

Camp near Knoxville
May 15th 1813

My dear Father,

I wrote you yesterday on the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst which was the first we had heard of sister's death. I see from the letter ^{that} you wrote me the evening she died but as it was directed to Beans Station none but you received it, will probably get it tomorrow. Today a letter was sent me from Beans St. written by you on the 15th inst & another to Crenshaw within two days later both of which would have warned ~~us~~ sufficiently of our approaching calamity.

I remember her yet as I last saw her when we parted as it has proved never more to meet. We have indeed sustained a loss. Think of her father without a mother's tender care & watchful eye to guide & direct her she maintained as pure, modest, & irreproachable a character as ever existed.

Child as she was on mother's death she left all the pleasures of the world to undertake her mother's duties; inexperienced in everything she struggled against many obstacles & triumphed where nobler spirits might have failed. It is not right to expect or expect perfection in any one. We can only judge of the qualities of frail & finite beings by comparison with others; & where

in all the world have you ever seen
or heard of a young girl surrendering
all the pleasures most indulged in by
those of her age & devoting themselves
to Father, brothers, & sisters, as she has
done. Her intellectual qualities were of
the highest order. This we who knew
her best know & feel. It is not imagination
but knowledge founded the best & closest observation
which makes me know this to be so. How much
I feel her loss cannot be understood. I had
so much confidence in her that I would
almost ask her advice as I once did mother.
It is indeed hard to think of her as I left
her young & happy & now lying in the
cold & cheerless ground. This is to be
the end of all for us. It is, it seems a
hard fate which brings us objects of affection
but to snatch them away when we
thought they were bound closest to our
bosoms. But she is indeed gone &
as you say there is no communication
with her. Can you realize the full
meaning of that word "gone"? — I cannot
— I say it & yet I do not feel it — I
believe it & yet I do not believe it. It is
a great mystery which we all must
& shall solve shortly & yet we believe
it not. Ah but you believe she is
now happy & at rest. Let us live with

that hope - the hope that she & another now,
two guardian spirits mingle together in
prayers for us & hover around us &
speak to us all the time - that they see & know
all our woes & joys - that they rejoice
as we rejoice & weep as we weep.
This indeed is a happy thought & if it be
a delusion of that imagination it is
a fond one, & one to be dearly cherished.
Those two spirits so long separated now
united in all purity it would seem to me
would be happy. Can we rightfully then
desire her back on earth? None we a
right to wish her to leave a paradise to re-
visit a world which is fraught with misery
wickedness & woe? We hope not! May
her Spirit ever assist in watching over
us & guarding ^{us} from the evils which ac-
cumulate around us!

It is hard to give her up - My dear
father I feel this as much as it is possible
for a father to feel the loss of a sister. I know
I loved her as dearly as ever father loved
sister, but let us try to reconcile ourselves
to the stern decrees of an unyielding fate.
Oh if you only knew the bitter pang it
costs me to say this you would not think
me stoical or too willing to part with my
sister! Where it is impossible to avoid it
we can only submit.



Phone just written him a long letter - have not heard from him for six weeks

Can you not come to see us while we are here? Perhaps it would be better if you were to do so. Your health has not been the best lately & I think you should do everything in your power to preserve it. You know as well as I do the deplorable condition all the little children would be in without you. They had better be absent from you a short time than forever. If you can do so come. This is a healthy place, good water & I think the trip might be a benefit. I am in a pleasant camp & can accommodate you pleasantly now. Or at worst we are but two miles from Knysna where are large, good & well kept hotels & plenty of room in them. If you will come let me know immediately by telegraph. You had better come at once for we might move though I think it probable we will stay here ten days or two weeks at least. However further whether you come or not I think this summer you ought to take Carrie & Charlie & spend the summer at the best Springs in the South. I think it is due yourself as well as your children. I would beg you to do so & while away from home never allow your mind to be fretted about your business. Do not let your business take care of itself, let nothing trouble you but live to enjoy the season as happily as you can & I believe the result will be that your health will be restored & we shall all be happier by it. I must close. Love to the children for me.

Yr affe son
Bolling Hall Sp.

Camp near Knoxville
May 15th 1863

My dear Father,

I wrote you yesterday on the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst which was the first we had heard of Sister's death. I see from the letter ^{that} you wrote one the evening she died but as it was directed to Beans-station have not yet received it, will probably get it tomorrow. Today a letter was sent me from Bean St written by you on the 6th inst & another to Crenshaw within two days later both of which would have warned us sufficiently of our approaching calamity.

I remember her yet as I last saw her when we parted as it has proved never more to meet. We have indeed sustained a loss. Think of her Father without a mother's tender care & watchful eye to guide & direct her she maintained as pure, modest, & irreproachable a character as ever existed.

Child as she was on Mother's death she left all the pleasures of the world to undertake her mother's duties; inexperienced in everything she struggled against many obstacles & triumphed where nobler spirits might have failed. It is not right to exact or expect perfection in any one – We can only judge of the qualities of frail & finite beings by comparison with others; & where

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in all the world have you ever seen or heard of a young girl surrendering all the pleasures most indulged in by those of her age & devoting themselves to Father, brothers, & sisters, as she has done. Her intellectual qualities were of the highest order. This we who knew her best know & feel. It is not imagination but knowledge founded the best & closest observation which makes me know this to be so. How much I feel her loss cannot be understood. I had so much confidence in her that I would almost ask her advice as I once did mother. It is indeed hard to think of her as I left

her young & happy & now lying in the cold & cheerless ground. This is to be the end of all of us. It is it seems a hard fate which brings us objects of affection but to snatch them away when we thought they were bound closest to our bosoms. But she is indeed gone & as you say there is no communication with her. Can you realize the full meaning of that word "gone"? I cannot -- I say it & yet I do not feel it - I believe it & yet I do not believe it. It is a great mystery which we all must & shall solve shortly & yet we believe it not. Ah but you believe she is now happy & at rest Let us live with

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that hope - the hope that she & mother now, twin guardian spirits mingle together in prayers for us & hover around us & near us all the time – that they see & know all our woes & joys – that they rejoice as we rejoice & weep as we weep - This indeed is a happy thought & if it be a delusion of the imagination it is a fond one, & one to be dearly cherished. Those two spirits so long separated now united in all purity it would seem to me would be happy. Can we rightfully then desire her back on earth? Have we a right to wish her to leave a paradise to revisit a world which is fraught with misery wickedness & woe? We have not! May her spirit ever assist in watching over us & guarding ^{us} from the evils which accumulate around us!

It is hard to give her up – My dear Father I feel this as much as it is possible for a brother to feel the loss of a sister. I know I loved her as dearly as ever brother loved sister, but let us try to reconcile ourselves to the stern decrees of an unyielding fate. Oh if you only knew the bitter pang it costs me to say this you would not think me stoical or too willing to part with my

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Can you not come to see us while we are here? Perhaps it would be better if you were to do so. Your health has not been the best lately & I think you should do everything in your power to preserve it You know as well as I do the deplorable condition all the little children would be in without you. They had better be absent from you a short time than forever. If you can do so come. This is a healthy place, good water & I think the trip might be a benefit. I am in a pleasant camp & can accommodate you pleasantly now. Or at worst we are but two miles from Knoxville where are large, good & well kept hotels & plenty of room in them. If you will come let me know immediately by telegraph. You had better come at once for we might move though I think it probably we will stay here ten days or two weeks at least. However Father whether you come or not I think this summer you ought to take Carrie & Charlie & spend the summer at the best springs in the South I think it is due yourself as well as your children. I would beg you to do so & while away from home never allow your mind to be fretted about your business. Just let your business take care of itself, let nothing trouble you but live to enjoy the season as happily as you can & I believe the result will be that your health will be restored & we shall all be happier by it. I must close. Love to the children for me. Yr affc son

Bolling Hall Jr.

[Written along the left side of page 4]

I have just written Jim a long letter – Have not heard from him for six weeks