

Maysville June 13th 1832

My dear Miss Prather

You will be surprised to receive a letter from me; and yet I cannot, in absence, refuse myself the delightful satisfaction of writing to you. I admire—I revere the modesty, the reserve, the delicacy which so greatly enhance all your other attractions; and for the world I would not violate them. Yet the short but exquisitely interesting interview which I had with you just previous to your departure from Lexington gives me some slight pretension to inquire into your future movements, and some apology for the vanity of mentioning my own. But if you deem it proper to impose silence upon me; much as I shall lament your decision I shall, nevertheless, keep it sacred and inviolate.

You are aware that I am carried to Washington by family duties. Nothing less than a most imperative duty could at this moment induce me to leave Kentucky. But it will not be a serious interruption to the connection which it was my good fortune so happily to commence. A tie, so delightful, may I say so binding cannot be severed by a temporary absence. I will not do you the injustice to suppose it. And such a conception, as it regards me, could not even enter my mind; much less could such a change come over