

My dearest friend!

When I first read your offer, I exclaimed, why ^{am} I not independent from wealth and power, from the Society, from my own position! It is a grievous conflict between the two powers of human nature: reason and heart. In the spring of life the heart subdues the reason, not always without its indemnity.

and later, when we must
needs become more reasonable
we are not more happy!

Marriage is an engagement
for the whole life; therefore
it is convenient not to
encounter it with the con-
ditions of life measured only
for some years.

My heart has nothing to do
with such practical reasoning,
I assure You, it is painful to
me



to propose to You any thing
like calculation. But the
real life requires more than
the idealism can afford.

I hope You will not mistake
me. I think it is necessary
that my wife is doted with
such an annuity as our com-
munity will require and with
respect to the future seems
indispensable. But I repeat
and if the double of the 500 a year
annuity were granted to

you, that I wish such an ar-
rangement only for my wife's
own sake and never pretend to
have any participation with
any thing of her own.

Pray tell me now, whether
you find my pretensions un-
correct or exaggerated?

I should be very glad
to have your answer
before we meet tomorrow

God bless you
Lewis

7. 11. 70