



Letter to Francis Sessions of Columbus, Ohio

from Mary Johnson of Worthington, Ohio, 5/10/ 1847 (?)

Subject: Mary is very happy about events that transpired on the previous Saturday evening which seem to indicate that she and Francis are engaged—she hopes she will be worthy of him—and he relates news and gossip

[Handwritten, script]

Worthington May 10th [1847]

Monsier [*sic*] F.C.

I trust you will pardon my hesitancy as to an appellation by which to address you—several have passed through my mind (the blank I have for you to fill as best suits your fancy) but the one chosen strikes me as being as good as any. What think you? I do not flatter myself this epistle will in the least entertain or in any way prove profitable to you. But this much I do flatter myself if [it] will demonstrate that you may possibly be mistaken in small matters at least—if not in those of greater importance. You know it has been said of me, I was “very cautious” & even “non-committed”—although I think I lost all claims not long ago—perhaps Saturday evening last I may now again prove that neither of these terms are applicable to me however this privilege I will guarantee unto you—you shall yourself be the judge.

Last Saturday evening, when you left me, I was happy—very happy--& tho’ you were leaving for a long time (four weeks) yet the happy consciousness I possessed bade me bid you adieu with a light & happy heart—I do think that evening was the happiest [*sic*] of my life. A quiet, subdued happiness like the gentle soothing of the mild evening

zephyr [*sic*] upon our rapture In one particular our constitution is different you remarked your mind did not tend to a love of the marvelous. While I am inclined to think mine does. At least I am sufficiently credulous to think this calmness & gentleness of my feelings upon being left alone [???] evening was indicative of portensions [*sic*] of good. possibly preface of my future life! At least it is delicious thoughts & although it may appear absurd, yet I will not cast it aside. No either let it churn awhile, it will be sweet bliss while it continues—for who can guess the future—It may be bright & sunny as the imagination can picture & again it may be dark & G [gloomy?], how drear! Who can tell! Yes I must confess my

anticipations are bright very bright & if you would charge yourself with being too “sanguine & premature” what or how will you assign me? Be charitable I beg of you!

And then again I have a great many things I would like this moment—were it practicable [*sic*—to say to you topics I had intended mentioning at our last interview. But know you—when I am in your presence, my faculties of articulating are not as free to my control as I would wish. I trust now that I have committed myself this far—you will no more lack confidence in me while on my part it shall be my constant endeavor to make myself worthy of an unbounded confidence. I feel a consciousness of my desires being pure, so and wholly devoid of selfishness & desirous to be good as the means by which I may add to the happiness of another. But why may you wish my good resolves which sometimes are no sooner made than broken??

Who have we here. Ah,—Dr Cramer and Miss Shields have just drove to the door, so good bye—for a moment. M

May 11th

Good Morning, F.C.

You will doubtless conclude my moment has been a long one (from 3 o’clock P.M. to 9 A.M.) My friends Dr. & S remained for tea & then a drive consumed the afternoon The evening was with Ms T Abbott, who by the way had the pleasing news to communicate of my contemplating a house in Columbus. farther particulars I could not gain. Let them talk. G! the delights of giving them a little bit when they learn that Miss Johnson is not going to marry either Mr. Hasford or Mr Curtis or any other Mr Madame gossip has reported. if surprised one of these days??? It would [not] do any good to have a talk with Mr Gilbert who (perhaps you are unawares) has taken a great interest in my behalf. Just let me show to him and all other matchmakers—I can chose for myself & make a good choice too

Enough of this! I am going to Newark tomorrow to spend a few days only with the good [Dr??] He was desirous to go today. but I could not go today where upon he most graciously deferred until tomorrow. What a pity I did not say next week. I fear I shall wish [him??] in [the] middle of next week before I get home again. I almost [engaging ??] to go at all, but he took me at my word which I little expected—but I am agoing—Besides I will have the pleasure of seeing “Dear Laura” delightful of course.

Note: This letter appears to be a draft of a letter and so may not be the final version as sent to Francis. The writing is very faint and difficult to read in spots, hence the “? “.