[Ac 15,337]

Springfield Aug. 16th 1837

Friend Mary.

You will, no doubt, think it rather strange, that I should write you a letter on the same day on which we parted; and I can only account for it by supposing, that seeing you lately makes me think ~~you~~ of you more than usual, while at our late meeting we had but few expressions of thoughts. You must know that I can not see you, or think of you, with entire indifference; and yet it may be, that you, are mistaken in regard to what my real feelings towards you are. If I knew you were not, I should not trouble you with this letter. Perhaps any other man would know enough without further information; but I consider it my peculiar right to plead ignorance, and your bounden duty to allow the plea. I want in all cases to do right; and most particularly so, in all cases with women. I want, at this particular time, more than any thing else, to do right with you; and if I knew it would be doing right, as I rather suspect it would, to let you alone, I would do it. An[illegible] the purpose of making the matter as plain as [illegible]ce, I now say, that you can now drop the subj[illegible] dismiss your thoughts (if you ever had any) from me [illegible]ver, and leave this letter unanswered, without [illegible]ing forth one accusing murmer from me. An[illegible] will even go further, and say,

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