

Janesville May 7th 1841

Miss Mary Johnson

I hope you will pardon me for the liberty I assumed in writing you your card short, and to me somewhat expostulative — I am perfectly aware that in so doing I may merit your disapprobation, but hope still I assured you that no other impulse than that of benevolence has governed me in the matter that you will not regard me as deserving your contempt, if I have erred, forget and forgive.

I had anticipated that I should have the pleasure of seeing you as you returned, presuming you would pass through Janesville, but in this to my regret I have been disappointed, as I perceived by the letter I received from my friend Mrs. Barrett of Columbus that you returned some days since, I am it informs me that your father called on her a few days since, but being absent he did not get to see him, I regret that he did not get to see Mrs. Johnson as he would no doubt have learned some particulars of your journey and in all probability would have communicated the same to me, what it had been a great pleasure indeed, it is for the purpose of learning how you

Enjoyed the journey that I now write, and I hope
it may be honoured by you with a sketch on
the subject, which I am sure to me would be highly
qualifying indeed.

Since I have commended the letter it
has occurred to me that when I last had the pleasure
of conversing with you upon matters of returning by
way of Portsmouth, which (unconvinced of what was
passing through the place) I presume to be the case
and hope you was surprised the trip very much, it
is undoubtedly a very pleasant route, still I had no
doubt you would have enjoyed the northern route much
more there being a much greater variety of scenery,
in part extensive however I imagine the weather created
some difficulty at the time you returned that imprac-
ticable owing to the snow and being being closed
with ice.

I enjoyed much less pleasure in my return
than when when on my way last not having the
good fortune to meet with so amiable company.
I proposed during the summer season visiting
about and it was your object the pleasure of calling
on you as I pass, hoping to receive my acquaintance
with you. You will please present my best
respects to your Father and say to him that I
regret he did not pass through the place as I
should have been pleased to have seen him.
I hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you by
return mail and see long to have the pleasure

of every year, I close with my best wishes
Very Respectfully

John R. Norman

to take