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again I would say write me soon and often
tell me about your affairs - what you
have done what you are doing and
what you expect to do - you have
never as yet told me any thing
about your farm if you have one
altho you promised me

I know not what office this
will be mailed at, But be sure
to direct yours to Camden

We hope this may find you all
well and in health

Affectionately yours,
While I have life,

Nehemiah Richards

tell me if the potatoes
rotted last year, after
they were dug.

Nehemiah Richards
May 11th 1853

Lincolnton May 11th 1853

Dear Son & Daughter,

I have just been looking over
a letter of yours, bearing date November 24th 1852,
I have so lost my memory, I cannot tell as I ever
answered it, you may think it strange if it be so
with me, but you must remember that I am
an old man, - am now in my 62^d year, and
have been infirm ever since ~~1848~~ I was in
my 17th year, Sometimes, when I think of
my friends, that are scattered abroad in the
earth, I think it is possible, and very probable,
that I have written them for the last time,
which, doubtless, will very soon be the case,

Death makes dreadful inroads among us.
we buried our cousin Joseph Richards, on Monday
last, he died, being 81 years 3 months 1 day in age,
his wife was 84 sixteenth December last, she
is very weak and feeble, cant live but a little
while, Richard ~~Maddock's~~ Mother is entirely
helpless, doctors gave her up some time since,
and dont pretend to visit her, it being of not the
least use, Calvins Dean's Mother is done with
earth. I know not but she is dead, - Understand

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I saw Garrison not long since, his health is never very good, neither that of his family, I ever speak to him about writing you, but he ever neglects so to do — he has rather a hard one, not a family difficulty do I mean, by no means, Mary has a young son — week old to day, she is quite smart for one of her health.

Nancy lives in Thomaston, her health is very poor — It is said, she is expecting to get — I believe his name is Hall, but I know not the man, — Joel lives in Thomaston — has a brother working with him now — they work at the boat & Shoe Making business.

Phebe has been very sick, but is better now, her three children are all sick with the measles,

Martin VanBuren has gone to Thomaston to learn the joiner trade, should he have his health, he has a first rate chance, Mr Smith learns him the trade and pay him 16 dollars per month for the first eight months, he commenced first of April, from which time he begins for himself, that will be fifty dollars by the 9th of July, at which time he will be for himself, He has worked some at that kind of work before, he is quick and will learn quick, { he has one of the best of girls in view, but not yet — Town of Albion.

I like to forget Ruth, now must 19 years old, she too is in Thomaston — not very good health — lameness in the stomach, I fear it will be so what little time she may live, but I hope for the best, — I now have Darius, Huldeah and Frances with me, Frances has been to Thomaston 4 months 4 days, came home last Saturday —

Nancy, Buren, and his A — I were here likewise, left again on Sunday — My wife and I are both unwell — she quite unwell,

Abner, I want you to write me as often as you can, you must know that I can read but a little more that will ever come from your pen, you know that my eyes must soon be closed, my tongue silent, these fingers stiff in death, this body, even your earthly fathers hid away in the cold grave, and the name that I expect to append to this letter, be forgotten, and how likely too that all this may take ^{place} before I again may hear from you, I pray dear children, you would think much of what I have said, and may it lead you to make preparation to meet me on a better and brighter orb than this, or that which will be this, after the curse is far removed, May God help you dear children, — truly these things are no idle chat — learn to be wise