1789 Dec.

SIDE ONE

I rec.d Y.r Letter of today by my Servant, informing me, "that an Engage-
"ment had taken place, between my Niece Mary Meaux & you
"& soliciting my approbation & permission to Execute it" –

From the manner in which you mention the means made use
to bring the Matter to the point you say this now at, by Ma-
use of the word "Clandestinely" It would appear you are of
Opinion they have been improper – I am clearly thereto so
likewise; And at the same time am led to beleive, that you,
in applying to my Niece in the Manner you mention & she, in
Engaging herself to you without my Knowledge, conceived, the
my Opinion in the Matter, was of little consequence – Under
this Impression, you Must excuse me, If I decline saying
more on the subject, than, If I had been made acquainted
with your Intentions at first and had had the proper & usual
communications made to me ~~on the subject~~ from which my
I could have formed an Opinion of the propriety of them,
whatever ~~it~~ that opinion might have been, I would then have candidly
expressed ~~them~~ it – As matters are now circumstanced, I
can only consider the Application as a Mere Matter of
Form, which I can by no Means submit to ~~being the~~
be made the object of –