

The Sing School Cornwallis.
January 20th 1864

Dear Mother

I have a duty to perform a duty which I anxiously know how to commence with, a duty of a mother's nature that I am conversely myself perhaps the truth of it I received your long expected letter to my dear wife on the 12th day of December last but also the dear one it was addressed to so no more she departed this life on the 12th of December days before your daughter & sister's mother) letter came to hand. I will begin to tell you all about it from the beginning we have both been aware of the continued weakness that has almost imperceptibly been coming on my dear departed wife. Her health began to fail her almost two months ago she felt on these shores & more especially since our eldest boy was about 16 months old when she had a miscarriage after which inflammation set in & she was very ill for two months I was advised by our medical attendant to go up into the country for a change of air would be very beneficial to her health of Mrs Turner accordingly as you must be aware we left Camden which was a great loss to myself in a pecuniary way but this I did not heed but the health of my dear wife was anxious at any cost if possible during this illness at Camden I was attending on her & the baby myself for a week night & day so I could not get a woman to give me satisfaction staying this & her confinement no one could make her any thing so good as myself during our short stay up in the country Mrs Turner's health was certainly better & it was her constant wish & prayer that she may be allowed to be the mother of at least another child so the doctor had told her she need not expect to bear more children & it pleased God to answer her prayers, I had occasion to leave home for a short time & that I pursued her journey on the tenth day contrary to my expectation after leaving her I was detained but being anxious to return to her at least not later than I promised. I travelled by night at the side of being beaten the bush & to my joy when qualification I got home about four o'clock on the tenth day. Phillis was always there as was pleased that I had returned & I handed some 3 or 4 hundred yards of emolence me & I'm hearty that which she also will do more I arrived here for herity welcome & I'm so glad you have returned I have been so dull without you & this time she had something to tell me that made her feel doubly happy & I was at home

me how I have something to tell ~~you~~^{you} about it? You know I am over happy that I am & she took my arm (after that diagnosis) & walked towards the house, as we did not have come running to meet us & I was to take him Phillip's home & frequently after we had a wish that this next child may be a baby as long time & not go off hands as Phyllis had done such was her love for young children & this very child in a baby was 10 1/2 months ago & Phyllis at this age would not allow anyone to handle him over to his mother, as I thought after this I unfortunately had my leg broken & which put my dear wife about very much & although I was now enjoying she would never become to go to her bed but put her bed on the ground by my side night after night about 4 or 5 months we left for Sydney my leg not having been at night & being still very weak, which payed very much on her mind as I intended to go to the leg broken & rest, but it being done along I was advised to let it remain as I would be likely to get strength in time at this time Phyllis health was not so well but being the beginning of the hot weather was all against her as the heat always had tended to ~~make~~ make her worse. As that no strength in my leg to work at my trade I applied for school & stayed in Sydney over months & constant exercise in the Botanic Gardens & on the sea coast had somewhat recovered Phyllis but still there was something bothering about that she would not get rid of & she constantly grew more weak in her constitution while in Sydney the record of the children was got over it & very nicely without the aid of a doctor although she was very weak, she left Sydney with the children intending to spend a week at the Lakes but on account of some kind of fever being among the children there she had to return & hear the two children got very great wetting which made her very ill I am taking you a great way about for which you must excuse me as I wish to give you an idea of her health in general since I had the pleasure of knowing her, her general symptoms were a pain across the back of the head where she received a blow from a fall on the deck of her ship in coming out, a flowing of blood to her head when stooping, a languid feeling especially in her legs which gave out sometimes & she had to sit she also suffered a great deal in her teeth she had but few left that the dentist had not drawn & healthily as they were pain keeping at times across the lower part of her stomach since the attack of inflammation from some or one of these pains she was advised if you see so that her life in this trouble would be one of pain but she often told me so long, as she had met the children by her it was all she could get for them

her pain became so severe last year was a very trying one on account of —
The daughter which lasted 10 months & to all those causes we may attribute —
The continual decline of my dear wife & your beloved daughter but her —
immediate cause was child birth for the last 4 months she had been so —
troubled to herself she was ~~so~~ unusually about & tried to convince her that it would
be best to call in a doctor which she had all along so much objected for these
reasons 1. & on account of the bad usage she received at the birth of her first
child 2. & economy 3. & the distance to fetch him she had engaged a nurse these
months before she was so much recommended but also she did not understand
the duty which she was found out to my loss on the evening of 11th Dec 1863 she came
out on the garden to meet her she did not know how to sit stand or lie, she
took my arm & went into the house with her I lay down on the sofa & Phillis
said her head on my breast she felt kneeling on the floor after some time the
absence of her abdomen by her telling me how much better she felt during this time
The girl had put the child down in bed & now we all three was sitting in the sitting
room the rest of the evening about nine o'clock I went to bed & you & your father
had had been out since we were married & still ^{we} delayed to go to bed & we got to speak of
Hugo and Tom gone by mail 11 o'clock when I had been a long time in the sitting
room with our youngest (Henry) for a month past while Phillis & the girl slept together
but this night something seemed to change Phillis did not like to be wakened & returned to
me I think she had her's each time given me a kiss saying she did not like to
be wakened, but how soon she did's about 12 o'clock she called me saying she was
so ill she thought the nurse I had called a neighbour's before 10 minutes had
passed the baby was born, as fine a child as ever was born (a girl) which we had
both much & wished) I got the nurse there in about 30 or 35 minutes & with her & the
woman (neighbour) I thought there would be plenty of warning if the doctor was
required but they let her lie until about 6 o'clock & then told me I had better send for
the Doctor but I went myself & was absent about 30 minutes but when I returned she
was so much better was gone in 10 minutes before I went out to bed about 1 o'clock &
went in to see her, I gave her a kiss, she was then almost unable to speak she said in
a few minutes "give me another kiss my dear" which she then said with all the force you may in-
ally "God bless you" "There were the last words she said & passed long by my dear wife. She had
been married nearly 5 years & the very year had been spent in one winter of perfect felicity
I was on both sides not to word had ever passed between us however our movements had been so

we completed every thing to each other. Phillis was a good & a manager. I never could detect her
in any thing. Sally was found. her piano to answer well she was indeed without
a doubt a good kind loving & a faithful wife & fond & good mother.
Now I have to say that I shall never be able to replace and that I am
afraid will be a loss to you and I am sure she must have been a
good child & a affectionate daughter. Her birthday was the very day week before
her death. I then wished her many happy returns of the day. Little thinking
what a week was going to bring forth. Thus we see her was a great pleasure
one too true. "In the midst of life we are in death." There she lay she had
left behind her been out to visit nurse for 4 weeks & could not have
her out any longer we have now had her home 10 days but she is very
ill with her changing food she is unimpaired after my sister as Phillis myself
agreed it should be (with the same) I hope that it will be but not present
there is but little hope she sees & I am very pretty well although they
have been ill through eating unripe fruit. I send you enclosed our likeness
taken on the 4th of July 1853. I have no more to say at present. I was
filled with grief on the following day after her death. I am with her
being somewhat it is impossible to keep her longer she lies in a beautiful
spot in the Richmond Churchyard & as soon as possible I shall erect a
neat stone ~~with the inscription~~ to mark the place & tell the world of her
days, you need not fear but that your daughter will stand for you as
model could do, & I will see that her dear children are brought up in
a proper manner & I have to thank God, this consolation that I have
not got her share as part of her name more until I hear from you
hoping you are all well & that Betty is ~~now~~ married & doing much
better than she did with her former husband.

Remain, your devoted & affectionate son-in-law

Henry Turner
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