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**D-329 2:52: Transcription of Letter from Catherine and William Bement to Elizabeth Lewis,
October 1850**

This transcription contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record. Please note that the transcription has not been reviewed for final editing.

Catherine & Wm Bement to Libby Lewis New York to Farmington.Ct.

[Oct 1850]

My Dear Lib

The news of dear little Johnys death has just reached us entirely too late either for us to attend the funeral or be with you today, how unexpected and sudden. I have for some time felt a degree of anxiety about you all in Farmington that rendered me perfectly unhappy. I cannot say that I felt safe about the little fellow, Mary Jane was here on Wednesday and I remarked to her that I was afraid you would lose your little boy, his pittful little face was every since you were here in the spring has troubled me & I could not feel that he was well. Truly my dear E can I sympathise with you, in the loss of your first son. O how sincerely do I feel for you, I cannot give you any consolation, all the comfort you could have in this severe affliction is the presence of your husband, I wish I could see you. My heart has been so many times pierced by the kneel of death that this has proved by wounds afresh, I have again passed through my own sorrow with you. Oh how little there is in this world with sutch things! If it is possible and stay with us, you will be so lonely. Your home will be so dreary. I was so relieved to get James last letter, so glad to hear or her getting better, that I felt quite secure. O how little prepared to have this? I am truly with you this night in spirit. Give my love to Dear Jane & Mother, if William can, he will write a few lines How plainly I can call up before me every feature of his little face. O Elizabeth this trouble that no one knows but those who have experienced it. If Jane is able come on with her, it will do you both good, I am anxious to hear all the particulars of his death. Write as soon as you can. I am not all well to-night.

Believe me your

affectionate

Sister

Dear Elizabeth

The letter containing the sad intelligence of Johnny's death came in hand this morning (Monday) and I can assure you that I feel deeply for you and certainly sympathize with you as it has been my lot to pass to afflictions of the same but I was very much surprised when I read the contents of the letter but when I recollect his countenance when I last was him I must say there was something in his looks that did not appear right. I was sorry that I could not come up but it is impossible for me to leave the office – especially now as the treasurer is out of

town—Can't you come and stay with us awhile? Catherine was quite sick with the disentary last week – and feels miserable tonight.

Yours affectionately

Wm Bement