

Resource Sheet #6

Letter to Mary Brown

Farmer Centre, Ohio
November 14, (1859)

My Dear Madam:

In an hour like this the common words of sympathy may seem like idle words, and yet I want to say something to you, the noble wife of the hero of the nineteenth century. Belonging to the race your dear husband reached forth his hand to assist, I thank you for the brave words you have spoken. A republic that produces such a wife and mother may hope for better days. Not in vain has your dear husband periled all. From the prison comes a shout of triumph over that power whose ethics are robbery of the feeble and oppression of the weak, the trophies of whose chivalry are a plundered cradle and scourged and bleeding woman. Enclosed I send you a few dollars as a token of my gratitude, reverence and love.

Yours respectfully,
Frances Ellen Watkins