

Ashland 23^d Dec

My dear Henry

My last letter announced to you the death of your grandfather Watkins. I have now the distressing task of communicating that of my mother, which happened about ten days after, and that also of your uncle John which occurred about the same time. He died on board a Steamer in descending the Mississippi. It has pleased Providence to visit our family with severe afflictions.

Thomas, who went three weeks ago, to the tract of land which I own near Terre Haute on the Wabash, has not yet returned, nor have I heard from him. I expect him in a few days to hear from him.

In other respects the family remains pretty much as when you left it. I intend to visit N. Cole and expect to leave home for that object in the middle of next month. I believe I should not have the melancholy events above mentioned, but I have no hope of deriving benefit to my health.

I delivered an Address to the R. Colony last week, of which I will transmit you a copy when published by Mr. Smith, in whose hands it now is.

Your mother joins me in the tender of our affection. Address me on the receipt of this at this place.

H. Clay

H. Clay Jr Esq