

Glasgow, KY Sept. 24th 1872

Mrs. Etta Anderson,

The sad tidings of my friend's death reached me today and not until Saturday last did I hear of your sister's death. Truly you are passing through the deep waters of affliction. I hasten to tender you the heartfelt sympathy of a friend and yet I know it is but poor relief this can give. None but God can ease such a bleeding heart. No one but God can give strength to bear up under such a crushing blow. But God can do it and he will do it. He will not break the bruised reed. He often afflicts most heavily but will not allow the burden to crush his children. As thy day, so shall thy strength be – is God's promise. But it is not our strength but God's that enables us to bear it. In me says he is thy strength. In him lies your comfort. From him you must obtain the ability to say thy will be done. I pray that a covenant keeping God may sustain you in this the darkest period of your life. The Lord gave you a truly noble husband whose name ought to be embalmed in every southern heart. I have never known one that I admired more. He was one whose friendship I prized and I want you and your children to feel that in me you have an abiding friend. If in any way I can serve you do not hesitate to call on me.

I have heard as yet nothing but that the General was dead. I hope when you feel well enough you will let me know something of the particulars of his death. You know that we have long been friends and that I feel a deep interest in all that pertains to him. I was but little prepared for the tidings which reached me today. For I have been looking for a letter from him. I have fondly cherished the hope of enjoying again his company and living over some of the happy days we have spent together. But God has ordered it otherwise. You have the sympathy of all my family. All loved Gen. Anderson. May God give you grace to bear your hard trial is the prayer of your sincere friend.

John E. DuBose

A Presbyterian Minister

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.