

**" ONLY IN THE LORD ;"**

OR

SCRIPTURE MARRIAGE.

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MY VERY DEAR ----,

After the encouragement which your letter, received last night, gives, I lose not another day in writing. The reasons which have kept me hitherto from doing so are various ; but the reason which weighed heaviest with me was a fear of making you unhappy, without being of any use. But now you give me liberty to say what I think, and as I think much on it, I fear my letter will not be very short. It was truth you spoke when you said, I should not have encouraged it, had I known all the circumstances. I was indeed astonished at your reasoning, and much more at ----'s, but not the least astonished at the engagement of your affections, for this, I often told you, I expected ; but I am not going to laugh at you. No, dear ----, I feel most sincerely for you. It is the fashion to laugh and ridicule *love* ; but when disappointed, I do think it among the most painful of the Lord's dispensations to sinners, to be the means of crushing one who loves you ; for the happiness or misery of one dear to you to hang upon your yes or no, and have to pronounce no, and thus leave an impression of ingratitude and