



Letter to James M. Moreland of Henderson, Kentucky
from Mary Johnson of Worthington, Ohio, 12/09/1844

Subject: Response to suitor, mother is concerned but agrees to the
correspondence, Mary regrets distance separating them, anticipates
Whig inaugural ball in Columbus

[Handwritten note, script]

Worthington Dec 9, 1844

Mr. Moreland

Your letter of Nov. 21, which lies open before me breaths the same feeling of regard, which you lips expressed in our last & ever to be remembered interview: Feelings which I had not the most distant idea of having excited within your breast to the disclosing of which I must confess was truly gratifying to my vanity: but not so much so I hope, as to prevent me from pursuing a course which will not only prove to be proper & agreeable to my feelings but in accordance with your expectations. I felt it my duty before answering your letter to acquaint my parents with the circumstances in order that I might not take any unguarded steps or such as would prove contrary to their wishes. I therefore gave your letter to my mother together with an account of our acquaintance & a brief sketch of our last interview. At first she considered me very indiscreet [*sic*] in receiving your address so unceremoniously & in permitting you to address me by letter, upon so short & imperfect an acquaintance, as we could know nothing of each others views, feelings & secret impulses of the heart. She does not now, however, express herself so plainly, but trusts that in my correspondence with you I am dealing with a gentleman which in the fullness of my heart I assume then is the case.

But I do most certainly fear you are doomed to disappointment. I fear that those qualities which have gained for me your regards are but the intension [*sic*] of fancied visions which prove too often the full destroyer of our highest hopes.

As it is however we are alike situated & I much regret the distance which separates us is so great. But it is & for the present we must content ourselves with such an acquaintance as can be formed by the means thus begun.

Ere this I suppose you are pleasantly situated in your new home engaged in pursuits such as a virtuous and laudable ambition may dictate. To this I give my hearty concurrence & could thoughts of mine, add one mite to your happiness, they are as freely given as my best wishes.

This much I returned in reply to your flattering epistle, & viewing it as you may, whether a condescension [*sic*] or what not. I hope it may prove congenial to your feelings, & be accepted from

Your friend

Mary

P.S. I had nearly forgotten to mention anything concerning the inauguration [*sic*] ball which is to come of tomorrow evening. I anticipate it will be a splendid affair as it is directed principally by the purse-proud aristocrats [*sic*] (or Whigs) of the state, as they are very tenderly termed by their brethran [*sic*] of the opposite party. Some 12 couples are expected to be in attendance from your own goodly City C. & I anticipate a very blissful time as I shall join the dance with Mr. Bliss for a partner.

M.J.