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Monrovia 7 June 1860

Dear Doctor

Death has robbed me of my really good and amiable wife — slow and insidious in its approach, its hold securely seized her before my alarm was felt. Louisa had for years suffered from dyspepsia, hemorrhoids etc — in the 7 month of her pregnancy, her sufferings with that complaint were increased, sometimes obstinate constipation, then diarrhoea or nausea & vomiting, palliative treatment was studied to sufficient for relief of immediate symptoms. No indication of organic disease existing, the presumption was that active measures follow her accouchement. She was kept quiet, not allowed to walk hardly in the house.

On the 12 ult she gave birth to a son. The delivery was through with no time to lose. The umbilical cord was the first to descend, compressed between the foetal cranium and the bony pelvis, then looped twice around the neck of the child. By a resort to artificial respiration the child was restored in ten minutes. The placenta was perfect, no flooding followed delivery, i.e. no more than is natural after pains cease, uterus contracted perfectly. Five days after delivery there was an emphysematous swelling of the face and chest which subsided before the expiration of the first week, the nausea vomiting & slight diarrhoea that preceded parturition delivery, recommenced the fourth day after delivery — but were contracted by opiates — the two former did not return, the diarrhoea continued — on the 7 day commenced giving Calomel and opium — there was no pain from the beginning to the termination of the disease, not even tenesmus, nor tenderness, it was not dysentery — Calomel was given in doses of half grain, to the extent

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

14. November 1857--November 1863

1860