

Wednesday Feb 9th 1844

Dear Sister,

So I am glad to receive a communication from you a few weeks since. I am happy to find that we understand each other better than we have done. There has always been so much kindness & good feeling between us, (to say more than the truth) that I should feel unwilling to have any unpleasant feelings arise now. I am sorry that we have not understood each other better in moments past. It would not be telling the truth to say that I even had any hard feelings towards you but there was a time when I felt exceedingly perplexed to know what you meant.

I often asked myself, why you should say so much about my sister when at the same time you were seeking acquaintance with Miss G. Had it not been for the confidence I always felt in you I should have thought you did it to trifle with my feelings, but it was impossible to indulge such an idea, & I never have found a satisfactory reason.

After you showed me a note you received & I found the acquaintance with that individual was at an end, I supposed you would renew the conversation we had on a certain occasion last winter. Your silence at that time was inexplicable. After a long time had elapsed & I had given up thinking about it, you remarked that "you were coming in to talk with me, about my sister". Soon after I received a letter & took pains that you should know it & also that I was about returning & answer, but nothing was said I was again perplexed. I had an abundance of time for reflection, & conjured up many & various reasons,

for your silence. The most plausible one that presented itself was that you had become interested in another individual, & was it any thing strange? what other conclusion could I arrive at?

This opinion was confirmed by hearing "busy-bodies" speaking of your attentions to that individual, & acting upon the principle that "what every body says must be true," I settled down into a firm conviction that your affections were placed upon her, & supposed that you would never mention sister's name again. But I thought it not quite fair that you should leave me in such an unpleasant state of suspense, when there was apparently so much confidence between us.

These remarks are made in consequence of a remark in your communication to this effect. "I yet I can't but think you must regret it is so," referring to a pledge on your part & meaning I suppose that you think I would like one. I never thought that to be expected of you, But I did want so much as this, to know that your affections were not given to another. It would have been folly for me to expect or even wish you to transfer them upon sister should she be fit to accept my invitation.

I fully concur with you in the opinion that this subject better be dropped. I would not like to be accused with wishing so pull down anyone for the sake of building up my sister on the ruins. I think she is worthy of a better foundation. I regret what has transpired for two reasons, The first is, I am disappointed in my hopes, when you first named the subject to me I thought our meeting together in this western country was Providential. I thought it was to bring about such an event, & although every circumstance seemed unfavourable to such a result I thought it would somehow be brought about, & I find it almost impossible even now to divest myself of such an idea. But my anticipation of having a sister for a neighbour is cut short.

My second reason is that I should now be reluctant to send for
her to come here even should the prospect for school-teaching be
ever so flattering. I should feel an unwillingness to have her here
after so much has been said; But my husband says that I shall
undoubtedly see that it has all been for the best, I hope so. At
least I will try & hope so, I hope you will get in good luck
as you want & see no reason why you do not deserve such
an one, Finally I hope the same good feeling, which now exist
between us, will always exist. & that our friendship may never
be sullied by the poisonous breath of the slanderer. A. D.