

Portland June 2 1823

Dear friend,

I am now on my return from a town west of this where I have been engaged for a week past in important business. I have but a few minutes to stay in Portland and of course but a few minutes to let <sup>you</sup> know the result of it. This I should not have the immodesty to do, had I not talked with you on the subject some time since and as I suspect excited your curiosity a little about the issue, and I will not let you know now if you wont promise not to name it, till you hear it from some other quarter. This done I will tell you sub rosa that I am engaged to Miss Sarah Thornton, and what is more, I like her better than I ever liked one before, am perfectly suited. The best wish I can possibly make you in my estimation is that you may be as happy as I am. This I have not the least doubt is in your power. Burn this letter. The engagement is publicly known in Saco, so that you would

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not need this as a voucher, even if you should <sup>inadvertently</sup> let your  
tongue slip out the fact to some friend of mine, of which  
however you will be very careful. My hand trembles  
owing to my ride, I cant condense my ideas so as to  
give them any point or connection and I am in  
great haste, you will therefore excuse a bad  
letter and a short one. I hope you will have  
the goodness when you are in possession of a fact  
that would afford me as much happiness, and as  
your engagement to an amiable girl, that you love  
to let me know it forthwith. This I think I have a  
right to insist on.

Your friend sincerely

M. Emery

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