Sherwood Forest

Feb. 12, 1851

My dear Col:

Before this reaches you, the newspapers and private letters will have informed you of the great loss we have all sustained in Alexander a loss in which I claim to be so large a participator as a member of the family. To me he was almost everything in connexion with my worldly affairs, and I had in a great measure looked to him to fill history right in regard to me. His mind was of that excellent order which enabled him for the investigation of truth, while his feelings and sentiments were too pure and lofty to have led him for a moment to compromise with wrong. There is a universal regret among all classes at his death. The newspapers have paid in memory the most marked respect. The Richmond Enquirer set it down as a public calamity and the article was copied by other papers. His firm attitude in deciding the first case which arose under the fugitive slave law astonished the whole South with confidence, and led the way to the great meeting at Castle Garden which did much towards saving the Union; his health had never been better than it was only a few days before he was taken ill, and none of mother and Margaret were greatly bound with us here as we hoped, for the winter, when a telegraphic despatched
hastily summoned them to New York, whether I should have accompanied them, but for the rather sudden depopulation of little Julius. I doubt not upon other particulars which doubtless have been detailed to you by others. I know not, of course, what may be your own intentions as to remaining where you are or returning to New York. Your decision on that point will I suppose be regulated by the state of your business at Van Diemen and I write principally to say that if I can be of any use to you in any way you can command me quite as freely as you would do Alexander was he alive. Put me on the same footing with himself and be assured that my regard for you is as great as you could desire it to be. Our whole household is at this time well. The children are growing up fast and the little Julius is the sweetest thing in the world. A postscript which may be longer than this. So I conclude with the expression of my best wishes and with assurances of affectionate regard.

Yrs. Tr. John Tyler.

Swingard 20
Feb 15

J. Tylers
of
Fin

Col. David L. Gardner
San Diego

Via New York
City

California