

Dear Children

I hoped to have begun a journey to you this day
 but providence has sent a bar in the way. your mother & father
 Sarah intended to have set out with me but on Friday your mother
 complained of pain & then concluded I should bring Sarah down as
 far as your house & hoped she should be able in the middle of the
 week to take a journey but on Saturday morning she complained of
 a great pain in her head and back & a coldness took to her head &
 she had a violent malignant fever & is at present in a very dan-
 gerous state. we are full of fears what God will do for us she is not
 continued in a change of her reason but fears to be a burden to
 many for us. if it be possible send or carry the letter for Mansfield
 if God should spare your mother's life & restore health she could not
 be led health in the family I fear I can possibly be absent from home
 till after the 15th giving which will be on the fourth of November
 we all salute you both & all yours. hope you get with some friends be-
 glad to hear from you & that some one an opportunity offered
 writing to you. we don't know what a day will bring forth. the Lord grant
 that we may be in a readiness to receive with all humbly of us and to feel
 a judgment of providence whatever his holy pleasure shall be to lay upon us.
 God is holy and righteous and will defend our good and his saints, we would
 fly to him as a God of mercy in Christ Jesus I commit you & all yours to
 the God of all grace & hope you will be mindful of us & am your
 afflicted father

J. Williams

J.C. Octob: 27. 1728

since I wrote the fever the Cope is very unaltered in your mothers
 inward part but the fever is falling into her leg that was lame she
 is not able to go one step & is very full of pain. I dare not go away
 tho she seems to be willing I should go and leave her. I should
 be glad if you hear anything from Mansfield you would send me
 word as speedily as you can. I hope I shall be permitted to be down
 the week after the 15th of Nov.

ADX MPK
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Williams, John

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The Rev
Stephen Williams pastor
of a Church of Christ
In Springfield

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]