

As the mother of Virginia, My Dear Mr Trist and  
your very sincere friend, I entreat your silence upon the subject of  
your letter. You are both too young to be entangled by an engagement  
which will decide the happiness, or wretchedness of your lives. Obtain  
your freedom, with the thorough conviction, that no change of sentiment  
so pardonable, and even so probable at your age, can <sup>for a moment</sup> affect the  
the esteem and affection which we all cherish for you; certain that  
in those qualities, on which they are founded there never can be a  
change. Absence, and a better knowledge of the world, will make you  
more competent to judge whether your happiness would be promoted  
by the connection. if you should <sup>yet</sup> persist in that opinion, I promise  
you that there shall be no opposition from her friends. of her  
own sentiments now as then I am equally ignorant—

I believe my decision has been precisely what your Mother  
would approve, and certainly with regard to my self what it  
would have been in the case of one of my own sons. believe me  
with every sentiment of affection and esteem your very sincere friend

20<sup>th</sup> September 1810.