

Dear Brother William

Harrisilton May 14<sup>th</sup> 1854

Ellen and I got home last night from Dayton. We were thair to attend the funeral of our dear Brother Israel. it was a sad duty. Ellen told you that I would Telegraph to you when Myrtilla got up to let you know at what time the funeral would take place. We could not tell at what time she would be up. She was delayed some days in starting waiting for her Brother that lived in Orleans. She wanted him to accompany her up. but after waiting some 3 or 4 days she found that he did not get her dispatches. He had gone to Mobile, so poor thing she came up without her Brother. She came under the care of a kind friend. Brother Tom & I met her at the Landing, so did E. B. Howells and her Brother in Law Mr Clark. Poor Myrtilla she was dreadfully distressed. Poor little Anna is in great trouble. Poor Israel Remains were taken to Dayton and Interred near his little Childeren. I had not time after Myrtilla got up to let you know and for you to get down before the funeral. Myrtilla asked me in Dayton if you would not be down. She would liked to of meet <sup>you</sup> thair, the free Masons Furned out to the funeral. Father and Tom and his ~~wife~~ came over from Richmond. Mother was not able to come dear Mother is all most broke down with the shock. when I got to Cincinnati on my way to Memphis to meet him, for the Cooper family wanted Dr Patten & I to meet him thair, for he said he was worse. I after I got to Cincinnati Dr Patten <sup>got</sup> a Despatch to say he was dead. It takes the Despatches over a day to come from Baton Rouge

I went Back Home, and Telegraphed to Tom to tell Mother that Israel was worse, and I then started to see her the next morning. Tom and Mary Ann went out to Father's with me as soon as Poor Mother seen us. She knew what was the matter and became perfectly frantic. I stayed with her a day and night. She became a little more calm Ann & Father bore it better. Poor Father yesterday at the grave was quite over come, but did not show it much till he got into the carriage he was quite sick for a while but got better by the time we got Back to Gepharts, and was much better when he started home Myrtilla went home with him. Father began to look Israel. I suppose we must expect more trials like these before many years for Mother & Father are getting aged. I do not know that I could stand many, for this one has been all most too much to bear. I am not well this week and am so low spirited that I can not write much more. Brother Joe was with us last Monday night, he went out the next day to see Father's folks. Ellen and the Children are well, give our love to Mary and ~~your~~ Children I hope they are well, write to us soon. I Remain your affectionate Brother

J. C. Howells

P.S. I suppose you would like to know what was the cause of Poor Israel's death ~~that~~ it was the Consumption.

J. C. H.