

preference, and if a previous affection exists, do not suppose that your too indulgent parents will permit you to sacrifice yourself, when in the man of your parents choice, every admirable quality is united, Mr. D. has heard your character from your friends, and has the generosity to offer noble settlements, without any farther acquaintance with you"—He concluded by demanding her immediate return, enjoining her to be prepared to obey her parents.

My heart ached for the dear girl, for well I knew, what implicit obedience she had ever delighted to render to her parent's commands and that her father's slightest wish had ever been her law.—"Oh" said she, "I must appear to my dear parents as a wilful ungrateful girl or—perjure myself by giving my heart to this stranger, when my heart is irrevocably another's. Mine have ever been the kindest and most indulgent parents and yet I must thwart their wishes in a matter which so deeply interests them.

I tried to comfort her and suggested that should she inform her father of the circumstances which she had communicated to me, I was assured that he would not compel her to a step so repugnant to her feelings.

I have thought of that she replied but shall I not expose myself to the imputation of being a foolish, weak hearted girl—Think you that my father would give credence to hopes which he may think have no foundation except in vanity and unrequited affection? No he would ridicule his Ellen's self conceit unless his kind heart should induce him to pity her weakness I am determined what course to pursue. I shall endeavour to convince my parents that I cannot love this man however deserving he may be, and promise that I will never marry without their consent—then if they persist in extorting my compliance, I will obey, if there can be a "deserving" man who would care to possess a wife, whose heart can never be his—then although my fondest hopes will be blasted, I shall have the inward satisfaction, which a consciousness of having followed the dictates of duty, never fails to secure"—