

Waco Texas Nov. 15th 1868.

Jesse McQuigg,

Dear Jesse,

It becomes my painful duty inform you of the death of that kind and affectionate boy who was the thankful recipient of your watchful and tender care and affection during that long and wearisome trip home. The day after you left I went into his room and he was weeping. I asked him what was the matter, he said I was thinking of parting with that boy never to see him again.

Pa said he you dont know how much I love him, I have not had a chance to tell you how much care and attention he gave me on the Road, then he spoke of Cousin Sallie also waiting on him as if he had been his brother, he then said that Jesse had gotten up late at night and after water for him into yards where dangerous dogs were, he asked me to write to you and thank you for your kindness, which I must hastily do, I was sorry that Billy had not told me before you left all about it, but he had told me enough to fill me so full of gratitude that I was unable to give utterance to my feelings when you left our House

I hope to be able to reward, but above any earthly reward, I hope & praye that ~~that~~ the great I am, will reward you with an everlasting crown of rejoicing. Billy said before he left home and told his ma, who was his bedside Companion, after he returned, that he would not live to see his 21st birth day which was the 12th Inst. on the 7th Inst he asked me what day of the month it was I told him, he said five more days will be my birth day, but I will not live to see it, If I do said he it will be a close fit, he talked as calmly about death as if was to be an earthly visit, on Wednesday evening about dusk he said to me Pa what strange feeling is on me. I asked him how he felt, this short breathing, I told him it was death, he examined his pulse felt them carefully, and said I wish the good Lord would take me right now, he then turned to me and told me of two small debts he owed and asked to pay them, I asked if he felt them that his saviour was with him oh, yes Pa, all is right, & begged us not weep, thus he died at just 9 o'clock on the 11th at night only a few hours would have brought his 21st birth day, he said a few days before his death that his faith grew stronger ever day, and that death had no terror,

Say to uncle Charley & Aunt Sally that on taking the first
view of these providential scenes, it looks very hard, the
thought and reality of having to give up my dear children
just as they arrive at maturity, cut off in the bloom of
youth and a hope of long life of usefulness, but then when
I think of our loss being their everlasting gain, and
a thought, after the toils & trials of this uncertain & perplexing
life shall with me come to a close, of meeting an unbrotten
family in that blessed world the Christians home, I am right
here enabled to rejoice in the very midst of my afflictions
and bereavements and give God the glory, whilst he
holds the rod and inflicts punishment with one hand, he can
& does administer comfort and consolation with the other,
we would be so glad if Uncle Charley & Aunt Sally could
come and spend ~~a~~ even a short time with us, but
we know how they are situated, perhaps they can come
in vacation, we want as many of you as can, come
and spend vacation with us. Susan & my cousin
Sarah M^c, we have no special local news, Buck
has arrived with his family & Mitty.

our love to all, write soon,

yours affectionately

B. F. Richey.

P.S. a few words to Cousin Frank who never failed

to receive a share of praise and gratitude from
Billy for the great interest manifested by him
for his comfort. Said if he wasnt able to do much
he was always ready to suggest and plan for his
welfare, for which he has our warmest thanks,
Aunt Margaret White, god ^{her} bles for her most kind care
and council to my departed boy while at her House,
I can never no never get done thanking her. I wish
it was so that I could give her some token of my
affection for her, but she & all of his kind friends
I hope will be rewarded in heavens pure world,
I must close
your B.S.P.