

Near Knoxville May 14. 1863.

Dear Father

We received your letter to-day telling us of Sister's death. We had been expecting to hear it any day but when your letter told us that poor Sis was - actually gone worn out with pain and toil and suffering I believe I could not feel more sorrow if I had not been warned she had to leave us soon. - like yourself Father I have the consolation of believing she is now where she suffers none. It is a strange that we are not all Christians. How we all looked to it - for comfort when Mother died and now when Sis is gone - I mean the Christian Hope. It is truly the only comfort. When Mother died I was sure she was a Christian. I don't believe she had could have been such a mother without every good quality that mortal can possess and Sis I have reason whose was the same. I know she had noble qualities and Christian qualities as I conceive them. I feel my dear Father that this is a subject upon which I have no claim to say much.

But although I am not what I ought to be and should have been had I followed Mother's teaching and example thank God it was not all lost.

I know that I have respect for religion and shall always respect it as long as I can remember that mother taught me to respect - it and that Sis did <sup>a</sup> Christian. I can well remember when Mother every Sunday Evening used to call us in, Bolling myself Jim and Joe and poor Sis, privately and all to herself into her room porch over home and read us the Bible. Well we thought it some hardship then to have to quit our play to listen to her and if she had not been the best mother and Christian she could not have felt herself recompensed much.

but she never seemed to grow tired and if there is a God & Heaven I know she has been rewarded for it - Although she has been gone now some years - I know that mother's influence is still among us I believe it must have been with Sis to her last hour and moment in this world and that she owes her salvation to some extent to her recollection of mother how she lived and died. I know how I have often thought on mother's life and death and of her being a Christian - all my love and what I owed her, Sis has felt the same. Now whenever we think of mother who is fresh in my memory still with every thing good, we will think too of Sis. -

So far as this world is concerned if we live a hundred years yet she will be as nothing but dust to us but hereafter there is a hope that we may meet. Well we ought all to be satisfied and not grieve why were we ever given such a mother and ~~Sister~~<sup>other</sup> have had none to influence them. I have often thought of this I have heard men say of another "He had no good mother or ~~Sister~~<sup>or he</sup> would be what he is now." Well I believe there is a great deal of truth in that.

Well my dear Father I must close now I do wish we were with you all at home awhile, but

We are drilling now hard every day, striving to prepare ourselves and command to meet ~~the~~ our enemy whenever we are called on. I believe we are actuated in this war by the purest motives - patriotism if there be such a thing. How it will finally be ended God only knows but I believe I am willing to do my part whatever it be in achieving our independence. Bolling Jr and myself in good health. Love to Sol, Carrie, & the family.

Yours

Cumshaw Hall



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