

Bravard April 13<sup>th</sup> 64

Dear brother

I received your kind  
and melan letter on the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> Dec with  
what proved to be the smallpox  
I was exceedingly ill for 4 days  
neither ate nor drank and for a long  
of time no life was expected for me for  
9 days I was blind when your letter  
came I was about the worst Sister  
Jabell read it at my bedside and  
upon the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 McCormick & Lewis

To be sent

Dr J. H. Hapgood  
Samuel McCosta Co

Who come now and there there was  
none but my old mother to attend  
us both and the cattle too for no  
one would come near the house  
Della's illness still increase she  
cried from she took it she would  
die and upon the 10<sup>th</sup> of June at the  
time the fare ought to have been at the  
high tide she grew worse she still continued  
to grow worse but was still sensible  
to 14<sup>th</sup> June at 9 o'clock P.M. she  
departed this life in peace and resign-  
ation to the will of God Dear brother  
sister Bell was an ornament to  
our family and to our neighbours  
Dear brother you taunted me about  
being a preacher and if Della was not  
a preacher she was a hearer of the word  
and now is consoled us to of Della's  
peaceful departure her last words

were 6 of one going to heaven she  
was buried on the 15<sup>th</sup> in Ballygowan  
churchyard long side with my  
father she was loved by all  
who knew her and greatly lamented  
her funeral sermon was preached  
in Ballygowan church by the  
Rev. J. S. Woods on the first  
sabbath when almost all the  
congregation were 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 3 weeks  
after her death I was bedfast  
for 4 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 to 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 Brad 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 10<sup>s</sup> and costs  
Mr Woods had to go in the train  
to Belfast and pay the fine and  
John came home on Saturday night  
drunk again he was not able to  
go to Bella's funeral and 2 or 3 days  
after her death he came drunk to  
get her clothes of 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 of  
was almost dead with a belly  
since excuse me for not writing soon  
I was not able to now I am still weak  
my brother is greatly failed please  
write soon D. To come