

St Smith July 1. 1842.

My dear John

Do not think that I have either forgotten or intentionally neglected you by my not having written to you since you left the service, but I have been waiting in the hopes of being able to tell you of a favorable termination of an affair of the heart in which I became very innocently involved but which has not resulted as I hoped. It has occupied my whole attention for the last five or six months and I ~~deferred~~ ^{hesitated} to tell you until a decision ^{was} had in the case — The lady said "yes" with the consent of her parents, they said "no" as long as I was a Subaltern in the ^{Army} but that had I been established in any civil profession their decision would have been different, so instead of lovers we are now the best of friends and I am going on leave to try and get over some of my disappointment, for she for reasons which I must respect if I cannot coincide entirely in their justice, has determined to abide by their decision — You can most probably guess who is the individual I must not tell you now. — Am you love me breathe not a word of this to living soul — I will