

National, Logan Co., Ark. Jan. 1st 1886

Dear Pap and Mother:

It is with much sorrow and heaviness of heart that I raise this pen to write to you this night. Our darling little Anni is gone. She died last Tuesday morning between 7 & 8. O my God we can hardly do without our sweet child, but she is gone. She had a cough on Christmas day about 3 o'clock, and died of spinal meningitis. I tell you Pap and Mother it is awfully hard to bear. "The child was so much." No one to say "Mama, Papa's coming." No one to go with Mama to milk. No little Anni to hug my neck, and kiss me, and smooth down my hair and mustache. She was buried with a sweet smile on her face.

Callie never did cut off her hair and so it was very pretty and long. And Callie combed it herself before she was taken away.

I don't wish to write anymore about it. Callie will probably write some. Callie has professed a hope, ^{in Christ} and is baptized. That was a joyful day to me. Well, I shall close, more than to say that we are both well and that there is but little sickness.

From Your Son
Wm. J. Parker, Jr.