



No Name or Date but Apparent Draft of Letter to John Worman from Mary Johnson, Probably In the Summer of 1841

Subject: Apologizes for illness delaying her response, describes steamboat journey from Pittsburg to Portsmouth

[Handwritten note, script; script gets smaller as the letter goes on]

I have apparently treated you with neglect but I trust that my appology [*sic*] will be received. A letter came to hand which was dated Zanesville May 7 & I was much surprised to find your signature. It was very unexpected occurance. [*sic*] But upon a perusal of its contents & a belief in the assurances that you gave of its proceeding from no other motive than those of esteem, feelings altogether different prevailed, instead of that vague feeling of wonder those of regard for one to whom I was much indebted for kindness shown during our journey. The cause of my not acknowledging the receipt of your letter was on account of my illness at that time having been attacked some days previous with the Billious fever & remaining in a critical situation, with many doubts & conjectures as to my recovery was unable [*sic*] to do justice, & after I had regained my former health, as it had been some time since I heard from you & feeling as you had left Z it best to send a paper thinking by that means to ascertain whether you still remained, intending if so to answer your letter. It has been several days since I received a second epistle in answer I suppose to my paper as in it you acknowledge its reception. The causes to circumstances have been presented. As regards your feeling in reference to my silence, & the apparent contempt with which I have treated your communication I think what I have presented will prove satisfactory. I would with pleasure present you with a sketch of my journey, but think best to defer it untill the time of your expected visit as some parts are rather imperfectly impressed upon my memory & I should be able to relate it with more accuracy than by writing. However at Pittsburg we took passage on board the Rubicon for Portsmouth. It was delightful as we sailed between the Ohio to Virginia & Ken shores to view the varied landscapes. The scene was most charming higher masses of rock rising to an immense [*sic*] height on either side was predominate with a few stunted trees & now & then a fertile plain & those generally planted with orchards which were in full bloom adding still more to the verigated [*sic*] scene. I must now draw to a close as the [time] which I had allotted [*sic*] to writing has nearly expired & school hours are fast approaching - Oh, "fleeting time."