Chanute Kans June 4th 96

Dear Brother and Family —

It is my sad news to tell you at this time of the death of our beloved Father. Who died yesterday June 3rd and was buried today June 4th, having just returned from placing his body in the cold grave. Dont take it too hard Dear Brother. Father is all Right. May our last End be like his. With me it is almost a joy to think that his days of toil and suffering are at a close. and that he is now Reposing at Rest in the Bosom of his dear Saviour, He died so pleasantly, and calmly. — and today that day is so bright and clear that Tillie just now said that she believed God had sent us nice weather

to correspond with the serene smile and composed mind of our Father the last few days of his Earthly life -

I will now go into details about his sickness and death - As you know, 2 years ago in July coming - he was broken down in a Rupture from which time he has been getting weaker and weaker - Many and many a time he has been down where we thought he would not recover - but his good constitution has always responded to the doctors treatment, about once in every six or Eight weeks he would have to some hard spell, always changing from one thing to another - when we would have to do our best with the doctors aid - to get him up again - In 2 or 3 weeks after each struggle he would perhaps become strong enough to take a buggy ride to town or to some one of his children but seldom would he able to go out a second time, before having another break down - One week ago Sunday being a pleasant day - he and Mother wanted to go up to Nelsons - which they did - and that was his last pleasure ride in this world. His digestive organs has for over a year been unable to do any good work. so he had to depend entirely upon Medicines to help him out. On Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday we noticed he was failing fast. and Thursday I called the Doctor out. who told me his heart was weaker that at any time before but thought probably we could pull him through once more. - Saturday We saw it was hopeless - Sunday John and Andrew came over to see him - and Monday Night again they were all over to see him, I wanted to have the Doctor come out once more, and try to relieve

some pains. - he came Tuesday evening - said that now. the time had come when he (the doctor) felt how small a man he was, and how weak was the aid that could give - he said he had to turn him over to Almighty God, as he could not help him any more - It was an affecting scene. We (Dr Boston) thought so much of Father, and done every thing in the World to help him - He went up to the bed - shook Father hand and wept like a child - The Dr respected Father, thought he was the grandest Man in the World. We told him to put his trust in God, and that by the Next Morning he Father would be in a Better land, where He would be forever healed. - Father told him to come on after. - It took about 5 Minutes to get Dr away from bed - That night all the folks ran over as we did not expect him to live till

Morning - but he did - and appeared no worse than the night before - Andrew and Nels - said Good bye - and went home to come back in the Evening again - John went home but came back again in the forenoon. We were at his bedside continually. when I told John to lie down on the lounge and rest a little - He done so. and as I was turning Father over from side to side - as he was bedsore I noticed he was getting weaker, but thought he would last till night - at 11 oclock and 7 Minutes June 3rd in the forenoon - I turned him on his left side when his eyes became fixed - I called John at once, running to the bed. he called Mother and Tillie in the next Room - he drew 4 or 5 shortening breaths - by the time the Folks Came to the bedside it was over

one little gasp and that was the last - his heart had stopped - and the earthly life of Anders Nelson was at an end. - He was composed, sensitive and clear minded to the very last. - So died a great and good man - a loving Father - and a Godfearing honest hearted Christian - One who always had an unfailing trust in God. One who loved his Saviour - Whose highest emotions was brought out when he heard of the love of God to man - — — —

Father was an exceedingly patient man - you have no idea how he suffered during the 2 years - I am sure he never told you all. When you would ask him how he was - he would always make you believe he was better than he really was. - After words he would confess that he was really sick - and you would know from his looks that he suffered more - As you understand - It was my happy lot to wait on him most of the times of his sickness - and you would be amazed if I should speak of the kind appreciative expressions which continually fell from his lips as we would try in our weakness to wait on him - "Thanks Charlie" - or "Thanks Tillie" - or - "That was good," and so on - Especially - during his last sickness - I esteem it one of the happiest weeks of my life, to have the privilege of sitting at his bedside and wait upon him - The last 24 hours or so when his tongue and palate became a little stiff he would still think of saying - "thank you" - or "All right now" - or he would say to John for instance, that he better go and rest - a while - or express a regret, that he had to wait on him so much - or perhaps remark that he maybe was hard to please and asked too much of us - or instead nod his head as if to say - "that's good now". - He was not hard to wait on however. - - At the last few hours I would bend my head and catch - his directions

whether he wanted water, or whether he wanted to be turned over. - or anything else and though weak and hardly able to articulate - yet he was just as clear in mind, and gave his directions just as clearly as if well - he would think of the needs of the boys, and asked them to go out and cook some coffee - at midnight before his death - (as I took a few minutes sleep). A few minutes before his death he told me he felt hungry and wanted something to eat. So you can know clear he was to the last - He desired Mr to turn him to the "board" of the bed - and that was the last kindness I was permitted to favor him in this life I had lifted him just once too often. It was done - The last 24 hours, he had no particular pain - aside from his bed sorrness - I would ask him now and then if he had much pain he would say - that he had not, and was feeling pretty well. And as he had no death struggle at all - It was to me one

of the pleasantest deathbeds. which I ever expect to see - I burst out. "Praise God" - and the folks at home say the same. - Even in the midst of suffering Father had such a serene, hopeful smile on his face that every one who saw him could not help remark about it. after his death - we were fortunate - to preserve the expression on his face - and those who saw him stretched out. and in the coffin - all said he was the pleasantest dead person they ever saw - It was so, I delighted to go into the Room, uncover his face and take a good look at him —

Now I wish to say a few words regarding his religious feeling - and Expressions, during the two years of suffering he would more or less have his mind upon the Life to come. and would often remark one way or another about his decease. - Father wanted to live. He did

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Take together that he was made of pink. pure Satin his cloth. and wanted me to explain it to me. that he did not care to die only to go to Heaven.

not want to give up. He tried every means possible to become - as he supposed - cured. None of us thought he ever would be better, but he thought so, and we did not try to discourage him - He would send for this Medicine, or that Liniment - or try this or that, hoping to get better. ... When he got worse then he would probably think that it was hopeless but ordinarily - he clung to life most Wonderfully. If he hadn't he would have given up a year ago. But his courage helped him on. About 3 weeks ago he gave up the idea of getting well. - he said his time was short and he was willing to go. - I think he had a reason for wanting to live - He loved his family - he wanted to live for them. and if I mistake not. He especially wanted to live on your account. I got that impression. You dont know how much he prayed for you and your work. - night and day he would pray for your work. Last Sunday Morning he especially prayed and turned your over to the Almighty sleeping - also praying that the death announcement would not be to severe on you. He would then remember us by name and thank God that it was so well with us. - and that he could fall asleep being cared for at the hands of his Children.. Monday morning we had a little scripture reading and prayer - after which he remarked to me - as we were alone - "Charlie - How fortunate (lyckligt) and happy we are anyhow" - So you can see how he felt. - We did not say much to him after that. The remaining 2 days his body being racked with pain, it was best to make it as easy for him as possible - and say but little - but his face indicated that all was well. When I asked him Tuesday evening if there any worry or uneasyness at all on his mind he answered that it was perfectly quiet - (Jag är så precis lugn). I knew he was -

On the other hand there was times and it was so generally - for the 2 years past

that he complained - and confessed that he felt so cold - with so little desire to read and pray - But when we think of his pain racked body - suffering all the while - it was quite a burden - and it was hard to feel as well spiritually as one would desire The body has its influence over the Soul - as well as the Soul over the body -

You don't know how glad I am that God took him home. Of course we miss him - but he suffered so much. It will be so much better for him. He is happy now - and then our sadness will turn to gladness when in the beautiful Resurrection Morning we shall clasp hands again - and the frail body which I helped to bear away to day will be brought up again in corruptible, and again speak and hear the same voice as of old - Why then I almost Rejoice - I could not feel sorry today I felt good - Tillie was hard to comfort - Mother also - But we wept not, as those having no hope. - - - The Funeral passed

"very long" funeral Rome 40 or 50 Rigs

off real nicely - We four boys carrying the coffin and literally "went up to bury our father" as Joseph and his brothers did of old -
We were back from the Cemetary by 6 o'clock so you may know that the services were short and simple - Father desired a simple ceremony - with as little reference being made to himself as possible - He also desired us boys to bear him away.
— His financial affairs were happily arranged and placed in such shape as to leave him entirely free. — at his death. and a few weeks before, he had no property at all to look after. He appointed me executor of his Estate some 2 years ago. -
Now I must stop - with just a Remark or two. Whatever may have been the failings and mistakes in Fathers life, He was one of the most devoted Followers of the Lord Jesus Christ - that can be.

found anywhere. - His heart was right - And he believed in God. and trusted in him through storms and calms - and like Abraham of old. (Hebrews 11:8) "obeyed" - hoping for an inheritance and a city which had foundations — Whose builder and maker is God -

Now Brother & Sister - be cheerful - Dont grieve too much - It is all right - Trust in God. - May you become the successor of your illustrious father. We will do all we can for you -, dont give up - The Lord will reward your sacrifices - How happy we are who love our Saviour! What a peace and joy in a christians heart. - And to him who loved us and gave himself for us. to him be glory and honor. now and ever more —

Mother & Tillie sends Kindest Regards - Write us soon - If you become in need - let us know of it -

Your Brother

Charles O. Nelson