

House of Representatives,

Washington, D. C., Feb. 5th, 1882.

My dear Mary, Alice, David, Emily and Leicester;

I have just received your sweet letters, Mary, Alice and Emily, of the 8th inst., and have been much touched by reading them.

It would be a great delight to me to see and converse with you, my darling children, and it is a great deprivation to me not to have this privilege; but I shall have it, if I am only patient.

The kind feelings of appreciation which you express for the care and attentions of your Uncle Angus and your Aunts I am glad to receive. Few children have so many kind and loving friends as you have, and though Mamma has withdrawn from us for awhile, you should not mourn; but on the contrary, feel thankful to the Lord for giving you so many who love you

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and will do anything in their power to help you. There is one thing which should comfort you in this time of trial, and that is the great respect and honor which your dear Mother's memory received from the Presidency of the Church, the Apostles and the Saints generally. No woman in our Church ever had so much honor paid to her by the authorities, by the press and the people, to my knowledge. Such a tribute of affection has the effect to soften our sorrow, and I trust it will have this effect upon John L. and Abraham.

While I do not wish you to forget your Mamma, I hope you will not allow your thoughts to dwell upon her departure. You must not brood over this. Do not get off alone. Keep in company as much as you can. When you are alone pray to the Lord, and be sure and ask him to help you to be cheerful. David, I desire you to always sleep with Cousin George, or Lewis or one

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of the other boys. You must not get in the habit of lying awake after you go to bed. Mary Alice, I desire you to look after him in this respect, for I know he is inclined to be wakeful at night.

And you, yourself, Mary Alice, ought to be careful on the same point. When Emily is not with you at night for any reason get one of the twins to sleep with you.

It is a good thing for you all to keep employed. Your studies should occupy your time and thoughts, and by keeping busy you will be more happy. Do the best you can till I can get home. I shall be there as soon as I possibly can get there, and leave here safely and honorably. I know Uncle Angus and Aunt Emily and

Aunt Sarah Jane, Aunt Eliza and Aunt Martha will do every thing in their power for you and to make you happy. I wrote to Uncle Angus about that which I wished done about yourselves and the household. His reply will probably come to me in a few days, then I will know more than I do as to the best arrangements to be made.

Give Aunt Emily my love. I cannot thank her enough for her kindness to your Mamma and to you. Accept my love to yourselves, my dear children; Kiss each other for me. I pray for you always. Remember me kindly to Sister Davey and the children, to Uncle John and Aunt Adelia and to Dan and Leonard.

I am Your loving Father,

Wm. P. Cannon

Give my love to Cousin George and all the children. }