

My dear son

Washington 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1840.

I received last night your letter communicating the affecting intelligence of the death of your dear wife ~~my~~ poor daughter Julia. It was so sudden and appalling, and so unexpected to me that it overwhelmed me with sorrow and grief. I scarcely slept last night, and have risen hardly able yet to realize the loss which we have sustained. The manner of her death resembles so much that of my lamented one!

Yes, my dear son, I do condole and sympathize with you, from the bottom of my soul. But I hope that you will not forget that she has left you tender & responsible duties to perform towards the children of your mutual love and affection. These will require all your care, and I hope that you will command the forbidding requests to the fulfillment of your duties to them.

How one after another are the objects which fastened me to this life passing away and leaving me with scarcely any wish <sup>but</sup> that I may soon follow them! Whatever might be my desire that must be my fate. During the short remnant of my life, I too shall need your kindness and affectionate attention. I beg therefore, on my account, as well as that of my dear grand children you will take care of yourself.

Had you not better yet make your trip to A. C. and proceed from thence by the way of Augusta and Charleston to this place?

Your affl. father  
H. Clay

Mr. H. Clay Jr.