

Washington, Penn. St Sunday Jan 13 1864

Dear John Mason

Manfield, My dear Sir

I reached the place last night
hoping to have seen you, and have related to you the particulars
unless of the successful result of our poor Mother's death,
of which you have been apprised already, if the numerous
letters have reached you.

She died on the morning of the 29th November. She had
suffered somewhat from swelling of the hands & feet, had
some general debility, but not enough to cause any
great anxiety, but Mr. Sturgeon had recommended her
to leave home, for a few days. My wife had made all
the arrangements to take her to our home & Mrs
Conrad was to remain at home. Ma seemed to be much
pleased at the idea. Mr. Mabe was with her as much
as she could be, it being very difficult to get perfect
He went up on the day of her death, and Ma was up
& very cheerful, when that day received a letter from you
stating that you were well, & that you had reached the
place on your way home. She sat up until midnight
at night talking to her son-in-law & my wife, seemed very
cheerful, laughed at the doctors, & went to bed, with a
cousin & a new book. Some one had sent her
My wife went into her room early in the morning
& Ma seemed to be sleeping so quietly that she
would not wake her, but after a while she

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returned & endeavored to console her, but her
soul had gone, & she lay with her head on one
hand & her back in the other without any
sign of any struggle, the picture of peaceful grief.
I have been very ill myself with a violent attack
of dysentery, & have just concluded to try & get
home. I went by the island & reached home the
day after his funeral, & only remained one day & half
& left hoping to meet you here & do what little
my sympathy could to soften the blow.

Some of her friends were at all alarmed for her,
they thought she was failing, but none thought of her
death so near.

It is useless to detail the amazing petty annoyances she
suffered, but she bore them with a patience that was
astounding, & when Mrs. Conrad remonstrated to her that
she was an old Lady, & could save herself many
petty trials by taking the other she answered,

"to humiliate your my husband & children shall never
know that mortification."

She was buried in the garden beneath of the house,
or rather next, it was impossible to bury her in the
grave yard. All was done that could be to shield
the respect of the living for the deceased from the one
that she never must say death to cause her grief.
I was in great danger while I was at home & of
course could not go to it, & I could do nothing
myself, & I was very much of the day of the

death from Mr. Nelson's when she has been
staying ever since the Gombies come, & my wife
who had been there a good deal, requested Mrs. Conrad
to look up every thing & give the key to Mary Parks.

The Gombies left to return on last Friday, just six days
after I left. They had gone to Franklin.

I do not know where Mr. G. Parks is, & must beg you
to write to him. I shall leave here to day in search for
Peters, whom I shall be for some time I suppose, though
I may return home for a short time after seeing my way
which are at the present time.

There is no time to state the wrongs which our enemies
have committed?

I have not Charley in my paper, & I suppose from what I
have seen his family are with him.

Should they not be given my benediction here to them,
& will they not be glad to supply with him in his
last burning his house.

Our country I fear is destined to starve. The Gombies took
all the corn. They took about 500 Bushels from me nearly
all Charley's, all from the Corners, took a good deal of
Sugar, Malaga from ones, all my horses etc.

I fear my money will have to move from the
office of destruction. Corn will be all gone. All
the cattle nearly, and the largest sheep have been
destroyed.

There is nothing left you see the grass is gone
many places are the buildings.

My family suffered no personal insult, & my wife stood bravely & saved a good deal. They did not go into my house. My, William wife was forced to leave home, & lost somewhat, but to no great extent I hope.

Many of those who were left in charge of property I fear have been greater thieves than the robbers.

William is still in Texas. Mrs. Coffit & all we will hear. Accept, my dear Sir my most sincere sympathy in this to us all great bereavement &

Believe me to yours most affectionately.

Wm. L. Mack

P.S. When I left home they had only injured the fence on your place below.

I found the enclosed letter for Mrs. G. G. Mack here. The letter announcing Mo's death was sent by flog of train

W. L. Mack
June 19th 1864

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June 25th 1864

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