

S. Chamber 21st Feb. 1840.

My Dear Wife

I passed a most distressing night last night and rose this morning unrefreshed by any sleep. Just before I went to bed, I received a letter from Henry communicating the melancholy intelligence of the sudden death of poor Julia. She appears to have gone off in a manner similar to that in which our lamented Anne left us. Henry writes in terms of the greatest grief, and seems to be overwhelmed. Poor fellow; his life has not been long but he has had his full share of misfortunes. I have written to him communicating all the expressions of sympathy, soothing & condolence which I could employ. I have told him of his duties and responsibilities to the sweet little children that Julia has left him; and that during my short remnant of life I too shall want his care and kindness. I have advised him to prosecute his journey to N. Orleans and then come round by Augusta and Charleston to this place.

I have not failed, my dear wife, to think of the addition to your cares and responsibilities which this sad event may occasion; but I trust that the Prather family will relieve you much from them. And we must submit to whatever Providence inflicts upon us.

I have no heart to make the excursion to Richmond which I intended to do tomorrow; but they have made such arrangements for my reception that I should create great disappointment if I did not go. And I have concluded that perhaps the journey, now

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