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I never loved my sweet girl so tenderly as since she has been mine ; my heart acknowledges the obligation of her having trusted the future happiness or misery of her life in my hands. She is every hour more dear to me ; I value as I ought those thousand little attentions by which a new softness is every moment given to our affection.

I do not indeed feel the same tumultuous emotion at seeing her ; but I feel a sensation equally delightful : a joy more tranquil, but not less lively.

I will own to you, that I had strong prejudices against marriage, which nothing but love could have conquered ; the idea of an indissoluble union deterred me from thinking of a serious engagement : I attached myself to the most seducing, most attractive of women, without thinking the pleasure I found in seeing her of any consequence : I thought her lovely, but never suspected