

Rochester July 27, 1869

Dear Cousins One & All

I am just in for a few hours - and learn that dear Aunt Hannah is released from her sufferings - Am surprised - since my last word was of Ellen's return to New York - from which I inferred at least, no immediate danger - Perhaps it is all for the best that you failed or forgot to telegraph me - but still there is a "Joy in the Grief" of mingling tears with those we love, over the last glimpses of the loved & loving - And such was your dear Mother & my dear Aunt - I have just finished readig [sic] the letters of Fannie Susan & Melissa - I had no idea that she was such a sufferer - And now with you feel a deep sense of relief that she is freed - Am so glad for Cousin Susan that she could see her & help minister to her in those last sad moments - And feel to regret, as I well know I should, that I allowed my intense pressure of work to keep me from going up to see her long ago before she was passed enjoying her friends - - And Mother feels very sad that she could not have gone - and would like to have gone at the telegraph summons - but sister Mary not being here, to nerve her up to the feeling that she had strength to endure the fatigue, I think was the main reason she did not go - though sister Gula stood ready to go her & every one tried to make it easy for her to go - Still she is so accustomed to lean on sister Mary - & wasn't for her to say go - & bring

out her her clothes, pack them & almost take her right along -  
The fact is Mary has come almost to take the place of Father -  
as to outside help to decide -

Still there is a compensation in this deprivation - Mother  
& all of us now see the dear fresh cheerful speaking face, and  
hear the ever loving tones - But oh how well I know how all  
your thoughts & feelings centre the suffering mother - the dead  
mother - the sick room - agonized expression of face - the  
piteous tones rising from pain - the speechless, irresponsive  
last visions - And well I know how it will take long months -  
nay years to be able to put away these sad visions, and reach  
back to sunny face, the hopeful happy voice - the real mother -  
as she was in health & happiness - but the time will come - and  
that it may be vastly sooner to you all than it was to me in  
the case of our dear Father is my most earnestly hoped for bless-  
ing to you -

But dear Cousins, what a rich joy there is in your grief  
for your precious Mother, as there was in our grief for our  
Father - a true & noble life - A "well done" response, on every  
side - Such lines are blessings - and may we all aim to be  
worthy of our dear departed - And I cannot but speculate as to  
whether the veil that has been between them is now withdrawn -  
& they in full & free interchange to day -

But that all is well with both, not one of us can doubt.

Susan you mustn't fail to make Mother a good long visit  
on your return west, and Melissa too - And I very much hope to

see you - If you are to be at Ellen's don't fail to let me  
know - If possible I shall drop in upon you at the "Old Homestead"  
before you leave - With love & sympathy from Mother & all to all  
I am

Affectionately Your Cousin

Susan B. Anthony