



Letter to Mary D. Johnson of Worthington, Ohio  
from D.M. [Damaris] Solomon of Werts Grove,  
Lockbourne, Ohio, 2/2/1842

Subject: Classmate at Worthington Female Seminary, describes  
Lockbourne, discusses possible suitors, criticizes Methodists

[Handwritten note, script]

Lockbourne, Feb. 2, 1842

Honorable Friend

I received your letter with feelings past my powers of description, the perusal of which gave me inexpressable [*sic*] delight. I have read it over and over again and have now set myself to the agreeable task of composing: but my power of composition appears to be entirely dormant this morning, it is almost impossible for me to transfer a single idea, and when I do succeed they are as weak as my ink is pale, but I presume you are ready to overlook a natural weakness. But enough in this strain.

I am spending the winter in perfect care, and may say indolence. I am now visiting at my cousins Dr. B.F. Gard, one mile south of Lockbourne, a beautiful place for a romantic mind. I must give you a description of my view at this moment. I am seated at a window that looks out upon a wide extended plain over which the wind is gently sweeping. The trees at a distance appear to be covered by a blue mist and sky appears like a silver canopy, spreading over the vast universe. In short every object of nature are with silent eloquence speaking the praise of him who created all these beauties.

I have been putting black lead into the ink, I really believe it looks a little better: but to my subject.

I was much pleased with the description of the distinguished gentleman, if Miss L.A. Weaver has been the first attraction, M.D. Johnson may prove a more powerful attraction the centripetal may overcome the centrifugal force and the gay and beautiful planet fly up street in a straight line: and quail at the feet of a bright luminary. Please to inform me if the laws of gravitation are likely to be thus overcome.

You speak of the school with words that burn. Oh: that I could be with you as I once was, assist you in penetrating equasions [*sic*] and radical quantities (For the algebra class was always my favorite)

dive into the hidden mysteries of the intellect and float upon Karnes elements But the pleasure is denied me and I yield a hope that it is all of the best. Your parson too attracts my attention. Should I ever visit Worthington, I shall endeavor [*sic*] to attend his church, for my views are certainly in favor of that denomination. While a member of the seminary I did not dare to suffer such an expression to pass my lips; but I am free now, and shall speak in the same manner. The Methodist church of Worthington is certainly the most selfish church of the kind, I ever attended, their views are so contracted that they will not permit their minds to expand enough to admit a favorable opinion of any other church.

I have been reviewing some of my studies this winter & at present I am reading the life of Bonaparte. What are your studies and whom of my acquaintances are your classmates?

I may visit Worthington this winter, but if I do it is only to say "How do you" and "Good-bye." Oh: I had like to forgot Mr. Crayton has gone to Iowa. Good luck to him and the \$200,000. Give my most sincere love to any who inquire after me; but I guess as how! you wont be troubled very often with the inquiry, if there should be such an individual inform me with all possible speed. My kindest regards to A. Peck, and tell her I should be terribly tickled to receive an epistle from her. If your ladyship see fit to favor me with a letter, be kind enough to direct it to Werts Grove, O. Do write soon for it is certainly a relief to read a letter from an old school mate, and you are the only one among the numerous loved ones in your city, with whom I am holding a correspondence at this time. I hope it is agreeable to you.

Well really I have stretched out quite a harange! [*sic*] much longer than I expected to when I commenced: but I must close. Write without fail

Dis votre ami

D.M. Solomon

Werts Grove, D.M. Solomon to M.D. Johnson