



Draft letter to Mr. Blank from Mary Johnson of
Worthington, Ohio, 8/10/1843

Subject: Response to request to correspond, offers only friendship

[Handwritten note, script]

Worthington Aug. 10th 1843

Mr. Blank

I feel the task allotted [*sic*] me to be one of no ordinary character; and never have I before as sensibly realized my utter incapacity [*sic*] of performing what duty and conscience dictates to be done, as upon this occasion, for I am fully sensible of having done wrong, in not giving you a decided answer at the time; as by deferring [*sic*] it, you would naturally be led to suppose I would favor your suit. But it was that unexpected, and upon so short an acquaintance, that I knew not the state of my feelings, neither could I reflect then.

I have reflected long and seriously and am fully convinced I entertain feelings of no other character than pure friendship and friendship only.

You may perhaps think I wish or would trifle with your affections. "God forbid" that ever I should be guilty of trifling with any ones affections.

Please accept this then as a friend, together with my best wishes

Mary Johnson