



Letter to James Moreland of Henderson, Ky. No. 5 from  
Mary Johnson of Quiet Home, Worthington, Ohio,  
2/28/1845

Subject -- Reflections on brother William's death, invitation to visit  
Worthington

[Handwritten note, script]

Feb 28th, 1845

Mr. Moreland,

Several weeks ago I received a letter from you, bearing date Dec 25th 44. To this for sundry reasons, I did not reply. Owing chiefly, however, to my being from home at the time of its reception. I was visiting Columbus and in the constant round of folly and dissipation, I neglected, but did not forget. Upon my return home I determined to await the result.

Nearly two weeks have elapsed since the reception of a third epistle, wherein is portrayed your disappointment in not receiving a reply to a former communication. [It] also contains so gentle a reproof, and so open an avowal of the course that should be pursued in the commence of the affections, that I cannot but regret my past delinquency and will endeavor to repair the wrong by replying immediately to any future communications.

The death of your sister must indeed have been a terrible blow. Death is horrible come as it may, whether stares us in the face, or places his iron grasp upon friends & relatives. I can readily conceive the anguish that pervaded your soul, upon the sorrowful intelligence of her death, as I have passed through the severe trial of bidding a sad adieu to a dear, and only brother. One who [had] been my counsel & my guide & around whom my very heart strings clung. As the last sad adieu trembled upon the lips what anguish wrung the heart. The thought that pure spirit had fled, those councils never more be heard, those arms ever open to receive me now closed in the cold embrace of death. All the past & present, rushed upon my mind with lightning speed, and my then frail nature barely withstood the shock of a first and only grief. But we must remember that it was God, who gave our friends and that it is he who has taken them to himself "Shall the thing formed, say to its maker, why hast thou done



so"? No - let us submit to his will, and when it shall be his pleasure to call home, we may bid adieu to earth, & join that heavenly choir above.

My parents are willing, and even desirous, you should visit here, as an acquaintance with you is particularly wished for if we are to continue our correspondence. Father expects to be absent during the first weeks of April & if convenient we would like to know at or about what period to expect you -- as he would wish to be at home.

Yours Truly

Mary

James M. Moreland