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3/7/59

Lincolnton March 7<sup>th</sup> 1859

My Dear Son,

I seat myself, in order to write a few lines, altho I know not what to write, for my mind is somewhat deranged, or so feeble I cannot comprehend much of any thing, for my whole frame and nerves are much like the leaves of a poplar in a calm time - always trembling and quivering.

I think I have not mailed a letter to you since last July, and when I had one from you I cannot tell,

Richard and family were with us yesterday, they are all well, or as well as usual, Richard talks of selling out, and how near you he may get I know not, his thoughts seem to be ranging that way, and Mary is all for the Crossstock, Huldah is with them this winter and goes to school, three months. Nancy is at Camden village to work, Ruth is in Boston, may be home in April.

Van Buren is very feeble, with Consumption, can do no manner of work, dont know how long he may live, but not long at the longest. Jarvis makes it his home with me this winter, there is nothing doing in this section this winter, or not much of any thing, Four men cant pay one's Board. So we go, and so we are like to go, and I think government and the nation will go soon, What do <sup>you</sup> think about it, do tell me if you can.

A. Richards

March 7<sup>th</sup> 1859

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I forgot to speak of Frances, ~~Altho~~ she is getting close by me, she is at home, with father and mother, How glad she would be to see a Brother who never saw her. dont you think she would be pleased, dont know but she may go thirty miles back of Bangor to find a home, for we have had a raft of visitors from that section this winter, Both old folks and young, and if the young folks did not keep their horse and shiegh busy, I will give it up, you will understand all this, I do think it is hard to have all my Children Coaxed away from me, but they will do so, and I must submit to it.

Farnham is in poor circumstances, I need not say any more, — your friend Huse Richards is dead, John Manning is dead — Capt Minot Cochrane is dead, and many more you was once acquainted with, Joel lives in Belmont.

Myself and wife are not either of well.

I want you to answer this as soon as you can, and tell me all you can about your affairs.

I remain most affectionately yours

Rehoboth Richards

P.S. Direct all letters to

Lincolnville — Remember