

Fincham near Stoke Ferry

Feb 24 1823    Norf[olk]

Sir,

I have new before me: a letter received yesterday by my parishioner Mr Arthy from his son, an undergraduate of your College – written under no little alarm in consequence of a late interview with you. Perhaps the best way to introduce what I have to say, is to copy what he has said, upon the subject

“I am just come from Dr. French, who sent for me, and said he had an unpleasant communication to make. He has received a letter from the old woman, saying that she and all her family have always been highly respectable – that there existed the greatest intimacy between her family and ours – that till I knew her daughter, her virtue and honesty had always been irreproachable – that by the vilest acts, and a thousand promises, I had seduced her body and mind – and had brought **rain** **natural?** on them all – I wish you would go to Mr Forby and read this letter and ask him to have the kindness to write to Dr. French, and state what he knows etc

I will do the young man this kindness, because when I read Mrs Parish's extravagant assertions, I think I ought. I will take them in order.

The claim of respectability I will not discuss. I neither totally deny it, nor allow it to them all.

At the alledged great intimacy I am much

Staggered. It must have been very sudden and



interpose, and to threaten to bind her to the good behaviour, and to commit in default of sureties, which she had little chance of finding after such outrageous conduct.

I am afraid I have been very tedious – all I know not how I could have conveyed in fewer words, the full view I wish to give you.

The young man, I find, has told you that I am soon to be in Cambridge – and last that you expressed a wish to see me. It is true I expect

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to be there on Tuesd[ay] Mar[ch] 4 – but I shall come from Ely that morning to take the Telegraph – so that a call at Jesus Lodge will be impossible. I expect to be there again on Sat[urday] Mar[ch] 15 – but I shall have two young ladies in charge, whom I must immediately put into a post chaise and convey to Ely. It is not comprobable that I may be there again in Easterweek – and in that case I will wait upon you. In the mean time I am ready to answer any questions you may have to propose –

I am D[ear] Sir – Y[ou]r obed[ient] serv[an]t Robert Forby