

Memorandum the 24th 1846

I write for reasons which you  
in the pursuit of this inquiry discern. I would first  
say that I should prize even this if I were  
sure it would reach you, tho' I hope you will  
give me credit for not desiring to influence your  
mind in any opinion you may now or with time  
come to. In compliance with my notes & your  
permission I mentioned the opportunity a few  
days since had & called & saw you, tho' I went  
without making an unavailing mistake which I  
perceive you were in a few moments afterwards  
informed of. I think that lady may be I would  
suppose her to be the same not to be taken for somebody  
else; to be careful not to have heard & look at  
me as if she herself was acquainted. Circumstances  
prevented me from conversing with you personally  
on a subject which I had not the courage to  
mention in the presence of others. I enclosed back  
my letter accompanied by a note from your self.  
It permitted me to call; whether for some civility  
to me or I shall not pretend to determine. You  
also returned my note which was in accordance  
with my desire providing any thing related which  
would prevent an acquaintance the nature of which  
I then mentioned.

I presume you understood me <sup>very</sup> & I presumed the  
returning of the note was but simply a reply to  
that portion of my communication. You also remarked  
in yours that when circumstances were favorable  
Ladies might be enabled to make a decision. That  
in this case you considered them rather against  
& therefore say you will make no decision. (Owing  
to this account combined with your sending back  
my note I am placed in such a situation that  
I cannot with certainty determine your real meaning  
& therefore I desired to speak with you so I might  
not have formed an incorrect opinion. I also have  
detected that part of my previous communication  
in which it appears that you have somewhat (though  
slightly) mistaken. Since the time I wrote I have  
been informed of the existence of an engagement  
between yourself & a Gentleman with whom I am  
slightly acquainted. I know <sup>not</sup> that it is true nor have  
I any reason to doubt its existence. If it is true  
"circumstances truly are against" If you had seen  
fit to have expressed yourself explicitly in your  
note to me, your confidence would have been safe.  
As I remarked before I for some time proposed  
an society to become acquainted. yet I hardly  
had supposed that seeing & conversing with you so short a  
time could have made such an impression. I indulge  
no hope I should not be even willing to have the  
affection of any one conferred upon me as a favor.

Things very displeasable on earth should be connected  
with the Misson of the Lady & I bend too above all  
worldly objects. Yet for me to accept & reciprocate  
the esteem & love of any one. That esteem & love  
must be freely & voluntarily conferred upon me.  
I assure you Miss Johnson (withhold <sup>any</sup> compare to you  
that I could love you more ardently than any lady  
I ever saw), that my feelings are at my command &  
under my controll & come yourself. If I were in your  
presence could not discover the emotion that might be  
waging within. 'Tis a relief to me thus to express  
myself even to you in whom I have no hope, except  
the confidence I have in your respect for my feelings  
in pursuing in your own bosom invariable what I  
have <sup>honesty</sup> communicated, w<sup>th</sup> permitting myself to believe  
for a moment that any third person will ever be made  
acquainted with the feelings of my heart as thus expressed  
unless in years, mine should meet a response. You give  
me credit for sincerity in what I ~~said~~ before ~~others~~ but  
but a desire to see you, 'tis different now. "The half  
was not told me" Will you give me credit for sincerity  
and I hope so. You are some Miss J. that you differed  
with me as to the personification of Ladies in making  
decisions of a certain (of a certain) character. I yet  
entertain opinions the same as before expressed & if you  
look at it closely I think you will alter yours  
You say that circumstances often present that may be

yet those circumstances whatever they may be only prove  
that bodies like those which circumstances & by their  
force from opinions & make decisions showing most conclusively  
that they if necessarily involve a prerogative in certain  
matters ~~for~~ if there not so their independence as intelligent  
beings would be lost & their moral existence would be  
paperly inactive in action or mechanical. I hope miss I  
you will write me a letter. I shall not insist but shall  
I not expect at least one. I wish to convince your friend  
& trust that I have not, nor may not do anything  
to merit your displeasure. I shall feel if this is not  
sufficient that I have offended you, assuring you that  
if you desire there should be no correspondence between us  
& shall not again trespass upon your patience.

{ Miss Mary }

Yours

{ J Holmes }

sent to Chicago  
see