



Draft letter to Mr. Blank from Mary Johnson of
Worthington, Ohio, 9/1843

Subject: Response to his request to correspond, wishes only friendship

[Handwritten note, script]

Worthington, Sept [1843?]

Mr. Blank

When I consented to open a correspondance [*sic*] with you I was in hopes it would be nothing but a friendly interchange of thoughts, feelings & reflections, hopes, anticipations, joys & sorrows (if such should be) instead of what is now presented in your epistle before me.

Since the perusal of your letter I almost regret my having consented to open a correspondence with you, for from I perceive the first 2 or three lines of your epistle, that you have supposed upon yourself a task which you "feel bound to perform" and write as under an obligation, rather than of your own free will. But as you trust should not the contents prove perfectly congenial to my feelings I would pardon & hope your motives may be judged worthy of my consideration I feel bound to endeavor to do justice boath [*sic*] to you and myself by expressing my feelings in as plain and positive a manner as possible, and should such prove to be contrary from your expectations you may perhaps be inclined to persecute.

But certainly it would be very unwise in me to lay aside any consideration for the future and act only for the present rather than incur your displeasure.

You may perhaps consider me unjust & I to [*sic*] should think so had not I heretofore been accused (as considered) wrongfully of encouraging you in paying your address to me; as I thought I had given sufficient reason to think I could never accept. Your friendship was all I asked, & that still would claim.

Perhaps it would be well for us to drop this subject now and forever, and it shall be my prayer that you may find ere Long some one upon whom to place your affections, one more worthy than I & one by whom they may be reciprocated. If I have written anything amiss pleas [*sic*] pardon and accept this from

Your friend



Mary