

Decem<sup>r</sup> the 20<sup>th</sup> 1866

W<sup>m</sup> Hansbrough

Dear Sir

No doubt you  
think I have taxed your patience

in not having given an earlier reply  
to yours of the 3<sup>d</sup>, indeed I have been  
so constantly occupied I have had  
no time, except occasionally to send  
a few pencilled lines to Ophelia,  
I suppose she has relieved all anx-  
iety by informing you of my consent  
to your union; None can ever tell  
the pang it cost a mother to give up  
her only daughter, the most precious,  
most dear to her soul of all earthly treasures,  
may God grant his blessing, and holy spirit, that  
you may perform your vows to cherish and  
guard this treasure through life.

Very sincerely & respectfully yours  
M J Smith

Dear Sir  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above mentioned matter. I have the pleasure to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
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