

1851 - 1879

Correspondence (1807-1879)

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Portions of diary entries written by William G. Eliot, Jr. [Saint Louis, MO] describing Beaumont's illness and death in Saint Louis. April 22, 1853–April 26, 1853

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5440 MAPLE AVENUE

SAINT LOUIS, MO.

April 22, 1853

"Have been with D^r. Beaumont who is near death. A carbuncle on his neck at the base of the brain is the proximate cause. He has suffered terribly and with the most manly fortitude. I have been with him several hours every day and by his request arranged his will &c. He leaves me as his Executor of a property of \$150,000. This was arranged with great difficulty, for his deafness has so increased that it is almost impossible to make him hear one word at a time. Last Friday he directed me to place his name on our church record and partook of the communion. His reliance upon me has been very touching. One day, last Wednesday, Sarah (his daughter) brought him a beautiful bouquet. He looked at it, asked who sent it, and sent his thanks in return. But while Sarah was placing it on the table, he took my hand and said, with tears streaming down his eyes, "A basket of them does not do me half as much good

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SAINT LOUIS, MO.

as one glimmer of your countenance. You have brought me what I can appreciate."

The same day, in the afternoon, I brought Abby (Mrs. Eliot) to see him. His mind was perfectly clear, and as he looked up to me, he said to her "Here comes my mother and protector" and presently, "you have helped me in my earthly and in my heavenly affairs." All this from a man of 70 years, generally esteemed as rather cold and stern, is worth remembering.

April 23.

D^r. Beaumont still lingers.

April 26.

I staid all night with D^r. Beaumont and he breathed his last at 2 A.M.

Copied from the diary of Wm. George Eliot.