



Unsigned Draft of Letter to Leander Holmes of Chicago,  
Illinois from Mary Johnson of Worthington, Ohio,  
11/14/1846

Subject: Surprise at request from a stranger to correspond, does not consider that proper but invites him to call at her home in Worthington

[Handwritten, script; written in black and blue ink]

Worthington, Nov. 14, '46

Mr. Holmes

I was much surprised when I received your epistle & as you may readily conceive somewhat puzzled as what conclusion to draw. But judging from the tenor of its lines & your own assertions, that truth & honesty were the activating motive, I do most cheerfully comply with your request to reply.

But how to do so is equally as delicate & embarrassing [*sic*]. You are a stranger to me. I have not your feelings or how to address them & should I say or do anything that should wound, none could regret more sincerely or beg to be looked upon more leniently than I.

You remarked that it was privilege guaranteed unto ladies to decide matters of the nature proposed, in accordance with their own feelings. This assertion may hold good in many instances but not in all. Circumstances must be consulted & if such prove favorable then they can decide for then they know how to do so.

But as the case in question is one in which circumstances appear rather against it seems to me that prudence & propriety would naturally suggest [*sic*] that there would be no decision to be made therefore you will pardon the return of your epistle with this note & permission that if it should prove convenient in your journeys to call upon us to do so as one doors are never closed upon the writings noble & good.

[address]



Mr. Leander Holmes

Chicago

III.