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Letter, J. M. Wallace to Thomas P. Darden, September 16, 1862

J. M. Wallace

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Panola County Miss Sept 16th 1862

Mr. Jas. P. Darden.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 9th Inst was received by me on yesterday. Your nephew Mr. J. W. Darden came to my house alone, & with a chill on him, on the 21st August. The evening of the same day, a comrade - Mr. Orr, came to wait upon him. The next day two other comrades Mr. Peake & Mr. Stuart came to my house sick & a Mr. Christmas to attend upon them & Mr. Orr who in the meantime was taken sick himself. These were all with him during his sickness & at the time of his death, & the attentions of Mr. Christmas & Orr were most kind & unremitted. I sent for a Physician, ^{D^r J. W. Joby} the most eminent in our County, to see your nephew the day after his arrival at my house, who pronounced his disease, bilious Congestive fever. The same night he had another chill which was so long continued - & his pulse so rapid that it could scarcely be counted, with other dangerous symptoms, - that I sent again for D^r Joby whom we could not

get until next day; who pronounced it a con-
=gestive chill, & charged us particularly to prevent
its return by the free use of quinine, also putting
him under a regular course of medicine. He
had no more sickness for the next three days
- seemed to improve rapidly & become cheerful,
& all uneasiness about his condition passed from
our minds. But about 12 o'clock on the day
of his death he took another chill. His pulse
again becoming so rapid that it could not be
counted. I sent immediately for his Physician, in
the mean time applying mustard freely to his ex-
=trimities. The Physician did not arrive until
about six o'clock, when reaction seemed to
have taken place, & he left him under that
impression; - but it had not, & he died about
10 o'clock at night. He died free of all pain,
& gently, as an infant falling to sleep; but with
his intellect clear & unclouded to the last moment.

I do not think he was conscious that he was
going to die; & I did not have ~~the~~ the heart to
make this announcement to him. It may have
been wrong in me, but I was partly influenced
by the fact that the presence of his physician
had seemed to act so beneficially in the hope
& confidence it inspired it would have seemed

cruel to have destroyed it. He was conscious however of his perilous condition, I think, from various manifestations. He asked me to stay by his side that night, which he had never done before - thinking doubtless that I had more judgment than his young comrades - & frequently asking me if his pulse was no better & his extremities no warmer; & to my evasive replies - insisting that he must be better, as his breathing was free & he was comfortable & free from all pain. These inquiries & remarks were continued almost to the very last moment when he gently fell asleep, - to awake I hope, in a better world.

He received a Christian burial, the services being performed by the Rev. Mr. Boswell, & his remains deposited in Friendship Church yard.

His effects were taken possession of by his comrades, I think by Mr. Christmas & Mr. Stuart. Mr. Christmas I know took his horse with him, & I am just in receipt of a letter from Mr. Christmas asking me to inquire of Dr. Joby the amt. of his medical ^{bill}, as he had gone off forgetting to pay it & expressing regret at his negligence, & that he would remit the amt. as soon as he learned it. I will show his letter to Dr. Joby, but know he will refuse any

compensation. Mr Christmas & his other comrades
are I suppose personally known to Mrs Gen: Clark
whom they informed me was Mr Dardens aunt & the
nearest relative they knew of. I addressed a
letter to Mrs Clark & entrusted it to Col: Elliott
to have conveyed to her - & in which the same
facts in relation to Mr Dardens death &
effects now communicated to yourself were
made known to her. As Col Elliott has
never informed me that she was ⁱⁿ New Orleans,
it is doubtful if she receives my letter, & I
will beg of you the favor to make known to
her the contents of this.

There is nothing owing to myself, but I feel
myself debtor to him who lost his life in
defense of my rights of property & liberty. What
services it was in my power to render
to him, I have been more than amply rewarded
for, by his repeated expressions of gratitude.

I hope you will make my house your home
should you conclude to move the remains of your
nephew. - Or should you conclude not to do so,
but to erect a monument to his memory, you
may freely command my assistance.

He died August 26th

Respectfully, your Friend
J. M. Wallace