

Transcription of letter:

Ravara
April 13 1864

Dear brother:

I received your ? and welcome letter on the 28th Dec 63 and was glad to hear that you and Samuel and all the rest were well but your letter did not find us all in the same state. I took ill on the 15th Dec with what proved to be the smallpox. I was exceedingly ill for 4 days. I neither ate nor drank and for a ?length? of time no life was expected for me for 9 days. I was ?blind? when your letter came. I was about the worst, Sister Isabell read it at my bedside and upon the 30th Dec Bella took ill and soon proved to be the smallpox it was a melancholy time for us no one came in neither friend nor stranger except widow McCormack ?. Who came now and then there was none but my old mother to attend us both and the cattle too for no one would come near the house. Bellas illness still increased she cried from she took it she would die and upon the 10th of Jan at the time the ?pox? ought to have been at the height she grew worse she still continued to grow worse but was still sensible to 14th Jan at 9 o'clock A.M. she departed this life in peace and resignation to the will of God. Dear brother sister Bell was an ornament to our family and to our neighborhood. Dear brother you taunted me about being a preacher and if Bella was not a preacher she was a hearer of the word and how is consoled us to of Bellas peaceful departure her last words were ? I am going to heaven she was buried on the 15th in Ballygowan churchyard longside with my father she was ? loved by all who knew her and greatly lamented her funeral sermon was preached in Ballgowan church by the B? of S Woods on the first sabbath when almost all the congregation was in tears for all knew her at the time she died I was not able to turn my self in the bed I was confined to for 9 weeks after her death I was bedfast for 7 weeks and for 10 weeks I never was out of the house. John and ?Ann? came in at the last but John had the pox too but very lightly he never lay a day nor missed a meal of meat sister Mary had them like John. But John is a disgrace to us all when Bella and I was at the worst he went to Belfast with corn for ?Bead? Woods and got drunk and was taken up by the constables and put in the office all night and was tried the next day and fined in 10s and costs. Mr. Woods had to go in the train to Belfast and pay the fine and John came ?? on Saturday night ? drunk again he was not able to go to Bellas funeral and 2 or 3 days after her death he came drunk to get her clothes. I would not give them and he is going to take the law of me it has been an awful time with us this last 12 months my father's death and on June ?last? I was almost dead with a ?belling? knee excuse me for not writing sooner I was not able to now I am still weak my brother is greatly failed please write soon.

D. Mcune