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Waynesville 4th Mo 5th 1868.

My beloved cousin Margaret {

I can not tell thee how deeply grieved and shocked we all were on receiving a joint letter from our cousins Elizabeth & Rachel, informing us of the sudden death of dear cousin Hannah. -- It was truly unexpected, although Cousin Rachel wrote sometime back of her having the Croup - which to us, seemed a strange complaint for a grown person to have - but suppose it was the commencement of her disorder - which the Dr. must have misunderstood.

Dear cousin - for how many years what a patient sufferer! unassuming & gentle, always preferring the comfort of others to her own. And as quiet & gentle as she was, few would be as much missed in her home as she. Her influence for good, extended throughout the household. What a kind, loving companion, sister & friend. -- There has been one continued system of self denial, & how truly glad dear Sister Betty & myself were to find her health so improved when we came with you, & acknowledge, we then thought, long life might be here - but He who knows what is best for mortals here below has seen differently, and has given her "rest" sooner than we expected. We have deeply entered into sympathy with your dear family band, on this occasion. To my sister it is peculiarly trying - she had been dreaming of you so often of late, & thought because her mind was so much disturbed at hearing that dear Cousin Sally had been so poorly in health through the winter) a few nights since she dreamed of being at our old home in Maryland, when dear cousin Eliza came in & walked up stairs where we were sewing, looking just as she used to, & taking a seat, insisted on helping us ^{with our work.} Immediately after she saw thee coming up the old stair way, with a pleasant smiling countenance when thou also insisted on joining in doing the same, when she awoke with the impression of having been with beloved friends - far, far away. & yet the impression was one of sadness -