

I have lately heard the maloncholy news of the death of my King
Your Majesty's Son, cannot but think such an awful dispensation must be very
our bearing and sinking of you. that such a Son should be taken from you
while in the beauty and glory of his age, upon whom (doubtless) you much
depended as a Staff to support you in your old age. but pray I remember that
the best of our good things here, are but temporal, and they all take wing and
soon fly away. And tho' the more pleasant and desirable in the present and
so the more distressing when parted from, yet the Sovereign will must be com-
plied with, and we ought to do it with a patient resignation and quiet sub-
jection, knowing that God can take no more than his own. So as I may
be called for whenever the owner pleases, and we have no right to dispute
his pleasure. In like manner, I cannot but think, my Aunt is very much over-
born with the sad event in divine providence, and I bear a sinking
Sympathy with her, yet nevertheless, pray her to Confide, that she did not receive
him for any longer time than her Sovereign's pleasure, and pray, both of you
to remember that the most beautiful flowers soonest wither, and pale
death soonest draws its Gashings over the face of our nearest and dearest
Enjoyments. This should lead us to Contemplate the Excellency of the giver; for
there is so much desirable in the thing given, then so much the more in
the giver. Now that object, whose pleasantness had an apt natural tendency
to prevent a more immediate Contemplation on the divine Excellency, is re-
moved. So that now your Contemplation may be the more firmly fixed upon
the most desirable object without such an Impediment Intervening. And would to
God, that such an Improvement might be made of every such dispensation, that
at length we might be habitually transformed into the divine likeness; for the more
and the oftener we Contemplate the divine Excellency, the greater likeness we have of
his Excellency, and are won upon to conform to him in
all things.

May his goodness to you in his life ~~be~~ as the divine goodness to you that you may ~~thus~~
continue your happiness in that object from whom he received his. I humbly hope the
suddenness of his death may ~~also~~ ~~have~~ ~~an~~ ~~effect~~ ~~on~~ ~~us~~ ~~to~~ ~~get~~ ~~an~~ ~~abiding~~ ~~sense~~ ~~on~~ ~~us~~ ~~and~~ ~~how~~ ~~soon~~
and how suddenly I may be beset by the king of terrors that I may be thereby ~~incited~~
to get into a ~~reading~~ ~~such~~ ~~an~~ ~~awful~~ ~~hour~~.

And now to conclude may we all be ready to look death in the face with boldness
and confidence and so lay down our heads in a sure and certain hope of a glorious
resurrection. that we may join forever in anthems of praise to the
name of god and of the lamb, who sits on the throne forever and ever

is ye prayer of your most humble servant & oblig^d Nephew
Eph^l Williams - -

Cop^y of the
Williams

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Williams, Ephraim Jr. 1715-1755

not dated

To -----
Letter of condolence on death of son;
kinsman of Williams

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