

I think my future success hardly problematical
 besides which Marriage will not at present
 add any thing to my domestic expenses
 why then sho^d it on this account be
 defer^d? I have not a superabundance
 of means but I have sufficient, and
 every prospect of an improving business
 and indeed on this ground I am convinced
 that Marriage w^o be materially
 advantageous to me, an ardent attachment,
 an anxiety to settle in life, a frequent
 recurrence to the time when it may be,
 and to the possibility of future reasons
 why it may not or cannot be, are all
 states of mind not congenial with a
 Man of business, I conclude therefore
 that in this respect Matrimony w^o much
 improve my Condition - Another and with
 me a very weighty reason is that I am
 fast approaching the meridian of Life,

either in or past, my 27th year, a few
more will remind me that, one half of
my life is gone, the other half is scarcely
sufficient for all the duties arising from
the married state. Besides, from my
station in life I am obliged to be a
Housekeeper, and for want of a domestic
Head, my attention is diverted to objects
with which I am but little acquainted
and Servants will peccate when there
is no Mistress. These my dear friend
are reasons of propriety and prudence which
joined to many other of a more pleasing
nature which I may well anticipate from
the Society of your Daughter, these it is
that make me earnestly desire to enter the
married state, to you I submit it in the
double capacity of my best friend and
Olivia's Father, whatever may be your
Judgment, I am convinced it will be prudent,
and am therefore prepared to submit to it.
My mind has been so long the subject of

But if not, I submit, — I wd. not however
pass over the advantages and increased
stimulus to the acquirement of perfection
which I must necessarily receive from ~~an~~
union with one in whom I believe you
have the fullest confidence — As it regards
my circumstances, it is true my condition
in life is in no way equal to Eliza's,
with most parents this wd. be inseparable
and a virtuous attachment, wd. be blasted
by the rude hands of avarice and Pride,
fortunately for me Eliza's parents are
Christians and equality with them tho'
agreeable is not absolutely necessary — equality
of circumstance I have not, and my
repute as respectable Man of business
has been somewhat injured by my late
arrangements with my creditors, but on
the other hand my expences are small
and my business much more promising than
ever it has been, relieved from the
embarrassments that lately oppressed me

C4 "Mr. Mott requests consent to marry Eliza"

Note: If it is Mr. Thompson's hand that endorses this letter in the manner above, it was handed to Eliza's father, not sent. I had a hard time putting this together in order and wondered if part had been left out. I am fairly confident this is how it should run, with the beginning and end on one page.

Dated 9 April 1816 from London

I My Uncle inquired when last in Town if I did not intend "settling in life" shortly. I told him my wishes bent that way but that in Marriage there were more parties than one. He did not object but hoped that when I did settle I sho'd be happy,

II but if not, I submit.--I wo'd not however pass over the advantages and increased stimulous to the acquirement of perfection which I must necessarily receive from union with one in whom I believe you have the fullest confidence-- As it regards my circumstances, it is true my condition in life is in no way equal to Eliza's. With most parents this wo'd be insuperable and a virtuous attachment wo'd be blasted by the rude hands of avarice and Pride. Fortunately for me Eliza's Parents are Christians and equality with them tho' agreeable is not absolutely necessary--equality of circumstance I have not, and my repute as a respectable Man of business has been somewhat injured by my late arrangements with my Creditors, but on the other hand my expences are small and my business much more promising than ever it has been, relieved from the embarrassments that lately oppressed me.

III I think my future success hardly problematical besides which Marriage will not at present add anything to my domestic expenses. Why sho'd it on this account be defer'd? I have not an overabundance of means but I have sufficient, and every prospect of an improving business and indeed on this ground I am convinced that Marriage wo'd be materially advantageous to me, an ardent attachment, an anxiety to settle in life, a frequent recurrence to the time when it may be, and the possibility of future reasons why it may not or cannot be, are all states of mind not congenial with a man of business. I conclude therefore that in this respect matrimony wo'd much improve my Condition--Another, and with me a very weighty reason, is that I am fast approaching the meridian of Life--either in or past my 27th Year, a few more will remind me that one half of my life is gone, the other half is scarcely sufficient for all the duties arising from the married state--Besides, from my station in life I am obliged to be a Housekeeper and from want of a domestic Head, my attention is diverted to objects with which I am but little acquainted and Servants will [take advantage ?-- /peculate sense] when there is no Mistress. These, my dear friend, are reasons of propriety and prudence which joined to many other(s) of a more pleasing nature which I may well anticipate from the Society of your Daughter,

IV

these it is that make me earnestly desire to enter the married State. ~~to~~ you I submit it in the double capacity of my best friend and Eliza's Father. Whatever may be your Judgement, I am convinced it will be prudent and am therefor prepared to submit to it. My mind has been so long the subject of...

Hopes and fears concerning it that it is become the first object of reflection involuntarily and the chief in every association, what I solicit is that sho'd wisdom allow you to favor my wishes you will as far as short (en?) the intermediate time for I hope that much if not all depends on your decision--

I remain my dear friend in doubtful anxiety
Yours most sincerely and respectfully

JMott