

Walthampton, August 17th 1841

Dear Mother

This morning I admitted myself in my own
quiet room to reflect upon the very well important question
whether I will or not under present circumstances ever go
in as to your long ago made proposal. I loved upon the demise
some of your importunities, almost as choosing to turn life into
a distraction which will forever affect my happiness yet not have
time to come to any conclusion respecting it. My conscience in demand
for & my regards wish for your peace & happiness, requires that
you should be at ease free from suspension & doubt how too
wrong in delaying so long. Knowing my father's feelings, I have
been well but his decision to be made. That I made long ago
yes, with you I hoped there would be some way by which hard
facts might be satisfied. But now it has told its business & says
upon me. That perhaps you will wish her to be, then been and
into to me. That in this way. By leaving me to struggle
between duty to honor due to parents desires, & respect to kind
in regards for one who has offered me his "whole heart".

My father has made known to me (& you) his calculations &
future prospects & how he wishes, in this confidentially, thinking
they will prove to mine permanent cause. Still he is left to
free to choose & decide for myself. It is thus that hard facts
has told unkindly with me, & I am left with, how can I be kind?
Should to you I had some kind, & distant, it is fine, & it

whom to consider as the gentle spirit of my only sister
might be permitted to bid me what course to pursue
But as neither can be granted — it must always relate
to the matter of conscience. By so doing I cannot see as
them as any other course than that you'd simplest obedience to
his wishes trusting that it is all for the best. You may yet
— you think it might be a sacrifice & that it is not in me
to give you up so unhesitatingly & unrepentingly. As to me it
was a sacrifice. But I trust I hope you are sufficiently
opinionated with me to know how to judge —

As for my father, I hope you will not be uncharitable
as to him — you have heard him express himself freely &
sincerely. Therefore he is far from endeavouring to influence
— me. God must say that I cannot with a happy conscience
— sense of doing right to all, say that I will yield myself
— up. And I trust that I have told you so, I hope you will
not endeavour to dissuade me from what I consider duty.

Now allow me to give my kindest thanks for the favour
— which you have been pleased to give me. Although not
— thin, I shall not be entirely forgotten. I will yet be pleased
to accept my appearance although not permitted to follow
— your career through life. Yet should fortune place us near
each other I will watch — as you recede step by step, the
highest pinnacle of fame, for should I come to a bad death
— your restless spirit will —

Should it be convenient I would
like you come upon Saturday (or any other day) as I shall
have in my possession what is rightly your own, & which I would
like to return to their proper owner as it would be improper

under present circumstances, to return your letters or any
gifts which you have made me, being our happy intercourse.
My Christian will please accept this from me with my
warmest wishes for your happiness & success, & believe me
your sincere & devoted friend.

John W. Christian.

Henry.