Limestone 23 June 1828

To Brother,

Though personally unknown to you, I feel it a debt due you, to inform you relative to the health of your sister who has been under my care for some time. It is necessary for me to give you the latest news of her disease before she came here as sister. Sister I presume has already done this for some time after she came here her disease appeared to give way and contrary to my expectations she seemed as though she might recover, but those symptoms were only calculated to heightened my disappointment and to render the final separation from her the more acute. She has borne her illness with that perfect resignation peculiar to an eminent child of God.

When the melancholy period shall arrive that we must see her sink in the arms of Jesus, it will be no insuperable alleviation to our anguish to know she is “going home to her Father’s house” (to use her own words) where she will again meet with those dear friends who may follow her example in following that of the ever blessed Savior. Since her illness she has observed to me that she has no wish to live but to be instrumental in promoting the cause of Christ and particularly in spreading the gospel among her own nation of people. But if she was taken away that the Lord would spare you for that purpose and that you would be devoted to your master’s cause. I believe no virtuous mind could form an acquaintance with our beloved Catherine without feeling all the high regard and virtuous affection which our frail nature is susceptible of.

A very intimate acquaintance with her for more than a year, a considerable part of that time she has been with my family, has given me ample opportunity to know her, and every day has only to unfold new charms and Christian virtues; to lose such a friend is a loss that can never be repaired, but for you to lose such a sister would certainly be unsupported, was it not for the consorts of that blessed religion of which she so brightly an example but while we have to deplore her loss it will be joy and gain for her. and may we not give her up for a little season? since she is to be so much benefited and may soon if we are faithful we shall meet her on the peaceful shores of Canaan.
happily bound there arrayed in beatific lustre, and drinking of the limited stream of divine love flowing out of the throne of God, where we shall enjoy each other’s society with that of our Saviour’s and the innumerable company of angels and general assembly of the just, bow at last.

Then let us submit to this dispensation of divine Providence, with that Christian resignation that becomes the followers of Christ.

She is now declining and in all probability before you receive this she will be with Jesus.

As soon as that event takes place you will be apprised of it.

I see no reason to hope for her recovery nor even for her living but a short time; you will therefore have to submit without again seeing a sister who fondly loves you; but cannot help praying that this event may be speeded, and bear it on it in a suitable manner, in order that you may glorify Christ and show to those around you the blessings of that religion you profess—your father, mother, and sisters. Susan are with us, they are well. I have not yet apprised them of Catharina’s situation but shall in due time. I dread the anguish it will occasion your fond mother. Although her disease is painful, we are able by the goodness of God in a great degree to relieve her sufferings and render her comfortable and I am happy on this account; that she was brought here, her bodily suffering must have been great here as she been without medical aid. I am affectionately yours in the bonds of the gospel, Alexander A Campbell.