
Wilcox Mo.
March 8, 1901

Dear Rate,

Your kind letter was duly received and appreciated, though this is the first time I have had leisure to answer it when I felt as if I could. It is good to have sympathy when one's heart is aching. You, who have a sister near your own age can understand how great my loss is – and yet, it is not all loss. It has drawn me closer to the Father who is ever ready to comfort us and help us bear our sorrows. Death would be terrible if we could not hope for a better life in a happier world.

Our great comfort is that she lived and died a trusting Christian. Though she wanted to get well, she was willing to go if it was God's will, and was not afraid.

I yet, have hardly realized that she is forever gone from this world. You know she had been away all winter and I saw none of the last sad rites. As she was away from home, but among friends, when she died, and Father and Mother were there, I was glad they decided to bury her there. I was spared the agony of seeing all that was earthly of her laid away.

Mother said everyone was so kind to them all. She could not have had more faithful and loving care if she had been at home. Father finished her school. They said she was doing so well with her school work and had such a hold upon her pupils. One of her large pupils, a 19 year old boy, when told how sick she was, broke down and cried. He had always made the teachers trouble and had annoyed her some in little ways, but the last few weeks, she wrote us, he had been a perfect gentleman as he had been at first.

She had been so well, weighed more than ever before in her life and seemed in such good spirits. But her lungs have never been strong since she had the whooping cough so hard that winter, and I am sure she would rather have it end so, than with prolonged suffering.

I hope Mate is much better ere this. I have 1 more week here, then April 1st begin a 3 month term at Martha Washington.

Yours Truly
Effie Lynn Davis

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