



## Draft of a Letter to an Unknown Friend

Probably Written by Mary Johnson Sessions of Columbus,  
Ohio, 9/19/1892

Subject: The writer of the letter is very upset and hurt due to finding out that her husband changed his will and did not tell her. He changed his will to leave money to a church but not “our church” and she suspects the recipient of the letter influenced him to do so.

[Handwritten, script]

Columbus Sept 19, 1892

I am sorry to say I received your note of evening of Sept 16— I must confess that I was deeply wounded when I found that you were entertaining such suspisions [*sic*] concerning one [“F S”] do know how absolutely groundless they are” [*sic*]

The remark I made—he might have been of service to me was not casually dropped—but in answer to your wish you might be of service to me--& and to which I replied--and now reiterate--if he could have intimated any change in the will—even if Mr. Sessions had intentionally left me in ignorance—it would have been better to all concerned.

But I cannot see how you could draw the conclusion that I thought you “privy to the change”— And can you not [think] to yourself something of the charge you put upon me of being suspicious?

It does seem to me you might see that I cannot otherwise than feel hurt by being left unconsulted [*sic*] & kept in ignorance of what had previously been judged of interest to me & and of which I supposed I was still held worthy That too by one whom I had ever had the unmost confidence & placed entire trust. Far different than if it had been between friends only And it does seem that instead of [scoring] me harshly—let me say preaching to me in the “name of your pastor”—instead of that—you had kindly considered that if I spoke in such a way that you might imply more than was in my heart— could you not have had compassion sufficient to give me the benefit of a doubt?

You can know little of what I have been called upon to endure—to pass through-& then the constant recurring question Oh! F.C. why! Why! did you do so? As for charging you of knowing & possibly of “advising” a change—let me use your own word—“absolutely”—I can not see when or how

you could find that—why you say, you never had nor sought to have the slightest influence upon his mind respecting the disposition of his property I can not understand—I don't remember that we touched upon the disposition of his property at all-- & as far as I am concerned[sic] was entirely willing he should do as he choose[sic]—But feel in justice to the possibility that I might be placed just in the situation I find myself today proper care for my protection & consideration for rights would call for information & counseling

When you asked me what objection I had to this will—my reply—first & chiefly—I keenly felt the changing—by my being “absolutely” left out in the counsels. Neither did I allude or object to his giving to the church—then—now or at anytime—what did I say—that you should need to call my memory to the fact “that not a cent of money comes to our church. That all the income from it must be expended by our trustees for the benefit of other churches & Sunday schools”—Just here let me call your attention to beware lest you cherish baseless suspicions—

How could you conclude, I told you, I had no faith in your friendship? Indeed you do not deserve such judgement--& if you have not proved yourself a friend to me—it lies in your heart-not mine.

[unsigned]

Note: The transcriber believes that Mary Johnson Sessions wrote this letter a few months after Francis' death. The evidence for this belief is the handwriting which is recognized as Mary's handwriting from other signed letters transcribed, the date of the letter, 5 months after Francis Sessions death on March 25, 1892 and the subject matter of the letter.

Note: The church referred to in the letter which received a gift from Francis' will may be the Congregational Church in of Hampden, Massachusetts the trustees of which received \$2000 to be paid to Francis and Harriet Sessions and who would receive the interest and would pass the interest on to their survivors. What remained after the death of their survivors would be combined with \$1000 received by the trustees of the church to establish a perpetual fund named after his father Francis Session. Source: Item 17 of the will of Francis C Sessions.