

563A/2H  
Admiralty - December 9. 1828.

My dear Father -

I hope you have safely received my letter by last night's post, and should not now have troubled my paper again so soon. but for the receipt of Sophie's letter this morning - which among other things mentions the arrival among you of Miss Bennett - You could not my dear Father have been ignorant of my feelings towards dear Miss Matilda during my too short stay at the Rectory, because I never took any pains studiously to conceal them - but I never said anything either to yourself or my dear Mother about it, because I wished previously to see "how the land lay" in the quarters of the Chief Man. I am sure you must have seen quite enough of the dear girl to be convinced she is capable of making any man happy through life, and with therefore not feel surprised when I tell you, that the same feelings and ideas took possession of myself. Dear Matilda was not unamiable to my affection for her, and promised me her hand, provided the consent of our parents could be obtained, at some future time when the state of my circumstances should enable me to claim it. As that time has now arrived, and my income will be at least 7000 a year, I have written to Mrs Bennett, with Matilda's consent, soliciting permission to have her away with me to the land of promise without any farther delay, and on hearing her decision, whether

a full sense of their parental kindness. — Being fully aware my dear Father, that your most anxious wishes have ever been for the welfare and happiness of your children, and that you will not disapprove of any measure unless actually convinced of its being injurious to our future prospects, I now fully rely upon your joining your unequalled consent, and my ever dear Mother joining her's also to it, to a measure which I look upon as so decidedly calculated to ensure my future happiness through life. Dearest Matilda possesses qualities of heart and mind which cannot render me otherwise than happy, if united to her, and she has been at the Rectory now a sufficient length of time to convince you she possesses them, and that my short acquaintance has not deceived me. — With respect to fortune, I am aware she has none, and have shewn my motives in wishing to be united to her, are not sordid or avaricious. — I have requested her dear Mamma to fit her out for the trip to Swan River — and as she has an income of about 700 a year, as Matilda tells me, I am in hopes she will reward my taking her daughter with less than any of the others had (£700 each) by remembering her at a future time. — At the time of dear Eleanor's going abroad, her outfit was so expensive that Matilda sacrificed her own prospects by contributing largely towards it — and made away with nearly half of the remainder to meet demands for her unfortunate brother Henry. — This has

favorable or otherwise, I intended making you acquainted with  
the whole course of the affair, from beginning to end — Mrs B. cannot  
have received my letter by the time George left the Island, and her answer  
may probably arrive while he yet stays with you — As George has  
written me a letter about a fortnight ago, giving his mother's consent to  
my union with Matilda at some future time, when my income was  
increased beyond its then standard of 200 a year; and leaving the matter  
entirely to the dear girl herself, with respect to inclination, &c. &c.,  
he will now very likely be able to explain fully to you his dear  
mother's sentiments on the subject, and will state that the smallness  
of my means was the sole serious objection they had to our marriage.

As these matters are such as our hearts alone ought to guide  
us in, when all other circumstances are favorable, and as my  
opinion of dear Matilda is such as convinces me she will prove  
an affectionate and invaluable treasure to any man who has the  
happiness of calling her his wife, I now implore the consent of  
my ever dear and valued parents to a marriage which will confer  
so much happiness on their son, who trusts he has ever proved himself  
dutiful and kind, and who ~~will~~ <sup>can</sup> never feel sufficiently unprepared with

So mutilated her portion - that it may be pronounced gone, and I  
am induced to be satisfied with her dear Mother getting her out handrowly.  
The Lie of Man is at so barbarous a distance from this - that 10 days is  
expended in receiving an answer to a letter - makes as also to my keeping  
here upon any time, in making the necessary arrangements and preparations  
in my department of the expedition to Swan River, that for me to go <sup>to</sup> the Lie?  
to see Mrs. B. appears next to impossible - and induces me to hope if Mrs.  
B. gives her consent to our marriage, that no serious objection will  
be raised towards bringing it to a final and happy conclusion - The  
time requisite for a preparation, is also very short - but it  
will not be necessary for Matilda to take out every thing now - and the  
remainder can be procured and sent out by another vessel - I am going  
out for so very uncertain a period, and my presence as Surgeon General  
in the colony will be so indispensable, that I quite despair of ever being  
able to return for the purpose of claiming her hand at any future period,  
and must feel myself bound to dissolve all engagements and promise on the  
part of Matilda, if she is not now made mine - for it would be cruel  
and extremely unjust and injurious to keep her so long engaged, which is little  
prospect excited of my being able to return to claim her - I might return,  
it is true, but permission to do so would not be granted without putting some

Admiralty - Dec. 12. 1828 -

My dear Father -

Such a state of torture and painful anxiety as I have been in for the last few days, on the subject of my last letter to you - is more than can be endured with patience - and will occasion my being seated on the Newbury coach tomorrow morning, to have your sentiments and those of my dear Mother, in person - By this time an answer must have arrived from the Isle of Man - and you must judge of my anxiety to be acquainted with its nature - I had hoped some one would have written me a few lines from you on this momentous question - but will defer any comments until I have the happiness of once more seeing you - until the question is decided I cannot

proceed in any way with my outfit - and time flies  
with its usual celerity when the mind is agitated  
and anxious. I would have been with you today  
but must wait out. Phil. hats. who arrived at  
Greenwich on Monday. May I beg you to give the  
enclosed to dear Matilda. I would wish much  
but so many interruptions prevent me - and oblige  
me to defer all further enquiries and remarks till we  
meet - which unless I am positively prevented, I am in hopes  
will be tomorrow evening -

Give my warmest love to dear Mother, Sophy, Matilda, Wm.  
Geo. Jr. - and ever believe me to remain. My dear Father

Your affectionate & dutiful Son

John. Roe

I have enquired about Dorchester and will give you  
particulars tomorrow. God bless you all



Rev. James Roe.

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one else in my situation - nor could it be done without incurring  
 a serious expense - Having now my dear Parents, state to you  
 in a very hasty manner, (for time presses so closely upon me that you  
 really must excuse my style) every thing connected with this most  
 important concern of my life - I must repeat my most earnest hope  
 that you will not be insensible to the wretchedness you will occasion by  
 refusing your consent to my union with dear Matilda, whose heart  
 beats so much in unison with own, and who possesses feelings and ideas  
 so closely agreeing with mine, that no doubt remains on the minds of us both  
 that we can be happy with each other - Our acquaintance did not commence  
 when I first saw the dear girl at Newbury, for I had long since heard of  
 her, both by letter, and by the very frequent conversations of dear Lou and  
 his valued Eleanor, as well as Pepie - The two last have given such proofs  
 of the affectionate wife and friend, that it would be strange indeed did Matilda  
 differ from them - and leaves me nothing to fear - my most anxious  
 look out now, is for a letter from Mrs. B. to say whether she will consent to  
 the terms on which I am desirous of taking Matilda from her - for unless she  
 consents to letting her out on this occasion, it is out of the question my looking  
 forward to being made a happy man in the possession of dear Matilda, as I  
 do not possess the means of doing it myself - and shall be closely put to it to  
 raise money for my own and our domestic outfit - As you value the

happier of a dutiful and affectionate son my dear Father, I conjure you to  
do all you can towards bringing about this match which I so earnestly desire,  
and which cannot fail in rendering happy two hearts which beat so warmly  
for each other - time passes so very quickly, there is no time for a single  
day's delay in coming to a determination, and George might bring his wife  
to town (with dear Sophy, if she would accompany them) and proceed with the  
work of outfitting, with wonderful celerity - You should long since have  
seen me at Newbury, but I have not possibly been able to get away - and  
Capt. S. has given me several things to do, in a most unconscientious way, in  
the face of my having told him how extremely desirous I was of going out of  
town -

I cannot now say more than that I earnestly implore you to  
be favorable to my wishes, and by forwarding them with your sanction,  
give additional cause, if possible, to that which I have ever had for  
counting you the kind indulgent parent, of my dear Father -

Your dutiful and most affectionate son  
John Stephens

P.S. Give my warmest affectionate love to my dear Mother, Sophy, Matilda,  
William &c -

Should you be happily favorable to this my dear and most anxious

with, my dear Father, and would by the earliest post, wish to see  
Mrs. Bennett. The sentiments of my dear Mother and yourself upon the  
subject, it would effectually disarm all her fears on that head, and reconcile  
her to parting with her Matilda. — You have not yet named  
one of your sons, my dear Father, and it would be conferring a  
very great additional happiness on me to have that ceremony performed  
by one for whom I have ever entertained the highest degree of love and  
affection — your influence might therefore be used with Mrs. B. to allow  
such a proceeding at Newbury — on account of the apparent impossibility of  
its being done at the Isle of Man — and of the prospect of its not being done  
at all if not now. — Even could I return at the end of a period of  
years, how much older we should all be! and how very much  
less desirable in every respect. — is the postponement of so much wished for  
a measure — I will once more express my reliance on your love  
and affection my dear Father — and on that of my dear Mother,  
for your full co-operation in assisting me to the first wish of my heart.  
God bless you all — By earliest post, let me know your sentiments, and  
you may rely upon my taking the earliest opportunity of being with you —  
My kindest regards to George —



Duke St. Jan. 6. Tuesday

My dear Father

You will say it has become quite a common  
 excuse with me, but really I have no time for you and have "only a few  
 minutes" to spare to write you a line, which I do with much pleasure, to say that  
 I shall hope to be with you some time on Wednesday night or following  
 morning, to claim my trunks and your official Lewis. I am as you  
 may suppose more than busy preparing every thing for embarkation, and  
 am happy to say the ship is not reported to leave Deptford now till Sunday -  
 every thing is ordered to be on board Friday - and I shall be obliged to be  
 at Deptford on that day to look after them, though I must employ an  
 agent to have every thing passed thro' the Customs &c. and save me  
 my considerable time & trouble, but not perhaps expense - I  
 have received a letter from Ann about my bedding - and now quite  
 give it up - she is most provokingly silent as to where she dropped it - and I  
 have written to the Bell in Luding St. where the waggons stop, but no answer  
 yet - I hope you are all quite well at the Rectory - and knowing  
 you will excuse me, must conclude with warmest affectionate love to  
 all - my dear Father,

Your most affectionate Son  
 J. S. Roe

I do not know whether Matilda expected a trunk to arrive in Finch Lane  
 with her dresses &c. from Liverpool - but it has not yet appeared - The boy we  
 despatched from thence is now in my room here - Tell dear Aunt Sophy, as her new sister  
 will be obliged to come to Town again for a few days, and need not start for Portsmouth

like the Pamela leaves Deptford, I shall fully rely upon her accompanying  
us to Town - if she can obtain permission. - God bless you all -  
My things arrived quite safe - but for fear of not being able  
to repair them, only one or 2 have been opened -  
Many thanks for letters, good wishes, &c. &c.