

Plaustown Sept 18 1816

My Dear &amp; Respected Young Friend

The highly important engagement you are now about to enter into demands and no doubt has received from you the most serious consideration. The exalted and noble principles you profess call upon you to exhibit to the world an example in the marriage state of all that is truly great and excellent. It has been my task for years to make you truly sensible of the value of those principles and though for a long period you did not appreciate my motives I flatter myself that you are now duly sensible of their value and that your future conduct will prove that my labor has not been in vain. My Daughter whom I am now about to give you for a wife is truly worthy of your regard her mind is formed to every principle of virtue she is of the same religion as yourself and belongs to the family of God as you do - her affection for you is sincere and undivided and the strength of her attachment has been proved inasmuch that amidst all your errors she always indulg'd the pleasing hope that with the divine Blessing upon my endeavors you would prove ultimately worthy of her regard - her affection for you is of the purest kind neither passion or Interest <sup>is founded on a nobler basis</sup> I persuaded myself are the motives of either your regard, but principle of duty alone is the basis of your union and here I cannot but admire & express my gratitude to God for his extraordinary favor towards me in answering my prayers that my children might marry only those who fear'd & reverenc'd him and lov'd our Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth - he has given to one of my daughters a man truly worthy of her & I do believe & hope that you will prove equally so - indeed her conduct toward us cannot

fast to remind us of days of old when the power of God was  
wisely exerted in behalf of those pious men who anxiously  
desir'd to guard their children from marrying with idolaters,  
when in a miraculous manner he directed them to the most  
proper objects & inclined their hearts to each other - when let  
me ask could you & William have found wives suitable to your  
principles but in my family or where would my daughters have  
found husbands but in the men who have selected them, and how  
extraordinary is the fact that were there was so little choice that  
it should be so directed that each one should feel attached to the  
person who had felt an equal regard to them it is evidently the finger  
of God and must afford to the reflecting mind the greatest cause  
of Gratitude it is of God! ~~Alas!~~ that great Being who governs the  
universe has condescended to interpose in the most gracious  
manner to direct the steps of such feeble worms as we are  
high & distinguished honor! is it possible we can ever forget  
it or be unmindful of such extraordinary & distinguished  
favor - beside being an excitement to gratitude and duty what  
confidence does it inspire that if you do your duty however  
unfavorable present appearances may be he will bless your  
ways & direct your steps - whenever Duty interposes in the  
concerns of his creature man it is to answer some wise  
& Benevolent purpose - Marriage & Religion have been  
brought into contempt - be it your task to bring them into  
repute & honor - I know your task is difficult William  
has been your precursor and the more excellent the pattern  
we have to follow the more arduous is the undertaking but  
at least to encourage us we have <sup>the benefit of</sup> their example be it your  
task by a virtuous and dignified emulation to study to equal  
if not to exceed the pattern that has been set you - in Elogia  
you will find a friend & companion who I am sure will  
support & second you in every virtuous endeavor - I have  
given into your hands my tender plant which I have reared  
& watch'd over with the greatest anxiety & sollicitude be it your  
task to cherish & bring to full bloom & maturity those principles and

virtues which are now only in the bud nursed in solitude and  
retirement she has had but few occasions of calling her perfections  
forth but I feel persuaded that she has in her all those genuine  
principles of piety & virtue that require only a more enlarged  
sphere of action to call them into <sup>exercise</sup> action to enable her to exhibit  
them in the fullest splendor - you will now become her head  
her guide her friend her husband let your conduct be always  
such as shall excite in her an increased regard & reverence  
the purity propriety and dignity of your conduct must be such  
as to inspire her mind with the most unbounded confidence  
in your judgement nothing weak trifling or impure must be  
allowed on your part to lessen her esteem - you will now feel  
that your views must not be limited to the present moment  
every thought & action must have a view to the future as a  
husband & most likely a father you will have to provide for  
the future wants of a family you must lay it down as a  
maxim to have no conversation till you can have it conven-  
iently the deprivation of the moment is of small import compar'd  
with future permanent good - you are constitutionally disposed  
of too little anxiety but I trust these considerations will excite  
in you as much as has is necessary and that you will always  
keep in mind the apostolic advice not slothful in business but  
fervent in spirit serving the Lord - your situation with your  
relations will be attended with some difficulty & require  
on your part the greatest wisdom it will be Elyardly  
to treat them with respect & kindness on your account  
and it will be equally yours to take care that she be treated  
by them with due respect you are bound to watch over  
their conduct towards her and to claim and demand  
from their hands that respect which belongs to your wife  
the best way to obtain this most effectually will be by your  
own economy & industry to make yourself independent of  
them but no favors they may have conferred or you may

favor for ever and pray go more and all the time comes may our love of him for ever  
I attend our love to God of the Religion of our country increase. I subscribe myself with pleasure  
Dear Father your sincere friend of him shortly to be your affectional Father & Brother

yet need from <sup>them</sup> should make you forget for a moment what  
is due to the woman of your choice beside which every mean  
complaisance instead of increasing naturally <sup>leaves</sup> the esteem which  
even worldly men would be disposed to give in considering  
yourself as the head of your wife you will find it your  
duty not only to claim respect to yourself from all  
who visit your house but you will be very desirous  
who you admit there and it will be your place at all  
times by your example & precept to be improving the  
mind of your wife to make her truly deserving the esteem  
of the wise and the good. let your house be a Temple  
of God & your family the true worshippers in that temple  
never let your conversation be puerile & trifling but  
always such as shall improve your minds in all that  
is truly virtuous & excellent and calculated to raise in  
your hearts those devout feelings and grateful recollections  
which while they are justly due to him who has so eminently  
Bless'd you both & eternally & temporally are calculated to promote  
& exalt your own felicity. let every thought word & action  
be regulated by the most earnest desire to the divine appro-  
bation & under a due sense of his immediate presence I have  
not enter'd largely into the duties of a Husband because I have  
so fully dilated on them in my letter to William & to which I refer  
you as worthy your attention and shall conclude this letter  
with offer up my prayers to that Grand Being who has so  
eminently Bless'd me who has preserved protected and led me  
all my life long that he will Bless you and my beloved Eliza  
and make you a blessing and example to all around you and  
make you truly happy - that he will favor you with a num-  
erous <sup>affluent</sup> and give you the means the disposition & opportunity of  
maintaining them comfortably & educating them properly that in  
your old age they may rise up and Bless you & may he preserve  
you from every trial but what is necessary for your good and such  
as are necessary may he enable you to bear with propriety & courage  
them all to terminate in your good & may when the final consummation  
of all things shall take place may we and all who have descended from us  
or been involv'd by us meet in the favor of the most high to enjoy his

A14 Samuel Thompson writes to Julius Mott from Plaistow (near Haselmere), September 18, 1816.

My Dear and and Respected Young Friend,  
The highly important engagement you are now about to enter into demands and no doubt has received from you the most serious consideration, the exalted and noble principles you propose call upon you to exhibit to the world an example in the Marriage state of all that is truly great and excellent--It has been my task for years to make you truly sensible of the value of those principles and though for a long period you did not appreciate my motives, I flatter myself that you are now duly sensible of their value and that your future conduct will prove that my labor has not been in vain--My Daughter, whom I am now about to give you for a wife is truly worthy of your regard. Her mind is formed to every principle of virtue. She is of the same religion as yourself and belongs to the family of God as you do. Her affection for you is sincere and undivided and the strength of her attachment has been proved in as much that amidst all your errors she has always indulged the pleasing hope that with the divine Blessing upon my endeavors you would prove ultimately worthy of her regard. Her affection for you is of the purest kind, neither passion nor interest I persuade myself are the motives of either. Your regard is founded on a noble basis. Principles of duty alone is the basis of your union and here I cannot but admire and express my gratitude to God for his extraordinary favor towards me in answering my prayers that my children might marry only those who feared and revered him and loved our Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth--He has given to one of my daughters a man truly worthy of her and I do believe and hope that you will prove equally so, indeed his conduct toward us cannot fail to remind us of days of old when the power of God was visably exerted on behalf of those pious men who anxiously desired to guard their children from marrying with idolaters. When in a miraculous manner he directed them to the most proper objects and inclined their hearts to each other. Where, let me ask you, could you and William

have found wives suitable to your principles but in my family, or where could my daughters have found husbands but in the men who have selected them, and how extraordinary is the fact that there was so little choice that it should be so directed that each one should feel attached to the person who felt an equal regard to them? It is evidently the finger of God and must afford to the reflecting mind the greatest cause of Gratitude. It is of God! That great Being who governs the universe has condescended to interfere in the most gracious manner to direct the steps of such feeble worms as we are. High and distinguished honor! Is it possible we can ever forget it or be unmindful of such extraordinary and distinguished favor. Beside being an excitement to gratitude and duty, what confidence does it inspire that if you do your duty however unfavorable present appearances may be he will Bless your ways and direct your steps. Whenever duty interferes in the concerns of his creature man it is to answer wise and Benevolent purpose. Marriage<sup>and</sup> Religion have been brought into contempt. Be it your task to bring them into repute and honor. I know your task is difficult. William has been your precursor, and the more excellent the pattern we have to follow the more arduous is the undertaking, but at least to encourage us we have the benefit of their example. Be it your task by a virtuous and dignified emulation to study to equal if not to exceed the pattern that has been set you. Eliza, you will find a friend and companion who I am sure will support and second you in every virtuous endeavor. I have given into your hands my tender plant which I have reared and watched over with the greatest anxiety and solicitude. Be it your task to cherish and bring to full bloom of Maturity those principles and virtues which are now only in the bud. Nursed in solitude and retirement she has had but few occasions of calling her perfections forth but I feel persuaded that she has in<sup>her</sup> all those genuine principles of piety and virtue that require only a more enlarged sphere of action to call themselves into expression, to enable her to exhibit them in the fullest splendor. You will now become her head, her guard, her friend, her husband. Let your conduct be always such as shall excite in her an increased regard and reverence. The purity, propriety, and dignity of your conduct must be such as to inspire her mind with the most unbounded confidence in your judgement. Nothing weak, trifling,

Al4 continued III

or impure must be allowed in your heart to lessen her esteem. You will now feel that your views must not be limited to the present moment. Every thought of action must have a view to the future as a husband and most likely a father you will have to provide for the future wants of a family. You must lay it down as a maxim to have no conveniency (?) until you can have it conveniently. The deprivation of the moment is of small import compared with future permanent good. You are constitutionally possessed of too little anxiety, but I trust these considerations will excite in you as much as is necessary and that you will always keep in mind the Apostolic advice, not slothful in Business but fervent and swift (?) serving the Lord. Your relation with your relatives will be attended with some difficulty and requires on your part the greatest wisdom. It will be Eliza's duty to treat them with respect and kindness on your account and it will be equally yours to take care that she be treated by them with due respect. You are bound to watch over their conduct towards her and to claim and demand from their hands that respect which belongs to your wife. The best way to obtain this most effectively will be by your own economy and industry to make yourself independent of them, but no favors they may have conferred or you may yet need from them should make you forget for a moment what is due to the woman of your choice beside which every mean compliance, instead of increasing naturally lessens the esteem which even worldly men would be disposed to give. In considering yourself as the head of your young wife you will find it your duty not only to claim respect for her from all who visit your house, but you will be very circumspect who you admit there and it will be your place at all times by your example and precept to be improving the mind of your wife to make her truly deserving the esteem of the wise and the good. Let your house be a Temple of God and your family the true worshippers in that temple. Never let your conversation be puerile or trifling, but always such as shall improve your minds in all that is truly virtuous and excellent and calculated to raise in your hearts those devout feelings and grateful recollections which, while they are firstly due to him who has so eminently Blessed you both, theoretically and temporally are calculated to promote and exalt your own felicity.

Let every thought, word, and action be regulated by the most earnest desire to the divine approbation under a due sense of his immediate presence. I have not entered largely into the duties of a Husband because I have so fully dilated on them in my letter to William and to which I refer you as worthy of your attention. And I shall conclude this letter with (the) offering up my prayers to that Blessed Being who has so eminently Blessed me, who has preserved, protected, and led me all my life long, that he will Bless you and my beloved Eliza and make you a blessing and example to all around you and make you truly happy. That he will favor you with numerous offspring and give you the means, the disposition, and opportunity of maintaining them comfortably and educating them properly. That in your old age they may rise up and Bless you. May he preserve you from every trial but what is necessary for your own good and such as are necessary may he enable you to bear with propriety and cause them all to terminate in your good. And when the final consumption of all things shall take place may we and all who have descended from us or been instructed by us meet in the favor of the most high to enjoy his favor for ever and part no more. And till that time comes may our love and esteem for each other and our love to God and the Religion of Jesus continually increase. I subscribe myself with pleasure, Dear Julius, your sincere friend and hope shortly to add, your affectionate Father, S. Thompson