

Newark June 20th 1843

Dear Sir

I recived [sic] yours of 20th May some days since on a subject of more than ordinary moments- the relations of which are of a deeply interesting nature, and claims the grave consideration of the parties concerned. I have not be[e]n unaprized [sic] of the attachment to which you refer and the correspondence maintained between yourself and my Daughter Catherine, and which I should have considered improper ere this, had I not belived [sic] you sincere and honorable in your intentions and in which I have thus aquiesced [acquiesced.]

I have ever considered mutual attachments of this kind (where they are real of a Nature too sacred and important in the consequences to be 'reckles[s]ly' interfered with[]). The Parents are called on sometimes to give their assent under circumstances somewhat trying and peculiar, still in the present case I feel it a duty to submit to what ap[p]ears to be so ordered in a wise and overruling Providence- hoping [sic] it may be a mutual Blessing.

To see our children pleasantly settled in life, with fair prospects before them to live and be usefull [sic], I need not say is one of the highest gratifications of a parent, and altho[ugh] it is verry [sic] desirable to have our children settle near us, and what is now contemplated looks somewhat forbid[d]ing, I think there are considerations that would favour [sic] Catherine's settlement in your climate. Her health tho[ugh] general[l]y good we think is affected by our winters, which we attribute in part to her early residence at the South.

I have made no refference [sic] as you proposal to her Unkle [sic], feeling it not alltogether [sic] important. We esteem W. Conger one of the best of men altho[ugh] he has many peculiarities and his Judgment and ap[p]robation would in all family matters be desirable- yet it might be a question how far we should be influenced should not feel on the subject as others more intimately concerned.

We are entirely ignorant, wither he has had any intimation of the intended union- and cannot but hope, as it is in every way desirable, that the most Friendly feeling should mutually prevail for the happyness [sic] of all concerned.

Catherine informs me of your intention of introducing the subject to him previous to your leaving for the north thus affording an opportunity for a communication should he write, which I think verry proper. I merely add that you will find us plain Mukamuks [Muck-a-mucks- having experienced considerable of the upps [sic] and downs of life with a large family, but still trusting the same hand that hath sustained us hither to to [sic]- and

[The letter ends here]