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Stephen R. Richards  
June 17<sup>th</sup> 1855

Lincolnton June 17<sup>th</sup> 1855

Dear Son, — To day we have been looking over papers and letters, to find one from you since we last wrote you, which was in February last, but we can't find any, so we have to conclude that you have not answered our last.

We have heard much said as to distress and Garrison in your section of Country, and we are anxious to hear from you, and why you have not written we cannot divine.

If you are yet in the land of the dying and never get this, we do hope you will immediately answer it. There is much that we could write were we able to do so.

We are very infirm, Wife and myself, and we are not expecting to be otherwise while we remain in this land of death. For truly this is a land of death. Fathers, Mothers, Brothers, Sisters, Parents, Children, Friends and Neighbors, Husbands and Wives, the wicked & Righteous all find it so, yet poor human nature will insist upon it that we are in the land of the living.

Van Buren got home last Wednesday. his going to Virginia has turned out pretty well, his employer paid him \$261, pretty well for 7 months 11 days,

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To day he is in the Town of Albion,  
and I suppose has a Wife before this is  
perried, as that is the business he went on,

He said he expected to have found a  
letter at Camden post office from you,  
but did not was some disappointed.

Darius is not very well, about one month  
since, he hired out in Camden at 17 dolls  
per month, worked a few days and quit,  
his health being so poor,

Since I finished the other line, Richard and  
Mary with their two children, and Nancy  
have come in, and after drinking and drink  
ing some good spruce beer I have resumed  
writing again, Richard and family are  
all well and smart, Huldah and Frances  
are at home they are quite well, Ruth is  
in Rockland, have not heard from her for  
some time, expect she is well, all but a  
lame stomach, which she will always have  
I fear. I guess that Barnham and  
family are not in very good health,

Good old Uncle Abiah Wadsworth died  
last Wednesday morning died very sudden

I have told <sup>you</sup> before that Jeremiah Wadsworth  
and wife were dead, and we are all a going,  
I hope that you and yours are seeking for Immor-  
tality and Eternal life, you seek for immortality

I know nothing about Joel and family of late, more  
than that they live or stay in South Hope -

As soon as you get this be sure to write  
and let me know how the times are with  
you - how you are prospering - what your  
employment is, If all rumors are true, I  
fear that you and others in your section are  
experiencing great trouble and even famine,  
Such Calamities as are now visiting the nations of  
the earth, we included, are without a parallel,

Again I say, do let us know how it is with  
you, For my part, I am almost done with  
earth, My stay here cannot be much longer pro-  
tracted, I should be happy to see you again in time  
but doubtless I never I never shall,

I must now close, by wishing, and praying  
that good health, and every needfull blessing  
may be the lot of you and yours through life,  
and should you be called to depart this life be-  
fore the Second coming, of our Lord Jesus Christ  
you may fall asleep in Jesus, For them that  
sleep in Jesus will God bring Him, Amen,

We remain your affectionate parents, brother  
and Sisters, Richards Maddox - Mary Maddox,  
Nancy, Darius, Huldah, and Frances, Richard

By Abner H. Richards  
and Betsy H. Richards

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