

To my Sister 20 Aug 1845

Here I leave a token by which ~~you~~  
you can recognize one that loves you - a  
testimonial of a brother's regard and esteem.  
The sweetest moments of my life will be in the  
retrospection and contemplation of the time  
we have spent together in the days of  
innocence and childhood: when our chief  
pleasure and amusement consisted in playing  
some harmless game or in rambling through  
the garden in quest of flowers. But think  
how rapid is the flight of time those halcyon  
days have <sup>past</sup> we have laid aside our former  
simplicity and artlessness and become more  
familiar with the scenes of the world.  
It will soon now be necessary for us to  
separate and ere long I shall be thrown  
upon the boisterous ocean and in my frail  
bark have to combat the stormy waves of this  
life: when I shall far far away will you  
cast a thought upon one who oft will think of  
you for on your weal or woe in life depends much  
of my future happiness or misery: Oh may you  
never feel the chilling blast of adversity nor meet  
with ~~anything~~ to mar your peace and repose of mind: but  
may the smile of contentment ever set upon  
your brow

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J. W. Russell