

1905 Letter John Franklin Tingle received after his mother's death

New Augusta, Mississippi

November 23, 1905

Mr. J. Tingle and Mrs. Bishop
Philadelphia, Mississippi

Dear Friends:

I know your hearts are sad tonight, and as the other members of the family may be too tired and worn out to write you the particulars concerning the burial of your precious Mother, and as I wish to extend my sympathy once more, I shall pen a few lines tonight.

Some may think me too bold for writing when I was not requested; but from experience, I know how comforting a few words are, in an hour like this. I know you feel sad over the condition of things, and I saw you take a great deal; but if sympathy can help anyone, let this be a source of comfort to you both, and families.

As to the burial, your Mother was put away with care. I dressed her myself, or rather assisted, and I did it with care. At or near the appointed hour we laid her to rest. Bro. Ellis, (a Methodist Minister) conducted the service, which was very effective. We sang her favorite song, "I'm Going Home". There was quite a crowd of friends and relatives present. After the grave was filled and finished, we placed a large wreath, which I made of white pinks and ribbon, and a lovely bouquet, on it. The ribbon on the wreath was from the same piece as that with which the lock of hair is tied. I was anxious to have her placed at some graveyard, and I feel sure that you all were too, but it is all over now. Of course it was a mistake, but let us look over it, remembering that we too may someday become old and perhaps make a far greater error. What we want is to be able (with God's help) to look over the mistakes of others and love

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them just the same. It seemed that the longing desire of your dear Mother was that all should love and reverence each other, and above all, as she requested, that you all be prepared to meet her.

I went back and spent the night with them. I was the only one that staid, so of course we found it very lonely.

These sad hours must come though, and how important it is to be ready. We, with all our efforts will utterly fail unless we ask and trust God to do His part. Ours to to "repent and believe". His to "forgive and cleanse." Bless His name! I am so glad He can and will do this. Please read Isa. 55:7; John 3:16; I John 1:9; Prov. 3:6. As you read, remember they were written for you. I am so glad I know Him as a real personal Saviour. One that can satisfy a burdened sinner's heart. My love for Him is great, and my life shall be spent in His dear service. He helps me to love every one, from the highest to the lowest.

Now I am almost a stranger to both of you, but I trust you will not think of me in that way. I wat you all to feel that I not only have been, but that I am still and always will be a true and sympathizing friend, that stands ready to help in time of need.

I loved your dear Mother, and my heart feels sad since her departure, but I ~~ask~~ shall always love and respect her family.

You have my prayers and deepest sympathy for I know what it means to give up a loving parent.

Now I shall close. May God Bless your homes, and bring you all one by one into His fold, is the prayer of your friend in Christ.

Allie Pearl Walker