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Dash - West Ch. Ma
March 28th / 56

Dear Col,

I received your letters of the 20th & 21st (Utimo), also one from Judge Garland, by the last mail, for which I thank you both, and I would be glad to write you both, but I cannot write much any way, I have been greatly afflicted and have ^{been} cast down, but not destroyed, on the 24th ultimo I lost my dear wife, in her death it seems I have lost my all. when I look around & see what desolation this death has caused in my family it sickens to the very soul, but after all there is consolation for me when I think that she is now at rest in heaven, she did not fear to die, she felt she was ready to go, and longed to go before the hour came - her sufferings were great but she manifested a Christian Spirit at all times, she was in her right mind almost to the very last, she died as easy as a wearied person falling asleep - she died with ^{an} a sigh - a groan - or a struggle her end was peace, this thought supports me under my trials, and I have the consolation to think that I done every thing I could in getting medical assistance, I spared no pains of either time or expense. and moreover I am rejoiced to think that I never did abuse her, but had always tried to treat her as a man should treat his wife - I could say much more of the blessed prospects she entertained of a rest in heaven - to be freed from pain - suffering - and from the temptations of her heart of Sin, and the devil - But as this is not a suitable subject at this time, I will leave it off, but mark, her end was perfect peace, peace like a River - Oh blessed soul she is now in heaven

I am glad to hear that the Treaty is ratified. But ^{the} main & most important part of all is yet to be done, that is what the Senate will award to us, I am really anxious to hear, for I feel interested in it. my people are interested in it - our whole Nation are interested in the matter - I am really in hopes you will be able to get through this Session - I hope it will be all through with by the time you get this scrawl of mine -

There is not much news I get - so I cannot tell you ^{any} several Steam Boats have been up - Merchants are getting more plenty about Doakville -

I am in hopes the late law in regard to Stealing will do good, I have heard of but one new case of Stealing - at the Special Term of the Circuit Court in Feb, they whipped one fellow - you know him it is Jefferson Lyamanta he evaded the law a long time - But it seems the Special Term could give him justice

Our Baptist brethren are all in a great stir - they have got out with Mr Moffatt their minister, and ^{are} going to try him - for adultery with his molatto Girl in Mrs Moffatts life time. This is a thing that has been talked about a long time - I am of the opinion they can do nothing with him on that matter, But his Choctaw brethren say they will silence him from preaching - that he is no better than they are - That Church from accounts is a bout sunk down to ruins - I am sorry it is so - But they built on the Water they should have built on Christ the Rock of ages
no more give my respect to the delegation, yours truly
C Cochran