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Union of Alta Luscaterosa.

May 12th 1863

My Dear Father

Yours of the 8th & 9th took me by surprise to day when I received them. Little was I expecting to hear of the death of sister before I once more had an opportunity of seeing her. Although I was fully aware of her condition yet I never counted on any thing but that I should see her once more. But oh! what a sad disappointment. We ^{had} kissed her and bade her "good bye" as I left home for this place I noticed her pallid face but little did I think it was the last time. I know you take it hard, dear father, but as you say what a consolation is there when we know that she is where, Mother is, and where we should all strive to go when it comes our time to sever ourselves from our relations, friends and from this earth forever, in heaven. We should not grieve, for I trust she is in a better world now than this, and will not suffer what one has to suffer so long as they remain in this earth. All now that I feel I have to lament is that my duty to her (a dear sister) as a brother has never been fulfilled. I have neglected this solemn duty and now how dreadful it is to think back upon days which I might have been the means of making happy to her; but now they are lost. When I came home from the army about the middle of

November, I found her in feeble health with a severe cough. I do not think you were aware of her real condition then although you said you thought her cough quite a serious one. She told me then that she had consumption - that she could not live long. I could not think that ^{she} did have it. I could not realize it. I blamed her for so thinking but now I see it was but too true.

This again is a severe trial for us to undergo. And how soon will it be before some one else of the family will go the grave. If Brother Bolling, Crumshaw and Toby go to Tullahoma and participate in the great battle impending there, there will be four of the family there and perhaps it may please Divine Providence to take one of them away from us. It is sad to think upon these matters and should seem to unite our hands and hearts nearer than ever before, so that when we all come to submit our spirits up to the grave we will be prepared to follow our Dear Mother, and Sisters to their happy and peaceful abode in Heaven. Yes this is our great consolation, that they are no longer on this world of sin but in Heaven.

I wrote you a letter yesterday which was mailed this morning, before the sad news reached me. When I wrote that letter I had no other thought but that "poor Sister" would hear the contents read to her. But Alas, she was gone before the date of that

letter. Was she conscious till death? I know she suffered
but hope that she stood it with Christian patience
and enduring.

Tell Lollie and all to write to me often.

I love to hear from them all. Kiss Carrie for me
and tell her to ask some of them to write for
her. And whenever you are well and have time
father, I will be most happy to receive letters
from you. I shall endeavor to write often and promptly.
I am in hopes that you will maintain your
health. Good by -

Your Affectionate son

Thos B Hall



Just after several
deaths - 1863

Univ of Ala Tuscaloosa
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