

Shelbyville Tenn

May 14<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Father,

Yesterday I received your letter containing the announcement of Sister's death. Oh Father I cannot describe my feelings there. I had received your letter saying that she could ~~not~~ survive only a few days longer. I had long ceased to hope for her recovery but I did not dream that death was so near. If you had dispatched me in time I would have been at home, on receiving your first letter I wrote out an application and started out immediately and had every hope of getting home

But your letter the next day  
(yesterday) told that all was  
over. My Dear Father I believe  
with you that she has gone to  
the arms of my sainted mother.  
She has gone to heaven.

She was different from most  
women, full of noble prin-  
ciples, and I have so often  
thought with pride of what  
she was to be, but is all  
over now. Heavy as this  
blow has been to me, I know  
that was much more crush-  
ing to you. Why should it  
be so? Do you not hope  
to meet her & our sainted mother  
in heaven? But I - I  
dare not entertain such a  
hope. Christians part but  
for a season, but sinners for-  
ever - forever.  
I am crushed, weighed down.

Dear father I would like  
to be with you now but  
I cannot.

You have not spoken of  
your health in any of your  
last letters, I hope you are  
well. Nothing of impor-  
tance has occurred here  
since I wrote last,  
I have been promoted to  
captain. Give my love  
to all the children. Tell Hines  
and Laura to write to  
me often.

Your Affectionate Son  
James A Hill



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*[page 2]*

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*[page 3]*

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