



Letter to Mary Johnson of Worthington, Oh from S.M.
Tucker of Parkersburg, Va, 5/8/1840

Subject: Friend from Female Seminary describes trip from Columbus to Parkersburg via stage and steamboat, teaching at seminary and suggests Mary come for summer term, remarks on black slaves

[Handwritten note, script]

Parkersburg, May 8, 1840

Wood Co. Va

My dear Mary

Now if I could be transported directly to your fathers sitting room I could talk for half an hour, very briskly I think, not that I should tell you anything wonderful or important that I could not communicate with a goosequil, [*sic*] but if I was there I should feel free to breathe forth the true feelings of my heart without restraint, and feel that I was conversing with those who would make all due allowance for my frailties but I must sit right here where I am, so I will be content to tell you a few facts about that most important personage myself. I left Columbus as was anticipated tuesday morning in the stage Mr. Herr & Father Young were along. Maria took a different route to Sommerset [*sic*] so we parted at C. The morning was pleasant, & I found myself in tolerable health and fine spirits, the National road was very dry & smooth & we Whirled along at no slow rate. We dined at Hebron I believe "any" how it was at a little village on the canal where they had a plenty of fresh fish, well cooked ham, and nice pumpkin pies, you may be sure I did not refuse a piece of the pie. We were soon on our way again I was delighted with the green fields and budding forest trees, the wild plum trees and Indian red bud were in bloom & they made a fine contrast but they did not speak of so much future delight & luxury as the Peach & cherry trees nor did they look more lovely. We arrived in Zanesville before dark. I was invited to a Mr. Dilan's and spent the night there. We started about 5 o'clock in the morning. it rained very hard & the stage was much crowded, no female along but myself. there was 5 ministers & some Whig Delegates bound for Baltimore considering all things we had a pleasant ride for they were a jolly set ministers not excepted I do not include myself for I was very mute. I was pleased the green hills & pleasant valley, between Zanesville & Wheeling I almost wanted to stop & take up my residence in some of the neat farmhouses. We crossed the Ohio River to Wheeling just at sunset and staid in W. over night found Rev.

P. Adams from this place waiting for me. about 8 o'clock in the morning we took a steamboat for this place. The day was pleasant, and I enjoyed the scenery along the Ohio very much. about 5 in the evening we were in sight of Parkersburg & very soon on terra firma. We found the people expecting us & we received a very cordial welcome. the first voice as I went into the town from the steamboat was a little blacke [*sic*] running across the street, to her Master hallowing with all her might "Massa, Missa Agnes says the Mistress has come." I have a pleasant boarding place my windows command a fine view of the river, up & down steamboats are passing almost every hour. We commenced school the 28 Apr. prospects are good. I have 34 pupils in my department, the school rooms are not pleasant. I should be much gratified to have you here this summer. the young ladies here are no patterns here for one who seeks accomplishments but they are amiable and interesting. there is a piano on which you could practice if you chose. your expenses would be about the same as pupils pay in Worthington board & washing 2.00 per week, tuition about the same If your father & mother should think proper to spare you this summer I should certainly feel very happy to have you with me. I shall hope to hear from you soon. I would hope to see you if I dared, but I fear no such pleasure awaits me. I often think of Elizabeth Haas for I love her dearly. give my love to her. everyone enquires after Hannah here, they all seem to love her very much. My best respects & esteem to your father & mother. how I would like to call & make them a visit now & then --- May 10, evening. I have been out to tea this afternoon there was quite a little company convened a very social

I have heard nothing from Worthington since I left. Mr. Adams had a letter from Miss Marsh when she was in Cincinnati, but that is a secret between them I suppose. Tell me, how you all get along. remember me affectionately to all the young ladies particularly C. [Caroline] Griswold and A. Cowles. Here black sukey [*sic*] comes to see if I want anything before I retire. she reminds me seriously of Jonathan Slichs "Snowball" who waited upon him in N. York. Well I must bid you a good night whether I wish to do so or not for I rise very early, besides my candle will not last long. Remember my dear Mary that I have a sincere regard for you. I shall ever feel interested in your welfare. I am ever grateful for the kindness received from your parents. will you not write soon

Adieu S.M. Tucker