

Calcutta Nov 17 1850

Dr. Moanai Horta,

My dear brother

On my return

home I recd. a letter from you, and should have written you, before this, but for a terrible calamity which has befallen us. On the 31st of Oct two weeks after our return Jimmie died of brain fever after an illness of three days. It is now over two weeks since he died, and I have not been able till now to muster courage to inform you of it. I know nothing that I can say will give you any better idea of this dreadful blow than you already have. He had just returned from his long camping journey of three months, greatly invigorated and improved in health. On this journey he exhibited great physical strength - walking miles, often, without fatigue - and one or two times pure miles up & down a steep & rugged mountain without fatigue or injury. This greatly encouraged me as to his health. You know his wonderful strength & endurance - I was beginning to think he had great strength of body. My Bird, after our return, was taken dangerously ill & continued so for several weeks, which

2. ~~Convinced~~ by matter to be ~~the whole~~ ~~time~~ & Aunt Mary
to be all the time away from him, as he remained
at home. In this way he was neglected just after
the change change in his habits from constant travelling
& camping life to the home life and when the fall
weather was become very cold. Then things or some un-
lucky cause produced his fever and he died. You know
what he was when you left. What to ~~under~~ ~~feel~~
brightness & clearness of intellect, what astonishing
moral purity & steady resolution in doing what he be-
lieved was right combined with a warmth & depth
of affection and a grace and beauty of person
which were to say the least rare indeed. Well, these
qualities had increased ten fold since that time.

He had grown to be a little man in everything - our friend
& companion who made all around constantly better
and happier. To me he was almost everything. You know
my disposition and habits - how reserved & solitary - how
much I needed a constant quiet sensible friend to fill
me my heart that space the world could not fill. He
was precisely what I wanted. If God in consideration
of my wants & miseries had devised a being exactly
fitted to relieve me from all suffering from them and
make me as happy as I could possibly be, he had
sent to send me Jimmie! He did send him and oh!
how happy he made me! What a bright light he
shed over my dark life. He has taken him away - and
the gloom comes back with ten fold thickness upon
me. And to his Aunt Mary he was of possible

more than he was to me. I never saw such devotion
to any human being as his to him - and he was just
as devoted to ~~him~~ her. It is almost death to her
that we are compelled to submit. I thought I could not
live without him. He was so intertwined with my
whole existence with every act & thought that ~~my~~ life
without seemed impossible. But but I find I
cannot kill me. I live on & am astonishingly well
and collected under my ~~trials~~. You know those
have had great troubles & afflictions in their lives
they have all been willing compared to this.

Jimmie died, our little one Nannie as he called
was in convulsions for an hour from a spasmodic
attack - death seemed inevitable. But, ~~as~~ ^{ed, and}
I thank providence for that, he is much like Jimmie,
but if I were to have a thousand children none
ever be what he was to me. He was my first-born
brightest noblest boy and such a boy, I know he was,
as I shall never see again.

Charles' family are well.

He still continues suspended & is doing finely.

I can only add this, if you become convinced, Thomas,
that you cannot in a reasonable time make a competi-
ty come back at once. Don't let the fear of being
laughed at, prevent you from doing what your good
sense tell you to do. Many of the best men in
our country have gone to California & returned

without making a cent. Dont be ashamed to do it. With
money or without it, successful or unsuccessful no one
ever received a warmer welcome than you would
receve from us & the whole community. All are
convinced you have exercised Roman fortitude under
the greatest trials & done all that you could possibly

Dr. Thomas Hunter

Sacramento Calif

California



have done in your circumstances. You can tell
Consider calmly, and if there is no ~~prob~~ pretty sure prospect
of a competency in a year or so dont hesitate a moment
in taking the best conveyance home. Accept all our
love & believe me most truly & affectionately yours
William Austin

Cahaba Novr. 17, 1850

Dr. Thomas Hunter,

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