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2/19/54

The Book I thought of sending to you, ^{Alma}
Van Buren would have it to carry
with him, the other, I fear would
not reach your wife should I send
it. As you did not ask me to
answer your letter, I will not
write any more at this time
A Ric

Linedville February 19-1854

My Dear Son-

We received yours of Jan. 14th
and glad were we to hear from you, and to hear
that you enjoy so good a degree of health as you do,
you seem to be getting farther from us, We
had tryed to keep up a hope of seeing you
again, but we now find that hope is blasted,
cut off, perished, annihilated,!

I dont know what news to write
you, more than to say that Aunt Lydia Richards,
was burnt to death, on Thursday the 9th instant,
she being in a room by herself her clothes
took fire, and when discovered she was
enveloped in one solid sheet of flame,
she lived 4 hours in the most keen anguish,
her husband died last May,

Thomas Richards is just gone with
Consumption, Sedat's young's only daughter
is just alive, I dont know as any one knows
her complaint,

Van Buren had written to you several
times, previous to my writing you in Nov^r,
as he had never received any answer from
you, he wished me in my letters, to ask you if you
ever received his, and desired you to tell me if
you ~~had~~^{had}, I think I named it in two of my lette

A Richards

Feb 19-1854

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If no more, but you have never informed me,
 If you ever should write to me again please say
 if you ever received them, He is now in Va.
 Virginia, Middlesex County, His post office address
 is Saluda, Middlesex County, Va. We superscribe
 all our letters to him thus, Mr. M, V, B, Richards,

We have had 3 from him since he left,
 and our third one is on the way to him,
 If he lives he will return to Thomaston next
 May, I think he will settle there, Miss White
 is in Boston this winter, in the Book Bindery,
 she clears between 3 and 4 dollars per week,
 Nancy is in Boston, has been very unwell
 but is much better now, heard from her
 yesterday, She and Lucy will both come
 to Maine when Buren comes home, if they
 all have life, Ruth is in Rockland, don't know
 but she may catch him — He is a rich one,
 there, I need not have wrote that,

Almon, If you think of going any further
 North, please to inform me,

My wife has just said, "how I should like
 to see that man" Give our young
 Brother to John G Sedate, Has gone to
 California there are between 30 and 40
 of our Lincolnville folks there and on the
 way Brown Mansfield, Son-in-law
 to Ephraim Boggs, got home from there
 last week, He saw one of our towns men

killed at a gambling shop, a few days before he left,
 It was Amos Mahoney, old John's son,
 as I am at a loss to know what to write, I will give you a little
 composition on, True Independence

- 1 Think for thyself, let not another
 E'er presume to think for thee
 Thou hast a mind, use it, with caution,
 And thou shalt the wiser be,
- 2 Read for thyself, search out and study,
 See if what thou heardst be true;
 Many wise indeed there may be,
 But they must not read for you,
- 3 Speak for thyself, yet be careful,
 Let thy reason rule thy tongue;
 Ever modest, never fearful,
 Commend the right, denounce the wrong,
- 4 Judge for thyself, use thy discretion,
 Untrammelled let thy judgement be
 Free from prejudice and passion,
 From fear and every bias free,
- 5 Act for thyself, scorn to be passive,
 Be not of fearful, timid heart;
 Shrink not when thy duty calls thee,
 But manfully perform thy part,

We are not well, my wife is
 almost a cripple, with the Rheumatism,
 Give our love and respects to your
 wife, we shall soon be done writing you
 We remain affectionately yours
 N. Hermon Richards
 Betsey J. Richards