

St. Augustine March 21st 1852

It has been a long time since these words have been
have been proved by my words though contrary to some wishes
that I have ever been free to write to you as my wife & children
my parents have never forbidden me writing you - that they
have advised - they know I was under a decided influence & do
not wish me to consider well before writing. - I feel the influence of
whitman's notions that will prompt me to act contrary to your
wishes & desires.

Last Fall I intended to write you - state to
you how matters stood, & prepare to drop the matter entirely -
to let you see letters - may or your pardon & concern & if possible
let the post be forgotten. I was fixed in the determination to
delayed writing until finally abandoned the idea. The friends
of your letters around my present thoughts & aspirations to
they returned to their old writing place.

But a change has come in the
spirit of my dreams - to change myself by your own hands.
The mission accompanying my Mission was a dire one -
I think you know that such a work requires a man of
my parents - to prove one who once was the idol of my affections
would be about a poor uneducated if asked would you have
thoughts heard & feelings of the Negroes - the only child were
constituted, but I feel I must be under the agonizing care
upon them in the spirit of the Lord - then considering the course

But the dust is down the affair is settled & now I have the
desire of you to return all of mine you have in your possession
I am sure you can not hold the book in ~~the~~ hands of affection - I am
again can I feel the heavy consciousness of hands & affection's titles
God's dear blessing is learned one that can never forget to
think & I am sure will rely upon those who are at the same time
interested & disinterested - at least who would rejoice in my
happiness instead of mine. I trust conscience may be my guide
I will ever believe to be satisfied.

Your letters to Father are in
waiting for your directions - I desire mine to be returned to
me by mail - immediately -

Nothing my mother will be employed with
her success desire for your happiness & respect for mine

I remain
Your affectionate friend
Mary Johnson

At the ...