

New York Dec: 7<sup>th</sup> 1852

Dear Mother,

I should have written to you, and if good intentions were good deeds, you would have had a letter long ago.

After my return from Bellona and witnessing the closing scenes of your excellent Father's life, I was called to prepare for our Communion. Next to Communion theological instruction, and now my hands are full with this.

Here is my apology for not writing you as I ought to have done.

I sent you a copy of a Sermon on your Father's death. My poor sketch is worth little else than to testify my profound respect & affection for a man to whom I owe so much indebtedness. I hope you will find it satisfactory as far as it goes. I speak for myself only. I have a considerable knowledge of you but I know no one left behind him, but his your Father. A pure life has seldom been led by any man. Vice he seems to have never known, and truth, & holiness seemed to come as matters of course. I had rather say his Sanctification was

early commenced, & the Spirit of God was his  
guide from youth to age.

His death was consistent, happy, honourable,  
and no man in Philada. could be more  
missed or more generally mourned.

What of you and I and the rest of his  
house? Are we walking in his footsteps?  
Are we preparing for dying such a death  
as his?

Wife, (and how she loved her  
father, who was always her stand by in  
difficulty, you well know) is almost ho-  
-ken to grief by his death. Still we  
are sustained.

I hear of your coming to Oxford. I  
would rather it were Phila. or N. York.

Your presence in Belview was, I suppose  
be necessary, & I am glad to hear  
that you are coming on at the holy day.

Will you come by N.Y.? or so if you  
can, we shall be most happy to take  
you by the hand.

With regards to Rebecca, & all your  
children, I am affectionately Yrs.  
John W. McLeod

Rev. A. Miller

Wilmington, La.

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