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Letter from L J Fish to Mrs. Muir [Louie Stentzel Muir], 1878 Sep 6

L. J. Fish

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Sept 5th 1878.

Louisa.

I am impelled to write to you with the fond hope you will modify your previous unfavourable answer, and lend a more favourable ear to my suit. You are very dear to me, and my happiness depends upon you, do not let my future be clouded and dreary, and all those bright and beautiful visions of happiness, shared with you, be dissipated, and obliterated for ever, but make them real, and the world will wear new smiles for us and each day be brighter than the day before.

My highest ambition shall be, to be worthy of you, and to gain and forever keep your respect and love.

I have for you a true, a generous and a chivalric love, and your happiness shall be my happiness, and your sorrows, shall be my sorrows.

We will build us a pleasant home, which your taste and skill shall beautify, and which your beautiful presence, shall glorify, and to which we can always return from our ramblings and our pleasure tours, of which we will have many, with a joyous certainty of peace, quiet and happiness.

When you are my wife Louisa, I know you will be as loyal and devoted as ever was Cæsar's wife to Cæsar, nor was Cæsar more generous or more honourable than I will be to you.

This single half life we live, is unnatural, unsatisfying and ignoble, how unlike the full and perfect life of two souls united in one, with one purpose, one hope one effort, and a devotion that knows no self, and no happiness, or joy that is not mutual.

You have felt as I have Louisa, that gnawing at the heart, that perpetual yearning, for that

other self, that near and dear one,
nearer and dearer than all else on earth,
in whom we place the fullest trust,
and who is more to us than self.

That one to whom we appeal in
hours of gloom or trouble, for sympathy,
or consolation, or counsel, with the
most perfect faith and confidence,

The one with whom we share all
those little or great confidences, which
is such a relief or such a delight,

I would not trammel or fetter you
Lauria, by the use of unwelcome power,
you should be as free as a bird,
for I have perfect faith in your just
sense of right and duty.

Do not deny me Lauria, but let
me that I may come to you and
hear from your dear lips that little
affirmative word, that will make
me the happiest of men, and you
the happiest, and noblest of woman

Truly Yours
L I Fish