

Washington Monday 9 1/2 P.M. c. 1864  
May 163

My dear sister, Poor Ellis has gone to Heaven! as ~~my~~ telegraphed you this afternoon - But in this sorrowful bereavement you have much to console you - he died fully conscious to the last of his approaching end, and entirely reconciled to his fate: dying happy, and satisfied that he was going to a better world: and the last words he uttered being to his Aunt Fanny - "Get me a drink of good water before I go" - which one at once gave him, & then he said "Good bye" - & calmly, almost without a struggle, deliberately laid his hands straight down by his sides, and afterwards laying them across each other, went to his final sleep on this earth at 12 3/4 o'clock of noon to-day. The Surgeons and all thought he was getting on exceedingly well, until hemorrhage from his wound set in on the morning of Sunday - and as Fanny & I understand it about 10 o'clock yesterday (Sunday) the surgeon in attendance being then in the room was called to him, & found him bleeding from the artery in his right thigh: under the influence of Chloroform, they at once proceeded to take up the artery, and did so very satisfactorily and ~~but~~ successfully: but it left him very much reduced, as they say he must have lost a great deal of blood before he reached Washington, and this accords with Ellis' statement to me: although from his appearance he seemed to have recovered from it. Dr. Ducachet Chief Surgeon, & who performed the operation, aided by his Assistant, told me yesterday afternoon that his case was a critical one, though if he had no further hemorrhage, he might get through: that he must be kept quiet & not disturbed & he excluded visitors from that ward: but he told me frankly that if another hemorrhage should ensue, he should feel no hope. Even up to the 10 o'clock of



Sunday, Ellis was in stout hope and spirits, and as the Surgeon told me he said, in response to some remark, "Oh! I'm not going to die in this Hospital". Everybody there was kind to him, & had already become attached to him, because of his youth, his courage & manly qualities & fortitude: the Surgeon seemed to take especial interest in him: the Chaplain was by his bedside from midnight last night and until a little while before his very last moments, and only left then after repeated calls to attend another dying officer, whose friends were not with him: and just as we left came down stairs to us to ask us to say to Harriette "That as far as human calculations could go Ellis was all right. & now in Heaven."

Dear Mary,

John commenced to give an account of Ellis dying bed, but was prevented & handed it to me to finish. I was sent for at the Treasury about ten o'clock Monday morning, John was there & had been for an hour or so: when I went up to his bedside, he said oh Aunt Fannie I am so happy, I love ~~my~~ Jesus, I replied "I am so glad Ellis you do, I can part with you so much easier when I know you are going to Heaven". When asked if he had any message to send home, he said: Tell them I am happy, Oh Lord be merciful to me a sinner! he asked the Chaplain to read the Bible, & he read The Lord is my shepherd & Ask & it shall be given unto you, Knock & it shall be opened & Ellis replied that is true in my case; when he came to the words & "Few there be that find it." You may find it Captain, I hope so was his answer. He then read to him the parable of the man who built his house upon a rock & said to Ellis is that your state he replied calmly yes sir. Again he read seek the Lord while he may



he found & Ellis exclaimed I don't know what I would do without those words, If it were not for Christ who died to save sinners what would I do; he complained a great weight on his chest & was breathing very hard. Again the Chaplain read a few verses from John 14<sup>th</sup>, These things have I spoken unto you & at which he said Thank God; he next read Let not your hearts be troubled, I go to prepare a place for you, again he exclaimed Thank God? John asked him if he felt consolation in this reading of the Bible, he said yes & turning to the Chaplain said read that over again, after it was read, he said "I can die now without so much pain"; Chaplain said but you must suffer, "oh yes, but Christ suffered more. He would close his eyes for several minutes, remain perfectly calm, then would open his eyes & say, Oh! Lord help me now on my dying bed? I whispered across the bed, I hope he may last till Harriette comes, he said mother, has not mother come yet? I am happy going right to heaven. He then repeated three or four verses from St-John 14 "In my <sup>Father's</sup> house are many mansions" &c Five minutes before eleven he spoke as follows after lying with closed eyes some ten minutes or so, "Earth is a pilgrimage Heaven is my home - In my Father's house are many mansions & Earth is a desert drear - lets see, what else? No more pain there, 'Tis the Soldiers Retreat". He asked very calmly, "when will I die?" Chap - when the master willeth -- Ellis clasping his hands together said Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven: "Jesus can make a dying bed, soft as downy pillows are". Oh! Lord please make my dying bed soft as downy pillows are? again soon after Oh Lord I pray you take these pains away



from this dying bed? On being asked if he knew who we were he  
replied O yes! Aunt Fannie & Uncle John. The Chaplain told  
him he now stood on Jordan's banks & repeated a hymn commencing  
with those words & asked him if he knew the hymn, he said he  
never heard it before. 11/4 opened his eyes, asked for water, when  
about giving it to him out of a spoon, asked for it out of a cup - & after  
drinking repeated again "In my Father's house are many mansions &c  
& Oh Lord make my dying bed as soft as downy pillows are?"

11/40 He said: In my Father's house are many mansions, I go  
to prepare a place for you in Oh Lord make my couch as soft  
as downy pillows are? Then turning to me he said it is so nice  
to have you here - I said to him Ellis I thought you were getting  
along so nicely that I thought you were going to get well - he said  
I did I, but - I have lost so much blood I can't get well now  
soon after he seemed to be sleeping & talked to his men, said to them  
stop swearing, repent of your sins, you can do it easily if you will be  
sory - he repeated Now I lay me - again, Ease my couch Oh Lord?  
it pains so" When asked where his pains were said only in one spot - his  
thigh. About a quarter before one he said to me give me a good  
drink before I go, after taking it, he said "good bye" - then laid his  
arms deliberately straight down by his sides & afterwards crossed them  
on his breast - & then with one struggle he died -

Poor fellow he is gone & I trust to Heaven -

Let Kate & Harriette read this

Statement - write soon - Ma is improving every day -

Your affectionate sister -

Fannie.

Mr. Hall, will please return this letter  
by my son, Fritz, the bearer, as it is a  
precious memorial for Mrs Hamilton

Mmab