

Greensboro'

July 14, '43

Honble W. M. Bourge

Dear Brother

Accept my thanks  
for your kind letter of yesterday's  
receipt.

I do rejoice to be able to say  
most unhesitatingly, that I have  
never for one moment felt that  
Millie was trifled with me, or  
intentionally violated her word.

Involuntarily released her from  
a promise, it would have been worse  
than madness, to have permitted her  
to fulfil, in view of the knowledge she  
acquired from your letter and it is  
no small aggravation of my unhappiness  
that I have had to be the executioner  
of my own hopes.

I have not the smallest doubt-

that all is for the best; but I fear it will be long - very long, before I shall be able to feel as I think.

I cannot bear that you should entertain any hard thoughts of Millie on my account. - poor thing, she deceived herself perhaps; but she never meant to deceive me - She had endured her heavy heart trouble for years in silence, and <sup>when</sup> I proposed to her, probably thought; it was of no use to waste her life in a vain hope and finally taught herself to regard me with interest sufficient to lead her to think she loved me.

Don't you think Judge's this secret attachment of hers has been the cause of the "inconsistencies and vagaries" to which you refer?

Please remember she never gave me the least encouragement until sometime after my proposal had been made to her and when she did do so, it was chiefly I suspect the result of the almost irresistible

impetuosity of my great passion.

It will always be matter of great satisfaction that she did not withhold from me her secret, difficult one, as it was to communicate.

I do sincerely hope she may be happy, though I may not be permitted to contribute thereto.

Her conduct to me in these trying circumstances, has been every thing I might have expected of her. - At my especial request our altered relations have not been told any one. - I could not bear that Mrs. Kelbourne should know it just now. - Millie will however tell her mother, immediately prior to her departure north when ever that may be.

Every thing appears to be going on as usual. - It is a real pleasure to look at Lodie, she presents a picture of perfect health and is very contented and good.

I am anticipating the excitement of the  
Camp meetings, as they, will be very useful  
to me and it is not improbable after  
Bro. Neal's return that I may get a trip  
West - I must make and this year  
as best I can, and then away to other  
scenes and friendships is possible.

You will not wonder any more well  
of my deep sympathy with you in your  
present condition and of my earnest  
hope that you may derive permanent  
benefit from the painful operation you  
have undergone.

Take kind regards and ever  
await to see you.

I have no parting  
words to say  
A.

It is a pleasure to say (with her love)  
that all is well and that she will write tomorrow.

Return to Judge A. W. COURSEY,

GREENSBORO, N. C.

if not delivered within 10 days.



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