

Sherwood Forest

Ch. 3, City County, Va. Feb. 12. 1854

My dear Col:

Before this reaches you the newspapers and private letters will have informed you of the great loss we have all sustained in Alexander. a loss in which I claim to be as large a participator as any member of the family. To me he was almost every thing in connexion with my worldly affairs, and I had in a great measure looked to him to ~~set~~ ^{fix} history right in regard to me - His mind was of that excellent order which suited him for the investigation of truth - while his feelings and sentiments were too pure and lofty to have led him for a moment to compromise with wrong - There is a universal regret among all classes at his death - The newspapers have paid to his memory the most marked respect - The Richmond Enquirer set it down as a public calamity, and the article was copied by other papers - His magnanimity in deciding the first case which arose under the fugitive slave law, inspired the whole South with confidence, and led the way to the great meeting at Castle Garden which did much towards saving the Union - His health had never been better than it was only a few days before he was taken ill - and your mother and Margaret were quietly beside with us here as we hoped, for the winter, when a telegraphic despatch

hastily surrounded them to New York, whether I should
have accompanied them but for the rather sudden
seizure of little Julia. I dwell not upon other
particulars which doubtless have been detailed to you
by others. I know not of course what may be your own
intentions as to remaining where you are or returning
to New York. Your decision on that point will I sup-
pose be regulated by the state of your business at San
Diego. and I write principally to say that if I can
be of any use to you in any way you can command
me quite as freely as you would do Alexander was
he alive. Put me on the same footing with himself
and be assured that my regard for you is as great
as you could desire it to be. Our whole household
is at this time well. The children are growing up
fast and the little Julia is the sweetest thing in
the world. ^{Julia} ~~My~~ ^{My} ~~Letter~~ will add a postscript
which may be longer than this. So I conclude
with the expression of my best wishes and with
assurances of affectionate regard.

Yrs &c
John Tyler

Col. D. L. Gardner

Swinyard & Co
27
Feb 15

J. Lyles
of
San

Col. David L. Gardiner

San Diego

via New York }
City }
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California
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