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There are many things more that I would write if I had time, but I have not, now, for it is now almost sunset, and I must carry this to the P.O. to night, and then return to my Place of labor, which will be 7 miles or more for me to travel before I sleep.

I hope this will find you & yours (all) enjoying the Blessing of Health,

P.S. If you write to me, Please direct to Camden for that is my Address,

Please excuse all mistakes and imperfections.

Yours
ever affectionate Brother

J. M. V. B. Richards

Martin V. B. Richards
Jan'y 24th 1853

Lincolnville Jan'y 24th 1853

My Dear Brother

It is with pleasure that I set myself to write you a few lines, to let you know that I have not forgotten you. (I hope, Dear Brother, that you will forgive me, for not writing you, oftener than I have, since you left Home.) Altho I have not much more to write you, at the present time; I hope that what I do write, will be interesting to you; and that it may, at least, add some degree of Pleasure to the moments you may spend in reading it. Altho, I doubt not, that you would be glad to hear from all your Brothers, and Sisters; and to know, how they are getting along in the world. I will, therefore, proceed, to give you a brief history of myself, and some of the rest, of the Family. The number that compose the Family at home, are 4: viz, Father & Mother, (as I feel, in duty bound, to call her) Darius, and Huldah. Father, I believe is as well as usual; Mother, has had a lame stomach, and shoulder, but I believe is now getting better; Darius is as well as usual, with the exception, of a very sore finger, caused by being jammed and taking cold in it; Huldah.

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is quite smart, and does considerable work about the house & so for myself, I spend but very little of my time, at home; and should not, have been here to day, if it had not been stormy. I have been working in Camden, most of the time for three years past; and am now living with Mr. Sherman; (not to day however) I have 16 dollar a month, for chopping, in the woods. My health is tolerably good at present.

Now, as I have mentioned, all that are at home, I will say something about the rest. Harnham, I have not seen for a long time. but Hee was here, a few weeks ago; and I believe Hee is at work in the saw mill this winter. Richard and Mary are well, their little girl is as bright as a new pin, and as lively as a Butterfly, in June. Joel & Phebe were here, New years day, on a visit, and returned the next monday, and took Phanced to live with them a spell; if she is not homesick Nancy lives with, one Mr. Wright, in the same house that Joel does; in Thomaston. Ruth is living at present, with Mr. Sherman's folks, were I am at work. Her health is not very good. Now as I have told you, in some measure, how we are situated, you may judge, of the change that ^{has} taken place in your native home, in the lapse of 12 or 13 years, or since you left it. and indeed these changes are not all, for in

this space of ~~the~~ time, we have been called to part with many Friends, that have been taken away by Death, to be here no more; and among them were some, most dear to us; whose legs can never be made ^{up} _{to}, on earth, but we hope to meet there, in a fairer, and happier, land than this: (where no Harwell tear is shed, and sorrow's never come). since I have been at home, ~~my~~ my ears have been again saluted with the sound of Death, another of our Relatives, viz our Cousin Vienna, Richards, has been called to go; She Died of consumption, Jan 13, so you see that Death is still busy in these parts, and we know not how soon we may be called to follow; may the Lord help us to be prepared.

Altho I should be very happy to see you, and if you ever get this letter, I hope you will be so kind as to writ me one in return, and if you do, please let me know if you ever think of coming to make us a visit, and if so how soon,

there is one thing more that I will speak of, and then I must draw my letter to a close, and that is concerning our Step Mother, I think she is a very fine woman; she gets along with the children, very well indeed, and I think tries to do all she can to fill a Mother's Place.