man's Answer.

BALTIMORE, July 30, 1828.

MY DEAR MARY—

I RECEIVED your letter of July 28, which gives me great pleasure in hearing from you, my dear. I am in good health and doing well, and hope to be able to set sail for home in about a week. I hope you'll not be uneasy for my absence, as I intend as soon as I reach home, to join with you in the bands of matrimony. I consider a marriage that has been celebrated from a reciprocal love of the parties, the happiest marriage in the world; for what could we expect but contentions to arise from an unequal match, which we find to be the case in different parts of the world, especially in Europe, where the parents generally consult the fortune of the person more than the acquirements, whereas, if the latter is

wanting, the former moulders unluckily away. But in our country, we are blessed with the happiness of our parents leaving us to our own free will in choosing for ourselves. I hope you will see me in five or six days from this, as I am impatient to see you.

Yours until death,

JAMES BOSWELL.



LETTER XIX.

*From a Young Gentleman to an Old Widow
with a large estate.*

DEAR MADAM—

I HOPE you'll excuse me for writing to you, as I am not determined to intrude on you in the least, but owing to an acquaintance that I had with your husband, induces me to take part with you in the sorrowful situation which his death has left you in. As I am fully persuaded that you were a loving wife to him, and cannot but feel interested in his affairs, and hope that you'll consider me as your friend and well wisher, the same as if your dear husband was alive, and as there is no returning again from the grave, you may as well

banish all sorrow from your mind, as we know that all our sighs and tears are of no avail. I have been dreaming of you these few nights past, and it seems to me as if he said to me, go and get married to my dear ———, as you know how my affairs are to be settled, and may you both live long and happy.

I remain yours, &c.



LETTER XX.

The Widow's Answer

SIR—

I RECEIVED your letter dated the ———, and I am much obliged to you for the interest you seem to take in my concerns, as also for your acquaintance and friendship heretofore shewed towards my husband when alive, but I would wish to be excused from your solicitations, as the husband that I lately buried was so dear to me, that since his death every thing seems to me to be nothing but grief and anguish. I am determined to live single the rest of my days, as I think that the more solitude I am in, the better I can call to remem-

brance my dear deceased husband. At the same time, you may visit my house the same as when my husband was alive, but you need never expect any nearer friendship from me, as my intention is never to marry again, therefore you need not dream about me any more, as it may be nothing but the fancy of the mind that caused your dreams.

I remain with respect, your friend,
JANE FORTUNATE.



LETTER XXI.

*From a Young Lady to a Beautiful Young
Man with a great fortune, with whom she
is in love.*

SIR—

PERHAPS you will think it strange to receive letter from a person so far below you in wealth as I am, but when you reflect on the cause that induces me to write, you may not have an unfavourable opinion concerning me.

fortune has not lavished her smiles on me, hope Heaven has, and although I am not rich, still I have the same spirit as if I possessed all the treasures of the east. I can boast

of being of genteel parents that uphold a decent character, and who gave me a reasonable education, and I trust have shewed me the path of virtue, and all other necessary acquirements so indispensable to our sex, and I would wish you to understand that it is not your wealth which induces me to write to you; no, it is unfortunately a love, perhaps now too deeply rooted in my heart to be soon eradicated. It is the beholding of your comely person that caused this love for you. I conclude this letter by wishing you all kinds of happiness.

Yours affectionately,

SARAH FORMAN.



LETTER XXII.

The Young Gentleman's Answer.

DEAR SARAH—

I RECEIVED your letter dated October 3d and I am very happy to find that you think so much of me, and have such a kind opinion of me. I cannot but esteem the young woman who writes to me in such a modest unassuming style as you are pleased to do, and in

praising a person who considers himself undeserving; but when praise comes from such a pure heart as yours is, I cannot but congratulate myself on your affectionate letter to me, and as for riches, they are only transitory at best and fleet away like the mist of Heaven. It is surely a blessing to be possessed of wealth, provided we make good use of it, and the little that I have, I hope to put it to a good use. I esteem your virtue and education more than riches itself, and am fully convinced of your sincerity towards me, which I shall be glad of your acquaintance, and more glad to know that you have such a favourable opinion of me. I conclude by wishing a more intimate acquaintance, and remain

Your humble servant,

RICHARD RICH.



LETTER XXIII.

From a Young Man to a Young Lady, accusing her of inconstancy.

MISS ELIZA—

It is a surprising thing to me, how you could keep company with ———, after so

many protestations of your respect towards me, and the reciprocal friendship on my side. However, I cannot hardly wonder at any thing in this wicked world, where there are so many false friendships and inconstant lovers, who very often for a trifling consideration forsake them who ought to be near and dear to them; for instance, if a young man is possessed of a large fortune, whether his person or acquirements recommends him or not, it matters but little, so as he is possessed of riches. However, in my eyes it is quite different: for inasmuch as we are all born equal, so ought we by our behaviour command the respect of others, and not as is often the case by amassing perhaps ill gotten wealth, as is too often practised now a days, and my dear Eliza, I would wish you to weigh well these considerations, before you abandon a person who you know values your love and esteem more than earthly treasures, wishing you at the same time, health and a long life.

I subscribe myself yours truly,

JAMES YOUNG.

LETTER XXIV.

The Young Lady's Answer.

BALTIMORE, July 28, 1828.

SIR—

YOUR accusation against me, in respect to keeping company with ———, is altogether unfounded, as I do not make a practice of keeping company with a person with whom I have not the slightest acquaintance. I am glad to see that you are so uneasy concerning me, as it is the greatest sign of your love and esteem; and believe me, that I value your character and parentage more than I would the person you mention, were he possessed of the riches of Peru. Indeed, it never was my notion to consider a man better by being rich, as I would rather have a husband that I could like, were he not possessed of one dollar, sooner than a rich man that I could not like, as I consider the peace of the mind better than riches or honours—so, consider such reports as fictitious for the future, as I entertain for you the highest considerations of respect, and believe me to be constant until death.

ELIZA CONSTANT.

LETTER XXV.

From a Young Lady to a Rich Young Gentleman.

SIR—

YOUR receiving a letter from one like me, who, perhaps, is altogether a stranger to you, may, no doubt, surprise you; but when you will reflect what a deep impression it made in my mind by seeing you at ———, altogether unknown to you, you will pardon me for saying that I thought you were one of the handsomest young men I ever saw, and I need not say how the thoughts of you runs still in my mind. I hope, as soon as this reaches you, that you will send me an answer, and let me know how you are, as also, how you may receive this letter; however, if you should not think proper to write an answer to this, I hope you will not make my sentiments known to any other person, as my intention in writing is urged by the purest motives. Wishing you health and happiness, and long life,

I remain your well wisher,

LETTER XXVI.

From a Young Gentleman to a Rich Young Lady.

Miss—

IT is with the greatest esteem for your personal qualifications, and comely face, that I venture to intrude a few moments on your patience, and when I tell you that it was not until a few days ago, when I saw you at ———, that you entirely captivated me; relying now on your amiable disposition, and modest respect towards me on former occasions, although undeserving in the least of your respect or friendship, I hope that by my undeviating principles of rectitude, and sound knowledge, to be able to deserve your favour, as there is nothing can give me more pleasure than to know that you think favourably of me. In the mean time, wishing you health and long life, and all that this world can bestow, believe me to be, sincerely, your most obedient and humble servant,

LETTER XXVII.

From a Young Lady to a Beautiful Young Gentleman.

SIR—

PARDON my boldness for presuming to intrude on your time or business in writing to you this letter, as I am fully persuaded that you are busy in worldly affairs; but in writing to you, I do not write as a suppliant, but as young lady who entertains the highest esteem for your person and qualifications; it is these, and not an inordinate passion that induces me to write. I have frequently seen you, and cannot help admiring your comely person, together with your admirable good character which any young lady cannot help falling in love with you, as unfortunately, I fear I have already. It may be urged by you, that I am rather too forward in writing to a young man I am unacquainted with; but when you feel the same way as I do, then you may not think it amiss—at the same time, hoping this letter may find a favourable reception, I remain with impatience for an answer which will console her who feels the most sincere affection, &c.

ELIZA GRAY.

LETTER XXVIII.

From a Middle-aged Man to a Rich Widow.

MADAM—

I AM a middle-aged man that is on the look out for a wife, and I think that you might answer my purpose very well. I am not in the habit of passing many compliments, as I am naturally of a blunt kind of disposition; however, I think that I would make a first rate husband, provided I would be left to my own free will—but if interrupted in my business, could not say what the consequence might be. I wish to be plain with you, and tell you exactly my disposition. I know that you had an amiable husband, and cannot but express my esteem for you for your exemplary conduct to him during life, which I cannot doubt but that you'll be in like manner to me, if it is my chance to be your next. I have no doubt but a person of your disposition might be most fitting to curb the passion of a man like me, who wants to rule, and not to be ruled.

I remain, respectfully,

JAMES BLUNT.

LETTER XXIX.

A Letter from a Rich young Gentleman to a handsome Girl with no fortune.

MISS—

It is the misfortune of the present times, that very few marry for love, but considers whether the person is rich or not, before they make their addresses. However, I am none of these kind of people. I have known you a long time, and entertain the highest opinion of your modesty and discretion. I have ample means I trust to support a wife and family, and always was of opinion that a companion for life, and as I think a loving one as you may be, is more to be valued than riches, which soon vanishes away according to the vicissitudes of the times. I hope you'll send me an answer to these few lines, and let me know whether you would accept of my friendship, as it is no more than a pure intention that excites me to write to you. At the same time, please to send me an answer, and let it be a favourable one, as I am very impatient to hear from you.

Yours respectfully,

LETTER XXX.

The Young Man's Letter to the Lady after getting her Father's consent for their marriage.

Miss—

IT is now more than —— months since I had the pleasure of seeing you, which makes me very uneasy concerning your welfare. I hope to be at your father's house in about —— weeks, and then to join in wedlock with you my love, as every minute seems to me an hour, until I'll have the pleasure of having got your consent in marriage, and then, and not till then, will I think myself happy.

I remain yours truly,



LETTER XXXI.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR—

I HOPE that an acquaintance with you these —— months, is sufficient to know your disposition, which indeed I have no reason to think that you will be otherwise than a lov-

ing and sensible husband. You had my heart won already, and you will have my consent as soon as you return, hoping at the same time, that we may be always as loving through life, as we have been since our first acquaintance.

I remain yours, &c.



LETTER XXXII.

From a Young Man to his Sweetheart, whom he did not see for a long time.

DEAR ISABELLA—

I TAKE this favourable opportunity of writing these few lines to you, hoping that you are in as good state of health as I am at present. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends. I presume that you think me very unkind for not writing before this time, but I had you at heart the same as if I was writing to you every day. I cannot bear to be long away from you my dear, as there is nothing can give me any pleasure when out of your company, therefore, content yourself, and hope to see me in a few —, as it cannot be more pleasing to any person than to him who has you so much at heart as I have, hoping

at the same time to enjoy that happiness of being joined in matrimony with my dear Isabella, which will ease my affectionate heart, and wishing at the same time health and long life to her who is near and dear to me. I subscribe myself with submission,

Yours at heart,



LETTER XXXIII.

A Letter from a Young Man to a Beautiful Young Lady, whose parents would not consent to their courtship.

DEAR ANNA MARIA—

'Tis the misfortune of the present day, that the virtue and accomplishments of young people are now a days scarcely to be found in one person connected, but in you I find both. Your amiable disposition, together with your lovely face, cannot but cause every one who know you to love and esteem you, and to none are you half so dear as to me, as there is not a time I think of your lovely face and behold your lovely person, but I fall in love with you more and more. I hope to be able to get your parents' consent to our marriage, as I'll

try every art to conciliate them to me, and in fact, I don't see the reason that they can lawfully refuse me into their family, as I always entertained the warmest friendship and the highest esteem for all branches of your family. I hope before many months, to be able to come to more friendly terms, which I need not say will exalt the spirits of him who is affectionately yours,

CHARLES FRANCIS.



LETTER XXXIV.

A Letter from a Son to his Parents.

DEAR PARENTS

It is with gratitude and respect that I transmit you these few lines, in hopes that you both are in as good health as I am at present. Give my best respects to all the family, and let them know that I am well, and doing well. The climate here agrees with my health very well, and business of every kind seems brisk and lively. I have been very uneasy concerning my dear parents, for fear that any thing might happen them, as I think I never could enjoy any pleasure, were I to hear of any accident happening either of them. I wish

you would write immediately on receipt of this, and let me know how all of you are, as also how all inquiring friends are. I am doing well here, and expect in a few — to be able to improve and enrich myself, as I have every opportunity to do so. I also keep good company, a duty I consider indispensable to my welfare, as very few can aspire to emolument without that observance, and in hopes that I may always deserve your love and protection as I hitherto have done, I remain your faithful son,



LETTER XXXV.

From a Young Lady to a Rich Widower.

SIR—

THE doleful news of your wife's death, caused deep sensations of grief in my mind, and whether from a deep sense of her many favours bestowed on me, or from an early attachment to you, I cannot say; but be that as it may, I refrained from shewing the least friendship to you whilst your wife was alive, and never could I open my lips to you on such a subject, were you not deprived of your

dear helpmate. I know how rich you are, as also how respectable and honourable you are, and how low I feel in soliciting your hand, but this one thing encourages me to do it, and that is the pure and warm attachment of the heart, which when once it prevails over young maidens, it never quits them until the object of their desires are accomplished; but mind, I do not mean any object that includes any thing more than a pure and modest desire to be linked to him in marriage who is the object of these few lines. I conclude by wishing you a long life, &c.



LETTER XXXVI.

A Letter from a Wagoner to his Sweetheart.

BALTIMORE, July 30th, 1828.

DEAR SOPHIA—

I WRITE you these few lines, hoping to find you in as good health as I am at present.— Give my best respects to all of your connections. I have been thinking of you at different times as I ride along the lonesome roads, where I contemplated your beautiful face,

and behold you as it were, in my presence. I cannot feel easy in my mind, until I have the pleasure of your company, as it seems to me to be lost when away from you. I hope that you have the same love for me as I feel for you, as nothing in the world gives me more pleasure than to be in your company. I hope to be home in a few weeks, and expect to see my dear Jewel, who, indeed, is more dear to me than life. Don't let any person see this letter besides yourself, as secrecy between lovers is absolutely necessary; not that I would be afraid of any person trying to injure my character with you, but for fear that there might be some of your friends mocking you for having a sweetheart, for perhaps they might say that you are too young, or something else, to hurt your feelings, but don't mind what they might say in that respect, as you are sensible enough to put off such jokes with a smile, and consider that old Virgins, or what we call old Maids, are, now a days easy to be found. So, I conjure you, by the ties of love wherewith I am bound to you, to remain steadfast in your good opinion of my pure intentions, as I entertain the highest regard for your modesty and good behaviour. I could say a great deal more in your praise, but you know my heart, and that will suffice.

I remain, dear Sophia, your loving sweet-heart,

JOHN WAGONER.



LETTER XXXVII.

From a Young Girl to her Lover

SIR—

I TRANSMIT these few lines to you, hoping to find you in good health, as I am at present. Let me know how all inquiring friends are, also how ——— is in particular. You may think me very forward in writing this letter to you, but I hope you cannot take it amiss, when you consider it to be the tenderest and most affectionate feelings of love which induces me to do it. I am oftentimes at a loss to know how you could remain so long silent, as you know how much I love you. However, I could at different times since I seen you last, get acquainted with young men of greater wealth than what you are, but we are not to look to wealth altogether, in choosing a partner for life; on the other hand, we are to consult the good disposition and piety of the person, more than any thing else—both of which, I trust you are possessed of, accomplishments

rarely to be found in young men these times. I would say volumes in support of the present subject, but think it too prolix for the subject of this letter. Suffice to say, that this letter comes from one who esteems your person in the highest degree imaginable. I remain, Sir, your well wisher,

JANE MILLER.



LETTER XXXVIII.

From a Young Man to a very Rich Lady.

MISS—

PARDON me for the boldness I make in writing this letter to you without your permission. But in the first place, if you only recollect where you have been walking a few days ago, in company with ———, and I happened to see you, although altogether unperceived by you. At the first sight of you I have been transported with ecstasy of joy at beholding so lovely a face, which I fear the more I think of, the more my poor heart will be enthralled, as I fear that my station of life is not suited to your high and opulent situation, the contrast which makes me diffident in my address to

you. However, if I am not wealthy, I am descended from rich and honourable ancestors, that, together with my education and good character, ought at least to claim the respect of them who are above me in respect to riches. And what is riches? It is only like the fleeting shadow, which often vanishes in an instant; and believe me, that so far from estimating you on account of your riches, I would respect you in the same way if you were not worth one dollar. I hope you will give me a favourable answer, as I remain with the greatest affection, your humble servant,



LETTER XXXIX.

An Apprentice's Letter to his Parents.

NEW YORK, June 24th, 1828.

DEAR PARENTS—

I TAKE the liberty of transmitting you these few lines, hoping to find you in as good health as I am at present. Give my love to brothers and sisters, and all inquiring friends. I have made great progress in my trade since I have heard from you, and hope, in a short time, to acquire a thorough knowledge of my busi-

ness. I have had very good health ever since I left my dear parents, and have no reason to complain of my master's conduct towards me, as I cannot with propriety do so; however, he sometimes hurries me a little beyond what I am able to perform, as masters usually do; and even then he seems to shew more lenity, than many others in his line of business. I keep respectable company, and even that but seldom, as I am naturally reserved and steady, neither given to drink, nor to any other vice that is peculiar to such a place as this city is. I will write another short letter, in a few months, and let you know how I get on—at the same time, wishing my dear parents health and prosperity in this life, and happiness in the next.

MOSES ROBINSON.



LETTER XL.

A Letter from an Apprentice to his Parents.

BALTIMORE, October 1, 1827.

DEAR PARENTS—

I HAVE got the opportunity of writing these few lines to you, hoping that you are in as

good health as I am at present. Give my love to all inquiring friends—to ———. Please to send an answer to this as soon as possible, and let me know how you are; as also, how all the family are, as I am impatient to hear from all of you. I have one of the best masters in this place, and, indeed, have no cause to complain of my mistress; they use me well, and I shew by my duty as an apprentice, that they benefit by my services to them, as there are very few young men in my business, can do as good work, or as much as I can. I expect to go to see all the family in a few weeks, and I need not say that it gives me great pleasure to see my dear parents and relations, as they are as dear to my heart, although now at a distance, as if I lived amongst them. I have nothing in particular to communicate at present, but remain your loving son,

JAMES DORSEY.

P. S. Send me an answer immediately.

LETTER XII.

From a Brother to a Sister.

BALTIMORE, July 21st, 1828.

DEAR NANCY—

I HAVE got the opportunity of writing these few lines to you, hoping that you are in as good health as I am at present. Give my love to all inquiring friends, and let them know that I am in good health and doing well,—thank God. I hope dear sister that you'll excuse my delay in not writing sooner, as you know that my affection for you as a brother has by no means abated, although at a distance from each other. Remember me in particular to ———, and be pleased to send me an answer to these few lines as quick as possible, and let me know how all my friends are, as also how you are doing, and all the particulars of your business. I have no more to add, but remain your loving brother,

JAMES AMIABLE.

LETTER XLII.

The Sister's Answer.

FREDERICKTOWN, July 30th, 1828.

DEAR BROTHER—

I RECEIVED your letter, dated July 21, which gives me great pleasure in hearing that you are well, and doing well; but I am surprised that you did not write before this time, as I felt very uneasy concerning you as you know how I respect you, as a sister ought to respect an honest, decent, well-respected brother, as am told you are.—Indeed, I am transported with joy at hearing the good name that is given you from all persons who have the pleasure of your acquaintance—but I hope you'll pardon my encomiums, as I cannot help expressing my sentiments as they flow from a pure heart. I live at present in — street, and I am happy to inform you that I am in good health, as I hope these few lines will find you in like manner. Please remember me to all inquiring friends, especially to ——. I have nothing to communicate at present, but remain your loving sister,

NANCY AMIABLE.

P. S. Direct your letter to the care of Mr. John Long, No. —, Fredericktown.

LETTER XLIII.

A Letter from a Young Milliner to her Parents, living at a distance.

BALTIMORE, July 24th, 1828.

DEAR PARENTS—

I HAVE taken the liberty of writing these few lines to you, hoping that they may find you in good health, as I am at present,—thank God. Give my love to all inquiring friends, and in particular to ———. Please to write me an answer as quick as possible, and let me know how all the family are; as also whether you have had any sickness in your neighbourhood. We have had a very healthy season in this place, and, indeed, every reason to hope a continuance. I make great progress in the millinery business, and were it not for fear of the crime of self-praise, I could tell a great deal concerning my ingenuity in that business. Suffice it to say, that very few know their business better in our line than I do, although some have been a great deal longer at the business than myself. I hope to be able to send you a specimen of my work in a few days—at the same time, believe me my dear parents to be affectionately yours,

ELIZABETH BRISCOE.

LETTER XLIV.

From a Young Man to his Sweetheart.

ANNAPOLIS, Nov. 30, 1828.

DEAR SUSAN—

PERHAPS you may accuse me of being dilatory about writing to you, but when I explain to you the cause, I hope you will not take it amiss. I have been here for some time without getting into business, which is the principal cause of my silence. I have only a day or two ago got employment, and indeed I think a very lucrative one, as I know by good economy I can save a handsome sum of money in a short time. The business I follow at present, is ———, which agrees with my constitution uncommonly well; but it is time now to inquire into the state of your health, as also how your parents and brothers and sisters are, and all inquiring friends. I wish you to write on receipt of these few lines, and let me know how you are, as there is nothing in this world gives me more pleasure than to hear of your welfare. I hope to be able to go to see you in a few weeks, as I am very uneasy concerning you. Believe me, my dear girl, to be affectionately yours,

JOHN KEIRLE.

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LETTER XLV.

*From a Young Man to his Parents, asking
their consent to his marriage.*

DEAR PARENTS—

It is with the greatest pleasure I send you this letter acquainting you of a friendship I have long formed with a young woman of the name of ———, daughter to ———, and indeed I need not be sorry for getting acquainted with a young woman whose modesty and industrious habits could not but command both your approbations, were you acquainted with her as well as I am, and in hopes I shall meet your approbation, I shall submit the following to your consideration. In the first place, she is a likely, healthy young girl, and I hope free from the many vices her sex are generally subject to, such as fondness of dress, company-keeping, &c. and secondly, she is fond of me even to excess, and nothing now remains but to have my dear parents give their consent to a union, which I trust will be pleasing to both parties, and cannot be more wished for than by your dutiful son,

P. S. Please to send an answer as soon as possible.

LETTER XLVI.

From a Young Lady to her Parents, acquainting them of a courtship with a Young Man.

MY DEAR PARENTS—

As it is you that have fostered and raised me with God's help, and I hope in a pious, chaste manner, I have the pleasure of informing you both of my constant wish to comply with these holy maxims, which you first inculcated into my mind and heart, wishing that these few Lines may find you in good health, as I am at present. Permit me, my dear parents, to inform you of an attachment I lately formed with a young man in our neighbourhood. His name is ———, son of Mr. ———. He seems to be a very prudent young man, and has every sign of being an affectionate husband. However, I cannot give him any countenance without first getting your consent, as I think it a duty incumbent on me to do so, and after a due examination into his character and parentage, I hope you may have a favourable opinion of his person and manners, and until he may form an acquaintance with you, and get your consent for my being married to him, I'll keep at a regular distance

from him, at the same time, wishing my dear
parents many happy days,

I remain your dutiful daughter,



LETTER XLVII.

*From a Young Wagoner to his Sweetheart in
the country.*

MY DEAR ELEANOR—

It is now a month since I had the pleasure of conversing with you, and since that time, I could not refrain from admiring your lovely features and amiable disposition. Indeed, it is no wonder that I should admire you, as I think that every person who would know your amiable disposition would do the same. I am fully persuaded at the same time, that you have the same love for me, as you cannot in reason refuse love for love, especially when you know me to be strictly decent, and always intend to be so. I would rather by a great deal to have it in my power to be speaking to you instead of sending you this letter, but the distance we are apart hinders us that pleasure. However I'll make all possible haste to get home, and then, and not till then,

will my mind be easy. Wishing you perfect health, I remain yours truly,



LETTER XLVIII.

From a Dutiful Son to his Father.

DEAR FATHER—

I TRANSMIT these few lines to you, hoping to find you in as good health as I am at present, thanks be to God. Please to give my love to all inquiring friends. I have been in good health ever since I left you, and indeed have no cause to complain in respect to how I am used, as the neighbourhood I live in is very agreeable. I hope to be able to give more satisfactory details of my business in my next letter, which I know it is the duty of every child to his parent, especially a loving tender parent as you always have been to me, and I should be very ungrateful, were I not to return my dutiful affection to the parent who watched over my infant days with such paternal care and affection. Write an answer to this letter dear father, and let me know every particular concerning the family,

and believe me to be sincerely and affectionately your dutiful son,

MICHAEL LUCKY.

P. S. Direct to —————.



LETTER XLIX.

A Letter from a Young Irishman, to his parents in Ireland.

BALTIMORE, September 20th, 1828.

DEAR PARENTS—

I TRANSMIT you these few lines according to my promise made to you when leaving you, that is to give you a full and particular account of America, and especially of Baltimore. I am very much satisfied with making my abode in Baltimore, as the inhabitants are generally very civil, and especially so to strangers. The men in this city are very smart, hardy, active people, and but very few big bellied men here, as you'll find in the old countries, as the richest men in this city are always usefully employed in mercantile business, and not sporting away the poor man's earning, as the rich men in Ireland are too apt to do. The women are very handsome in this city, and generally make very loving wives. The rail road just begun here, offers

great encouragement to both mechanics and labourers, and indeed there is every appearance of this city being foremost of any in the United States, on account of the great spirit and enterprise among the inhabitants. Another great blessing we can boast of in this country, is the free exercise of religion, a blessing which is denied to you in that devoted country, where the hand of tyranny sways the sceptre. I could say more, but confine myself until the next letter I write—at the same time, wishing you health and a long life, I remain your loving son,



LETTER L.

A Letter from a Man, to his Brother in Ireland, describing the character and manners of the American People.

BALTIMORE, September 10, 1828

DEAR BROTHER—

I TAKE this favourable opportunity of writing these few lines to you, hoping that you are in good health, as I am at present. Give my love to all inquiring friends. You are

tioned in your letter, to give you an impartial account of the American character and manners. The Americans are a generous, smart, hardy, active race of people—they are endowed with great genius for learning, and the mechanical arts in general—they are very jealous of their rights and liberties as citizens, and you cannot find any country on the globe that can be compared to the United States of North America, by reason of the wholesome and salutary laws that the people are governed by, and not like the despotic powers of Europe, where money buys commissions and not merit. In few countries can you find as able orators, heroes, or statesmen, as this, as there is a certain natural patriotic spirit a lisping even in the infants' mouths in this country. The people are generally very industrious here, as every person follows some active business for his livelihood. I could say a great deal more in praise of the American character and manners, but will defer to my next letter to you.

I remain your loving brother,

LETTER II.

From a Young Man to his Lover.

MISS JULIANA—

IT is with pleasure I communicate these few lines to you, hoping that you are in as good health as I am at present. Give my best respects to all your relations and friends, as any friend of yours seems dear to me by reason of the sincere love I have for you. I hope you will not think it flattery in me to say, that in my opinion, you are deserving of the greatest love and friendship that I could bestow towards you, as your modest, amiable, and discreet conduct, cannot but make any young man fall in love with you, who were as well acquainted with you as I am. However, I think that it is incumbent on me to express myself to you in the warmest manner that possibly can, knowing how much the encomiums I pass are from my heart, and indeed, if you were only convinced of my love towards you, as I feel myself inclined both in hand and heart, you could not for one moment hesitate to return a reciprocal love towards one who constantly have you at heart.

and hope ere long to enjoy that inestimable jewel in the holy bands of matrimony.

Yours, &c.



LETTER LII.

The Young Lady's Answer.

SIR—

IT is the misfortune of the present time, that young women unfortunately take too much notice of the feigned love and flattery of young men, who very often are guided on by false and immodest wishes, to delude the female sex, and after their unchaste desires are accomplished, to turn them prostitutes on the world, to be perhaps the scandal of their sex, and the eternal disgrace of their relations and acquaintance. That such instances have happened cannot be denied; and that you might be one of these characters I cannot say, but after a longer acquaintance perhaps I can form a better opinion of you; at the same time you'll please to excuse me for undeservingly mentioning things that perhaps you are averse to, but my thoughts I cannot conceal, especially when writing to a person that pretends so much love to me, as you

do, especially when I think I am not deserving of such praise—At all events, I must excuse your weakness and look with pity on your flattery, as at present I cannot give you any encouragement.

I remain, respectfully,



LETTER LIII.

From a Captain of a Bay Craft, to his Wife.

DEAR WIFE—

I AM very happy to let you know that we arrived safe in Baltimore, and had a pleasant passage of five days, during which time I enjoyed perfect health of mind and body, and hope that these few lines may find you in like manner. I have had a good passage up to Baltimore, and I am doing well, and expect in a few days to be able to set sail for home, which I need not say gives me great pleasure, as the amusements of a city is not to me equal to the pleasures of home. You will keep up your spirits, and do not be any way uneasy about me, as you know how I always conduct myself in sobriety and decency when away from home, and relying on your fidelity to

me, I cannot but feel as if I could do all that is in my power to comfort and protect such an amiable wife as you are—and believe me, my dear wife, to be for ever yours,

JOHN HARDY.



LETTER LIV.

From a Young Boatman, to his Sweetheart

BALTIMORE, Sept. 7th, 1828.

MISS SARAH—

IT is with the greatest of pleasure that I transmit this letter to you, hoping that you are in as perfect health as I am at present.— Give my best respects to all your relations and friends. I am in very good health, and doing well, and I hope to be able to go home in a week or two at farthest. Don't think it hard of me not to write to you before now, as the thoughts of beholding your lovely face, and the expectation of your dear company as soon as I reach home, makes my mind quite tranquil and easy. I have no pleasure here, since being deprived at present of your lovely company leaves me lonesome. However, when we meet, I hope it will be a happy one,

as you are dearer to me than all, being on this earth, and believe me my jewel, to be affectionately yours,

JOHN STEERWELL.



INDEX.

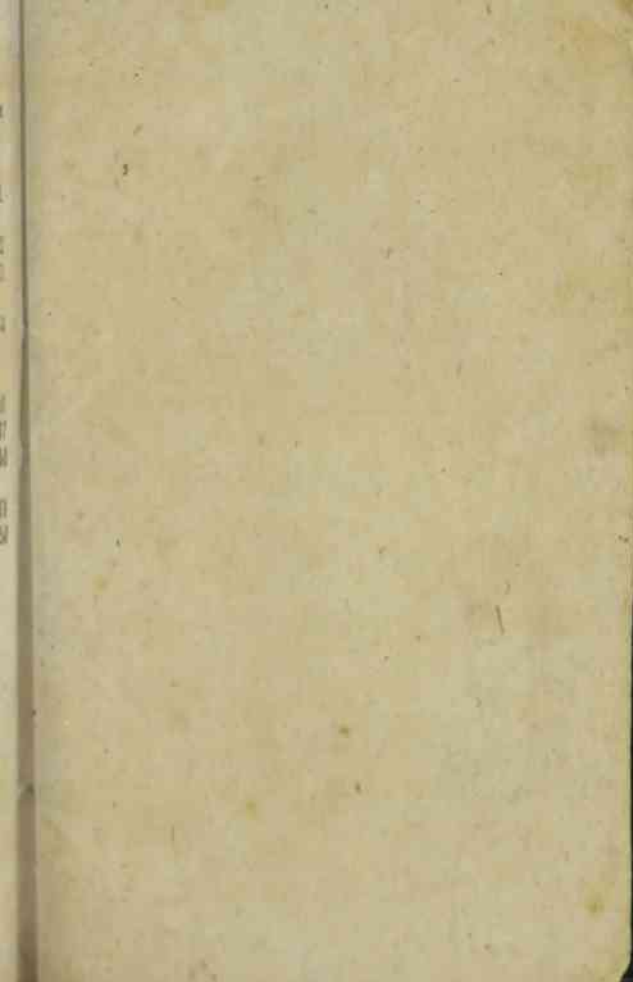
Page

Letter from a Young Man to a rich Young Lady - - - - -	3
The Lady's Answer - - - - -	4
An Introductory Letter from a Young Man to a Beautiful Young Lady with a large fortune - - - - -	5
The Rich Lady's Answer - - - - -	6
From a young Man to a very Young Lady	7
The Young Lady's Answer - - - - -	8
From a Young Man that follows the water, to a Beautiful Young Lady - - -	9
The Lady's Answer - - - - -	10
From a Young Man to a Beautiful Young Lady, with whom he is only slightly acquainted - - - - -	11
From one Brother to Another - - - - -	12
From a Young Gentleman to a Rich Merchant's daughter, with whom he was slightly acquainted - - - - -	13

	<i>Page</i>
From a Young Tradesman to a Beautiful Young Lady he had seen taking a walk - - - - -	14
Letter from a Beautiful Young Lady to a Handsome Young Man, whom she suspects to slight her - - - - -	15
From a Young Man to a Young Lady -	17
From a Widow Lady to a Widower -	-
The Widower's Answer - - - - -	-
Letter from a Young Lady to her Sweetheart, in Baltimore - - - - -	20
The Young Man's Answer - - - - -	21
From a Young Gentleman to an Old Widow with a large estate - - - - -	21
The Widow's Answer - - - - -	22
From a Young Lady to a Beautiful Young Man with a great fortune, with whom she is in love - - - - -	24
The Young Gentleman's Answer - - -	25
From a Young Man to a Young Lady, accusing her of inconstancy - - - - -	26
The Young Lady's Answer - - - - -	28
From a Young Lady to a Rich Young Gentleman - - - - -	29
From a Young Gentleman to a Rich Young Lady - - - - -	30
From a Young Lady to a Beautiful Young Gentleman - - - - -	31

From a Middle-aged Man to a Rich Widow - - - - -	32
Letter from a rich Young Gentleman to a Handsome Girl with no fortune - -	33
The Young Man's Letter to the Lady after getting her Father's consent for their marriage - - - - -	34
The Lady's Answer - - - - -	34
From a Young Man to his Sweetheart, whom he did not see for a long time -	35
Letter from a Young Man to a Beautiful Young Lady, whose parents would not consent to their courtship - - - -	36
Letter from a Son to his Parents - - -	37
From a Young Lady to a rich Widower -	38
Letter from a Wagoner to his Sweetheart - - - - -	39
From a Young Girl to her Lover - - -	41
From a Young Man to a very Rich Lady -	42
An Apprentice's Letter to his Parents -	43
Letter from an Apprentice to his Parents -	44
From a Brother to a Sister - - - - -	46
The Sister's Answer - - - - -	47
Letter from a Young Milliner to her Parents, living at a distance - - - -	48
From a Young Man to his Sweetheart -	49
From a Young Man to his Parents, asking their consent to his marriage - -	50

	<i>Page</i>
From a Young Lady to her Parents, acquainting them of a courtship with a Young Man - - - - -	51
From a Young Wagoner to his Sweetheart in the country - - - - -	52
From a Dutiful Son to his Father - - -	53
Letter from a Young Irishman to his Parents, in Ireland - - - - -	54
Letter from a Man to his Brother in Ireland, describing the character and manners of the American people - -	55
From a Young Man to his Lover - -	57
The Young Lady's Answer - - - -	58
From a Captain of a Bay craft to his wife - - - - -	59
From a Young Boatman to his Sweetheart	60



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