



Richmond Va
Sept 20 1883

Dear Minnie

Although I could reasonably expect nothing more, yet the tidings of Minnie's death was shocking indeed, and I have grieved unusually all day over the sad event. The old must die but when one so young is taken we are impressed more fully of the uncertainty of life and that death is no respecter of persons. This must have cast a pall over the whole community and especially has that large family been called upon to mourn sadly of late of one in the ripeness of age and now one just budding into life. It is indeed sad - God moves in a mysterious way His wonders & perfections. We do not know now His Dispensations which seem to us so strange but by & by the veil will be lifted and all will be explained - I pray that the promises of the gospel may be the consolation of her bereaved mother and that she may by this Dispensation be brought nearer to God and strive to be ready when she shall be summoned to meet her child - I am also grieved to hear of the extreme illness of Mr.

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Lungs & stomach & bowels but no cough
since Sept 1/10 & no more & was by 18-19
Blackwell's child and fear it will not recover.
This is Thursday 2 1/2 p.m. and no pain since Sunday
I am beginning to feel that the colics are about
to yield and take course - No food yet though,
except soft boiled egg (one) for breakfast - I am
thankful for that - I take small amounts and
meat juice alternately and will try to keep up on
these - I walked down street this morning & met
Wilson of the ^{City &} London and Waltham of the L & N E
The latter I met at Ashchurch & he remembered
& recognized me - Churchill has returned & I may
see him tomorrow - I also met Gordon of the Ham
Bremen who promises to go back on the Blackwell Fac
in Nov - Also Moore of the British America - Send
me a list of Cos on (the last one proposed) I may find
some help as I pass along the street - I hope you
can keep things moving and make a good month's work.
I am so anxious to be doing something but I know it is
best for me to be quiet - Give much love to all
Yours aff Father Smith