

so poor and low - so conscious of
each others littleness - consequently so
destitute of mutual respect. These things
incense me - but I shall cool down.

I am glad your mother ^{continues} better -
Good bye Brontë

Thursday.

One good thing can still be said of J.
T. it seems he was candid to Mr.
Bingose - he explained his circumstances
truthfully. The germs of all good are not
effluvia - but I feel as if henceforth
however he may seem on any occasion
to do and to be what is admirable - I
shall never venture to admire, because
I shall never know how far he is sincere

J. T. = J. Taylor

Bingose

1900

Feb 4 - 50

Dear Ellen

I return Amelia's letter. The busi-
ness is a most unpleasant one to be con-
cerned in - it seems to me now altogether
unworthy in its beginning, progress and proba-
ble ending. Amelia is the only pure
thing about it; she stands between her
coarse father and cold, unloving suitor
like innocence between a pair of world-
hardened knaves; the comparison seems
rather hard to be applied to J. T. but as
I see him now he merits it.

J. T. has no means of keeping a wife -
if he does not possess a virtue he is
useless, how can he think of marrying a
woman from whom he cannot expect

2800

she should work to keep herself?

J. F.'s want of candour, the twice falsified account he gave of the matter tells painfully and deeply against him - It shows a glimpse of his hidden motives such as I refrain from describing in words.

It gives a cast of strangely heartless calculation to the whole proceeding - a cast of which himself was conscious, but which - knowing how we should judge it - he carefully and jealously veiled from us. After all J. F. is perhaps only like the majority of men: certainly those men who lead a gay life in their youth and arrive at middle age with feelings blunted and passions exhausted can have but one aim in marriage - the selfish advancement of their interests;

And to think that such men can be as ~~wise~~ virtuous - as second selves - as men young, modest, sincere - pure in heart and life, with feelings all fresh and emotions all unweary, and bind such virtue and vitality to their own withered existence - such sincerity to their own hollowness - such disinterestedness to their own haggard avarice - to think this troubles the soul to its inmost depths. Nature and justice forbid the banners of such wedlock.

Burn this note the minute you have read it - it is written under excitement - Amehad's letter seems to have lifted so fraudulent a veil, and to show both Father and sister lurking behind in shadow so dark; acting from motives

BRONTË, CHARLOTTE (1816-1855).
Author. Haworth.

A.L.S. to Ellen Nussey. 7 Feb. 1850.
4p. (double sheet, octavo.)

Writing to her confidant, Miss Brontë castigates Joseph Taylor and Amelia Ringrose's father as a pair of jaded worldlings, but later in the letter she asks Ellen to burn her letter—"it is written under excitement." The galloping prose shows Charlotte Brontë in her most dictatorial feminist mood. A dishonest text of this letter appeared in Clement Shorter's The Brontes - Life and Letters (1908), II, 113, where it figures as Letter 41. Ellen Nussey, Amelia Ringrose, Mary Taylor, and Charlotte Brontë (whose real name was Prunty) were old school friends. This letter discusses the love affair between Amelia and Joseph Taylor, was Mary's brother, and evidently something of a Victorian blade.

Peal

Feb.7 - 50

Dear Ellen

I return Amelia's letter. The business is a most unpleasant one to be concerned in - it seems to me now altogether unworthy in its beginning, progress and probable ending. Amelia is the only pure thing about it; she stands between her coarse father and cold unloving suitor like innocence between a pair of world-hardened knaves; The comparison seems rather hard to be applied to J. T. but as I see him now he merits it.

If J.T. has no means of keeping a wife - if he does not possess a sixpence he is sure of, how can he think of marrying a woman from whom he cannot expect she should work to keep herself ?

J.T.'s want of candour, the twice falsified account he gave of the matter tells painfully and deeply against him - It shows a glimpse of his hidden motives such as I refrain from describing in words. It gives a cast of strangely heatless calculation to the whole proceeding - a cast of which himself was conscious, but which - knowing how we should judge it - be carefully and jealously veiled from us. After all J.T. is perhaps only like the majority of men: certainly those men who lead a gay life in their youth and arrive at middle age with feelings blunted and passions exhausted can have but one aim in marriage - the selfish advancement of their interest; and to think that such men take as ["wives" cancelled] wives - as second selves - women young, modest, sincere, pure in heart and life, with feelings all fresh and emotions all

BRONTË, CHARLOTTE

unworn, and bind such virtue and vitality to their own withered existence - such sincerity to their own hollowness - such disinterestedness to their own haggard avarice - to think this - troubles the soul to its inmost depths. Nature and Justice forbid the bans of such wedlock.

Burn this note the minute you have read it - it is written under excitement - Amelia's letter seems to have lifted so fraudulent a veil, and to show both Father and suitor lurking behind in shadow so dark; acting from motives so poor and low - so conscious of each others littleness - consequently so destitute of mutual respect. These things incense me - but I shall cool down. I am glad your mother ["is" cancelled] continues better - good bye

Thursday

C. Brontë

One good thing can still be said of J.T. it seems he was candid to M^r Ringrose - he explained his circumstances truthfully. The germs of all good are not extipated-but I feel as if henceforth however he may seem on any occasion to do and to be what is admirable - I shall never venture to admire, because I shall never know how far he is sincere.