

Worthington Dec. 9th 1844

Dear Mr. [unclear]

Your letter of Dec. 1st, has opened before me
 the same feelings of regard, which your life expresses
 in our last interview to be remembered in yours. Feelings which
 I had not the smallest distant idea of having excited within
 your breast, & the disclosing of which, I must confess was truly
 gratifying to my vanity, but not so much so I hope, as to
 prevent me from pursuing a course, which will not only
 prove to be proper & agreeable to my feelings, but in accord-
 ance with your expectations. I felt it my duty before
 answering your letter, to acquaint my parents with the
 circumstances, in order that I might not take any un-
 guarded step, or such as would prove contrary to their
 wishes. I therefore gave your letter to my Mother, together
 with an account of our acquaintance, & a brief sketch of our
 last interview. At first she considered this very indiscreet
 in receiving your address so unceremoniously, & in permit-
 ting you to address me, by letter, upon so short & imperfect
 an acquaintance, as we could know nothing of each other's views,
 feelings & secret impulses of the heart. She did not even know
 a word, except herself so plainly, but trusts that in my course
 proceeding with you, I am dealing with a gentleman.

which on the fullness of my heart I assure thee is the case.

But I do most certainly fear you are doomed to disappointment. I fear that those qualities which have gained for you your regards, are but the intensions of fancied virtues which prove too often the full delusion of our brightest hopes.

As it is however we are alike situated & I much regret the distance which separates us is so great. But this is all for the present we must content ourselves with such an acquaintance as can be formed by the means thus begun.

Now this I suppose you are pleasantly situated in your new home, engaged in pursuits such as a virtuous & laudable ambition may dictate. To this I give my hearty concurrence. Would thought of mine add one unit to your happiness, they are as freely given as they best wishes.

This much I return in reply to your flattering epistle, & wishing it as you may, whether as a consolation or a reward - I hope it may prove congenial to your feelings, & be accepted from

Your friend

Mary

P.S. I had nearly forgotten to mention any thing concerning the re-organization ball, which is to come off tomorrow evening. I anticipate it will be a splendid affair, as it is to be directed principally by the principal officers (or ships) of the state, as they are very tenderly bound by their brethren of the opposite party. Some 12 couples are expected to be in attendance from your own goodly City C. I do anticipate a very blissful time, and shall join the dance with Mr Bliss for a partner. We

M. B.