

Monday, Emory Winesford March 19/43

My Dear Sister

I have often felt it to be almost a task to attempt composing a letter as I have felt when I had done it was a worthless scroll, but my feelings now are far different, and I must say it affords me a melancholly pleasure to communicate my feelings to friends I know is willing to sympathize with me, yet I know my letter will not contain that richness sublimity and depth of thought that ~~often~~ ^{often} characterize the productions of more highly cultivated and better informed minds, yet I feel that the sympathy of friendship will atone for its errors and you will receive it as the tribute of an overplanning heart. I think some excuse is wanting for my not writing before when I am write I thought I should write in a few days but when I recd yours of the 26 I concluded to wait untill I heard from you again last winter Luisa had me write some to send to you as she thought you would like to hear directly from her when she was no more I shall give it to in her own words and the time she told it Dec 4/42. Dear Friends I have long thought of having Valentin write some of my feelings since I have been sick I have often thought it would be a great comfort to me if our situations were changed I have thought very much of you and should have been extremely glad to enjoy your society it would have been a great comfort to me to have had some of my sisters or friends with me to encourage me by their counsel and advice and kindly wiped away the creeping sweat and to administer to a failing appetite and those thousand nameless marks of affection which a sister alone can render it has never been as hard here to get your help as it has been this season but I have had comfort to like help as good as we in general find for such help as work for the pay exclusively - Dec 18 my disorder has been a ^{very} peculiar one ~~thing~~ I have been able to sit up 3 or 4 hours in a day I have not been able to get on or of the bed or walk without help in 4 months my position in ~~resting~~ lying has been constantly on my right side this six months I have suffered very much with pain in my limbs especially my right one it has been very numb about 2 weeks since it commenced bloating and is now very much bloated and almost useless both of my feet are much swollen (and yet I am sitting up now) I have taken no medicine of consequence this 2 months my physician said medicine would be of no benefit except to relieve I have taken no ~~opium~~ ^{opium} nor opiates of any kind since I have been sick I have been subject to sickness very much since I have been sick it is very severe now and I think it will continue - St. From the first of my sickness I have never expected to recover but I have conversed with death as with a familiar friend and feel I can now trample him under my feet I feel at peace with heaven and that all is well (this is the direction she gave me in regard to writing when she left off she intended to have me write some more but during the night of the 20 the scene was greatly changed for some time we thought her dying and from that time untill her death she was to low in what I would write I take from notes I drew out the time and immediately after) Saturday Feb 2/43 for 2 weeks Luisa has been in more of a stupid state than formerly although she has set up nearly as long as common yet she seldom speaks unless I speak to her appetite has been failing her face for the last 2 weeks has fallen principally eyes and fish this afternoon I went to get a load of wood was gone probably about an hour

and while I was gone she was taken with a turn of cramping the second one she has had in the
time the other was when we was eating supper these turns I described in my last letter have changed
I will describe them now as near as I can they commence now in her feet or hands and sometimes eyes
they commence by quaking or twitching and soon communicate to all the system it last from 2 to
5 minutes (during this time she is perfectly sensible and suffers extremely she has often told me she
believed she was sensible during one of those turns of more suffering than many were while crying)
this is succeeded by excruciating all over the system of the most severe character breath and pulse
both cease entirely this lasts about 2 minutes in cramping courses she gasps for breath at intervals
and pulse faintly beats perhaps half the time she gradually recovers until her pulse are a complete
of late flutter during this time she is not conscious but talks some which we cannot understand
and her sighs are heart rending she seems sensible in from 30 to 50 minutes but
reduced to the last extremity Monday 5 she has had 3 of those turns in 12 hours I have been
up with her all night (have had ~~watch~~ watches about half the time for about 10 days the
the rest of the time I have been up myself I have since I have had watches made me a hammock
like the one you had there of Zacks when I was sick and when I have watches I take it into
the room to she has set up nearly from 8 to 10 o'clock Monday 6 has been failing was
up all night had no watches ^{last night} last night both watches become fettered and kept me up
nearly all the time has had but one turn of cramping has been delicious all day if
I left her a moment she would call me incessantly to keep her from falling off the bed as
she appeared to think she was falling ^{Monday} I have had 2 watches young and inexperienced but
but I lay down 2 or 3 hours through the night I was more quiet or exhausted but delicious
and constantly in motion ~~with her hands~~ Thursday 9 last night was more quiet but constant
ly reaching for things with her hands Friday 10 got her up last evening very weak
turns of cramping longer and more severe not more than 5 or ten minutes between them through
the night she has her reason between just before night conversed with Ellen for the last time
she did not expect to live through the night about 9 this morning had the last turn she
slept some 2 hours this forenoon the first she has had since Monday night and from
to day ~~she never shut her eyes to sleep as long as she has this evening~~ removed her suffi-
cient to make her bed Saturday and Sunday 11 & 12 delicious and restless in great distress has
ceased nothing this 2 weeks since she has Saturday ^{night} and Sunday she has been constantly talking
but we could make no sentences nor understand but few words Sunday night she
became more quiet hard for her to swallow with great thirst unable to move
her hands much and none of the rest of her body at 11 o'clock Sunday night I lay
down I had not laid down for 2 nights before I lay until past 12 got up and
found she had failed since I lay down I gave her some drink the watches did not
give her any drink she has taken no food since Friday about 1 o'clock I raised her
head to give her some drink she began to rise phlegm and I did not give her the
from this time to about 10 minutes before she expired she struggled hard with phlegm
not having strength to throw it off I am satisfied she was sensible soon after

I think like to hear from you - I will be glad to write

the phlegm began to rise she endeavored to talk very much but we could not hear distinctly owing to the rattling in her throat at one time she said distinctly I am ~~fitting~~ fitted or I am fixed and just as she ceased struggling she said distinctly I am dying I am dying glory to God. for about 10 minutes she was easy and at 2 o'clock Monday morning took it flight she was buried Tuesday 14 Boston by the Rev. Hanson Dunn Preville Baptist preacher a man of rare talents text Job 34. 31. 32 the Methodist preachers were about some 17. or 18 miles holding a protracted meeting Louisa was buried on Tuesday and your honest letter came to hand on Wednesday I will not do such injustice to my feelings as to attempt to describe them but while alone I reviewed its almost sacred pages and read its lines which led in every echo a sister deep unceasing love I was led to cast my eyes to the place once occupied by that one gone no more to return the thought arose where now are those eyes that once sparkled with unbounded love at the voice of sympathy and affection it was forever closed where now was that countenance I had often seen beam with the joy of a sister pure emotions when I had read words like this is it now pale as the stern scenery where now that form to which these lines would have new vigor ~~alas~~ alas now cold in clay that bosom will heave no more at the voice of friendship ~~the delicate~~ how cold the bed on which thou slumbers the bleak winds of winter how unpitiging are thy sacred dust the cold damp earth must press that form which once moved with life and vigor but here the scene must change death has done its worst he cannot bind the body to the tomb nor the spirit to corruption but soon those faculties must triumph free as air and a time will come when I shall see them clothed in the robes of immortal youth - I you have read have read her mind in youth you have enjoyed her lasting friendship and warm unfeeling love you have seen those virtues that adorn the female character effused and ripen in more mature years and have known that hers was no cold affection no worthless heart no common mind and as a measure you know my loss but add to this the child that needs a mother's tender care the ~~ten thousand~~ ties that bound us together can you may feel that I am lonely yet in my most lonely hours I am often happy for at such moments I fancy the spirit of the departed hovers near me and my mind leaps back to the times she has told me she thought when she was young she would be permitted to know how I fared and then she would say perhaps when sorrow and trouble and disappointment gathers like a cloud around perhaps your Louisa may be the spirit that shall be permitted to breathe comfort to your mind and if the spirit you may mourn as far away may be near you the principal may be circumscribed yet still there is comfort in the thought and ere I am aware my mind becomes lost in the thought that the unbreakable ties that bound us to each other here and are now broken by death may become again united in heaven and our spirits meet where sorrow need not

I shall enclose a small lock of Lucia's hair I would have sent you more but I had but little and I divided it how glad should be if I could communicate my thoughts as I could if you was here she left some things for you if I ever had an opportunity to send them to you I had thought enough to write to fill another sheet but I must stop may I hear from you as soon as you receive this and in the interest my that love is sweet than life and stronger than death be ours and if I never see you on earth may I hail you happy in Heaven is the wish

of your worthy brother
Valentine
Sephemia

William - G
Mar - 22

Philadelphia

Miss Maria

Berkshire Co

Nov 22

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The most severe winter of ever met - Ohio we have had sleighing nearly all winter and it appears as much like old weather now as it did last year but with less and grateful to you all in my best wishes for your present future & eternal good may I remain yours &c
W. Bausger - A

am - would be better last Sunday morning
I must write a few words to you & read verses from Psalm 137
~~not over~~ come the birds to be dissipated by down but allow me to tender you my hearty thanks for the of amount exceeds the amount it would have afforded as to how soon the news concerning your business from as to (of other hand) I had thoughts of purchasing some money for Dublin with the money that he could have if come from Ireland he moreover he is a healthy robust boy he has brought me all my own thought and word from England necessity of money for him he says he will go and live with Maria & Wm if I will go of live in my own house but born at at that of present at also here