

1228/59/29

CUS417/59.29

Falmouth

May 11th. 1832

My dear Sir

A letter from me so soon after seeing you will I know be unexpected but I want your advice and guidance in a very delicate subject which distresses me very much. I wish to do that which is right and will state all the circumstances of the case. What you consider I should do and by your decision I pledge my word and honour to follow. With this feeling I will proceed.

You are aware I dare say that since the first of my going to sea with you Caroline and myself used to be joked about each other. Then we were mere children but on my visiting Swansea five years after I became much attached to her, more so than I shall ever be again to any one. I spoke to her about it and she answered me "Why Featherstone, you are such a youth" or words to that effect said as I thought very carelessly. Soon after there was a picnic at Caswell Bay. You were there and I was anxious to pay my attention to Caroline, and she I thought was equally anxious to avoid me, from that I could not help thinking that my attention was disagreeable but I persevered for my affections were too deeply engaged to be easily put off yet up to the last day she appeared to shrink from me and a misunderstanding at parting when I put into her hands a note with such a great deal of excitement convinced me that I must give up all hope, what my feelings were I will not attempt to describe, and only hope never to experience the like again. After my return to Falmouth in a most wretched state I thought I would write but when I had half written a letter it seemed so useless that I destroyed it, determined to conquer my unhappy passion which after a miserable twelve months I did and became attached to a young lady here who I afterwards found to be engaged. This second disappointment gave me an aversion to anything like engagements and I resolved to steer clear of them and follow your example which since then I have done.

On my last visit to Swansea one of the first persons I saw was Mr. Russiker he asked "Are you going to renew the old love with ~~Lin~~?" So I saw my profession was as much as I could attend to. I thought nothing of it and never dreamed of Caroline thinking about it more than myself until the day I dined with you at Mount Pleasant, then I found that I had drawn a wrong conclusion after six years separation without so much a ~~su~~ffrage between us I surely am not to blame. I esteem Caroline very highly but do not love her. I am now engaged or attached to some one else. If you think I ought to consider myself engaged or if I have acted wrongly and can remedy it tell me and I will cheerfully do it. I told Caroline at parting I would write her but on reconsidering it I think it better to write to you. Had I an opportunity I should have spoken to Mrs. Powell about it. I shall not trouble to ^{leave} Falmouth again till I am ordered to join a ship. My Father's health is so delicate I had a miserable passage to Portwall of only five days on one of the dirtiest vessels I was on board of.

Anxiously expecting an answer believe me to be

Very affectionately yours
F. O.