

Journal for Chicago Jan 25 1887

My Dear Friend

Just having returned from Missouri I cannot  
 give of this yet all, and after perusing it carefully and requested  
 and understanding your opinion to the contrary, I find from  
 many remarks that I should in order to best of our  
 ability, I hope, that writing "poems" will do us harm, but I think  
 that what I may say will have the effect of causing some course  
 & finding an apology or explanation with regard to a matter which  
 you will understand in perusing I should have been more careful in  
 in developing. If I had then been aware as I am now of the possibility  
 of this kind of language for your sake, I should have been more  
 careful, as to the only way I can say here or will venture in a  
 certain number of my writings. If you know all you would doubt  
 less a few words I will explain why I have I told that to that I  
 had been at your house & saw you. In conversation with me in regard  
 the house where I had spent through it is in answer to his many  
 interrogations as to those I saw there you said one of them I had  
 told her in writing & a wish as to whether I had seen you  
 at the time. I think glad she asked the question & answered with some  
 feeling of pride in recollection, saying from the conviction I had that  
 she would have spent our little time in perusing what you  
 have to think the fair demand.

You appear to be under the impression that from my last letter  
 I do entertain an idea that you are a "republican" or that you  
 know my first letter as clearly as it should have been done  
 & may have taken my last in such a style as warranted you  
 in forming the above opinion. But I can assure you that it  
 is a mistake - that I never entertained such an idea, though  
 my language may convey it. The reasons which you must  
 kindly try to understand when you call your "comrades" for not  
 being more explicit, are the very reasons that that "comrade"  
 mentioned did & would exist before he wrote a line. He was  
 satisfied that you or no lady would be willing to make a  
 demand of the Board that your presence was called for under  
 the circumstances. I think I expect in person but that  
 the whole matter as far as it applied within of us, would be  
 left open until you knew how to decide in suitable circumstances  
 should have been possible. The whole matter was really this, I desired  
 the privilege to become acquainted with you & I also wished

So that my title should be returned permitting you to give your own  
essential part. I feel most encouraging you in that for which you would  
show me the principle, object I had in view. The action of that noble  
Committee see that you might be engaged to some use, or that if you  
feels was sent the same toward not like to attain my object.  
I find by your last that my first opinion was incorrect, & to the title.  
In your title accompanying some you kindly pointed me all I required  
& had a right to take from the privilege of borrowing on acquaintance.  
My own part let me to form account black, & hence circumstances  
what at the time you sent. The notice you had in returning it  
and the carrying it into effect was, I suppose. What caused me to come  
to the opinion I did was perhaps in that which I had seen after writing  
that you were seen to be revised, whence the misapprehension in my last,  
and that misapprehension & misunderstanding must be attributed to a  
like misapprehension & misunderstanding was designed & gotten up for effect.  
You looked it out thereby all I was unknown to do. So I in like  
manner & with all kindness of heart, produce the accusations upon  
precisely the same grounds that I was unknown to do.

The notices you mentioned for "misapprehension" & "circumstances against"  
are just reasons, so long as they exist. That I understand differently  
from what you designed. But some laboring under the "religion"  
above a point less yet at the same time being aware of the  
force of all these reasons, with respect to myself. I think I should  
credit for being but, mistakes. I cannot find in me an accusing  
conscience for doing that I know not to be right.

Still, I should understand the reasons "How far to go" as  
as applied to me, I hardly know, but have concluded that  
you read it with reference to the nature of your communication.  
This conclusion is based upon the supposition you have in which you  
try to present of goodness & kindness of heart.

You may rely upon me yet, as to the safe keeping of any thing  
you have or may say. I shall endeavor to read & digest  
your letter tonight, you assure me that so far you have not  
had cause to be offended. I most sincerely hope that I  
may never give you cause to be offended. If it should be  
it would be unwittingly done. You say as to a correspondence  
you think it but not better be continued, because it may  
lead to difficulty. I shall not attempt to consent or argue  
the matter further than I cannot because the necessity or  
the danger of any difficulty. My own opinion that circumstances  
have caused us to misunderstand each other, in reference to help  
I cannot suppose but that we may hereafter be freed of that difficulty.

In one place you say you were willing to become acquainted,  
in another you say in reference to myself, that I was unwelcome,  
Therefore I presume you will permit me to become known to  
each other with the understanding that a acquaintance shall  
be in favor of the friends of the cause in which you are engaged in changing  
the character of your day in your last that you are not free that  
you are not bound by a promise. This what I did not expect  
to know you were engaged from what I heard, I suppose I would take  
from this winter knowing that I shall not doubt but that the  
intention you may come to in this respect shall have the sanction  
of a judgment with respect to whether a thought for an  
it be have its influence. I mean with you to determine when you  
shall have to do so & concerned more from the history that  
when I return I may have the pleasure of seeing & conversing with you.  
With the assurance that a letter from you, whenever you will write  
shall be gratefully received

Mary

Yours Truly

Amelia Holmes

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knowing when this is compared with any former, there may  
be an apparent contradiction. But when we reflect that  
I feel & opinions have considerably to do with our feelings & actions  
it may be accounted for & easily accounted in accordance  
with history of education & family of nature. I write candidly  
with no previous reflection & mean that is left.  
You do not find me only desirous to insist on that which may  
be disagreeable or unpleasant to you, I have written in order  
to enable some explanations which I believe to be necessary  
to enable you to form a correct opinion as to myself or father  
as to what I have written. I trust that what you may have observed  
in my last letter which is exceptionable will be attributed  
to the proper cause. The business I was written in reference to  
your object in relinquishing my note & saying circumstances were  
against. When combined with what I heard as to your intentions  
I acknowledge I was mistaken. As also stated I was aware of the  
position you occupied. The delicacy of the subject as you understand it  
& I myself being a stranger. If I had counsel with you when I saw  
you all would have been understood. But there I was too distant to  
venture to do so to you with. I never had seen you either & you  
father I had seen but a few times, and about you was their knowledge.  
Therefore you will excuse my candidly. I still have here in about 100  
of you should get this in time to reply them to as they are important.

It should not have been you who write  
because the effect of the following might  
be to have been the same as if I had  
had any such view.