

1028/68/15

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(To Miss Jennette Osler)

[London]

November 24th [1872]

My dear Jennette

I hardly know how to write and sympathize with you in this your bereavement you understand my undemonstrative nature, but know also, how underneath it my feelings are as deep as any, though I may be and am, slow in expressing them I heard of it through Aunt Lizzie, but the particulars I saw in a Cornwall Gazette which one of the D — 's sent I have not yet felt what it is to lose one, very near & dear but I suppose the time cannot be very distant when gaps will occur in our family circle, which heretofore has been so complete. So many circumstances about this sad event must serve only to embitter your grief - as the suddenness, his distance from you, to say nothing of his being an only brother, - that I do not care to dwell upon them. Poor Marian will feel it very much, though of course, with a husband & children to occupy her attention the blow will not be so severe It will be over you that a sense of loneliness will come, even though you know so well that in all of us you have brothers & sisters. Old associations and recollections cannot be obliterated, thoughts will spring up unasked for, unsought carrying the memory back to former happy days. All this is but natural, and there are none of us I think to whom the thought of Death is not rendered more endurable when we know we shall not only be missed, but mourned. Though in joy the heart may not yet in sorrow it does, instinctively turn to the "Man of Sorrows", where alone true solace can be found Write to me often, and remember always, that though your natural brother has been taken from you I trust you will allow me as far [as] possible to occupy his place

Yours with much love

Willie

William Henry Osler d. India Oct 1872 (ad 35) unmarried.