



Letter to Mary (My Dear Friend) of Worthington, Ohio  
from Miss Demaris R. Solomon of Lockbourn, Ohio,  
6/1846

Subject: Belated reply to Mary's letter, Demaris has not forgotten her  
and is hoping she will visit soon as examinations will be taking place

[Handwritten, script; back of letter appears to have been used for a draft letter from Mary to a suitor]

My dear friend,

It has been so long since I have seen or heard from you that I know not how to address you

I presume you may think I had better offer some apology [*sic*] for so long keeping silent you have written to me to be sure, but to my shame I have neglected answering. I have no excuse to offer. I am exceedingly [*sic*] fond of perusing a letter from a friend, although I am not so fond of confining myself long enough to write, but as I have an opportunity to send by Laura, I thought I would let you know that you are not forgotten

[*sic*] in the least—if thought neglected. As to the news of the Burgh, I do not know as there is anything worth relating and in fact I should [not] know where to begin—consequently I forbear. Laura tells me you are expecting to visit here soon, which I was very glad to hear as I should be pleased to see you. I think I would find it full as pleasant to visit here in about a week from now as any time as the examination comes off. I would perhaps renew old times to attend an examination within those-by you-much honored and beloved walls

Miss Demaris R. Solomon

Lockbourn

[On reverse side of letter]

Beginning of 2-3 letters; writing over top of other writing

Subject: Appears to be a draft of a letter from Mary Johnson to James, probably James Moreland, answering his proposal at her father's urging. It is unclear whether she accepted or not, but other letters indicate that she was at one time engaged to James Moreland (she addresses him as "My Beloved.")

[Beginning of letter in ink]

Worthington June

Dear James,

I was delighted to hear from you

[Draft of letter in pencil]

My Beloved

You know not that feeling with which I seat myself to write to reply to your letter.

My father has just left [my] room. [He] reproved me he disapproves of my having so long neglected writing [to] you & bid me to seat myself immediately to write to you, to either accept you or discard it was as you supposed I wished to ....which would amount to cruelty, my beloved nevertheless it is so & you might justly consider me unmindful of your peace & happiness by so long delaying to answer

I received your epistle some 2 weeks ago, little did I then think that so long a time would pass before I should answer it. Neither did I think I should have waited to hear from you before writing—but I presume time passes more swiftly with me—my being gone so long I was a long time getting settled down &[sic] at home & and our girl being gone brought more upon me to do about the house—therefore I know you will pardon my delay when I tell you it did not arise from neglect for such was not the case, I often think of you & and

the kindness shown me by yourself & family which I must say increased my regard for you I would be ungrateful if otherwise. But I always entertained a high regard for you & trust ever shall, your conduct will have to be very much changed to produce a change in me I think I may safely say none within or no gentleman of my acquaintance have my sincere good wishes or for whom I have more tender regards than yourself. & if I should wound your feelings it will [be] a source of pain. but I hope you will receive all I may say kindly as I would tenderly assure you kindness & and all kindred feelings of my nature aroused—

You remarked that your presence would not prevent my visiting NY if so that difficulty could be removed—I am sorry you indulge in such thoughts—The cause of my making such a reply was only owing to your saying that you did not know as you would visit me again—as promised it might not be proper, thinking it might cause remarks, & you know I would not wish to visit where I was not visited. I fear \_\_\_\_\_ caused your self unnecessary unhappiness as my reply was activated by the remark of yours which could have caused a singular reply from you under like circumstances—I am far from wishing you to absent yourself if ever I should [visit] N???—no! but an even desirous ??? you should be there—your journey to W—we will say nothing about it was alike painful to you and me I certainly suffered more in a short time then for a long time the nature of which you are acquainted with & I do sincerely wish they might be buried in oblivion—

But memory & association perform their office most faithfully so much so that I fear forgetfulness will never over come the....[No continuation of this letter]

[On other side of the paper another fragment of a letter]

But I am thankful I have made the escape & trust I may here after be more guarded—which hope I think I may safely indulge as I have but little inclination to lay myself liable again. I will not say I never will change my situatioin as that is improbable for me to decide circumstances may be such as to make it wrong for me to be too decided—my parents may be very desirous for a consummation Which would much effect their happiness & thus bring me to change my present decision