

Hamburg So Ca

March 29th 1857

Doubtless dearest Kate! you will be surprised at the reception of a few hasty times from me this early, but fondly hoping that your surprise will not be disagreeable I [unclear] with no apology save that when necessity, that monster of tyrants unfeelingly severed me from you, you promised to respond promptly to my missives and consequently, the sooner I write, the sooner will I hear tidings from her who reigns sole heir to the dearest place in my affections

I arrived at this abominable place a few minutes since and concluded to write to you, so I requested a sheet of paper of mine host and you see the best he could furnish me but you must not look at the paper only think of the emotions that I prompt the writer.

The lapse of two brief days has interposed nearly an hundred long miles between me and the dear land of my nativity and sounds of my heart all of earth that I love is left behind and I reluctantly advance in obedience only to the spurs of interest and duty. My journey thus far, however, though tedious and wearisome has not been solitary for sweet memories of this gentle girl have been my contrast and inseparable companions, raptures anticipations of the happy day when you will be a lass no more and I no longer the favored lover but the fondly doting husband of Carolina's loveliest gem have soothed the pangs of absence and illuminate my once darksome path with rays of the brightest hue, but from the tenor of your conversation on that point that day is yet far, very far in the distant future, and, dear one, why so? do let me dissuade you from this, let me urge on you the countless evils of procrastination and its utter uselessness.

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Now Kate: sweet Kate you know you gave yourself to me and why not let me claim my previous treasure in a few short months I think the reason you gave a very insufficient one nor am I of opinion that you can give a better. Of course, you can take no step without the advice and consent of your honored parents and why not consult them now? I know they will interpose no obstacle to your happiness. Tell them that I, though not one of fickle same fortune's ferrites, am the amiable person of health and strength and am neither too indolent, too good or too proud to trim the midnight lamp or if need be to till the generous soil for the fair jewel I would have them surrender to me They can bring no charge against me but that I am not rich and that I know I can easily overcome, encouraged by your love. Oh! my own sweet Kate! you know not how highly I appreciate your love. I have never before known the bliss of true love requited. In boyhood's indiscreet days I fancied that I loved and was beguiled with the belief that it was returned by a vain and false-hearted woman, but I never had any confidence in her assurances and therefore could not feel for her that [unclear] that fond, that unrestrained and trusting affection that now thrills This bosom. My love for you, dearest! the only true love I ever knew is of a different nature. You dealt with one candidly and I feel that you are sincere, and this

heightens my admiration and esteem and augments my affection in a tenfold degrees the above is a candid confession but less candid than [unclear].

My promises to you were not easily made, they have been most sacredly observed and will continue to be as long as the lamp of life holds out to burn I will do anything, that will promote your happiness be it ever so difficult. Inspired with the hope of claiming you as my own dear partner for life I shall be as happy as possible considering my absence from the object dearest and nearest to my soul

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Dear Kate! I must close this hasty letter, I could write volumes but time and circumstances warn me that for the present I must conclude, do consider will the time of our union which I look forward to as the greenest, the happiest spot on the wayside of life. Tell me if you do not think it unnecessary to defer it so long, make up your own mind as to how soon you will resign yourself to my can and then we will jointly besiege your parents to obtain their consent.

I have a request make of you, loved one, whilst I hope you will not deny me, wont you send me a lock of your hair to wear next to my heart? I ask no pledge to make me blest for I am blest already in having a place in your affections, nor is any memorial necessary for a breast where thoughts are all your own, but it will be a source of gratification to me to have something that once was yours_

In eight more days of [unclear] journeying of my gallant stud continues to bear me proudly on I will be nearly five hundred miles from you and the letters I receive from you will be my only solace, so will you not write to me at Monticello, Middle Florida immediately on the reception of this that your response may greet my eyes by the time I arrive? Oh! it will be so pleasant. I know you will not deny me this request.

Farewell dearest jewel! May high heaven lavish its holiest blessing on you, May all the sweets of life be yours and until the wheel of time which never seems to move so tardily shall bring round the eagerly hoped for time when I shall again be blessed in your valued presence, may your path be strewn with roses without a single thorn.

I am, dear Kate! as time will prove your sincerely
devoted and unchangeable lover

Thomas F. Jones Jr.