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6/28/54

Lincolnton June 25-1854

My Dear Children

Yours of March 11th was received in due time, Glad to hear that you and your little girls were in the enjoyment of pretty good health, there is much that I could write you if I could write, but I cannot,

My wife has been very feeble for a long time, of late she fails fast, I fear she won't stand it a great while, and I am quite infirm myself,

I should been happy to have seen you once more, but I fear the time has gone by, Farnham has just left here, his wife has a pair of twins girls, I believe the mother and children are smart, I believe I have told ^{you} that Gideon Young had gone to California, He hears that he is Crazy, almost wild, Cornelius Thomas went there last April, but not liking he started for home again - was taken sick and died, and his body buried in the deep,

A. Richards

June 28-1854

2/2
6/28/54

Martin V. B. Richards, has returned from Virginia reached Thomaston the 10th of June in good health, as I learn, I have not seen him yet, expect him here next Saturday, will stop till Monday, then take the Boat for Boston, reach there ~~on~~ Tuesday Morning, where he will spend the 4th ^{in company} with Miss White, when he returns it is expected that she will come to Camden or Thomaston with ^{him}, she is a fine young woman, her parents live in the town of Albion, Maine, she has relatives in Camden, Boston, & Thomaston,

M. V. B. did pretty well while he was gone, was there about six months, worked 5th months, but his employer paid him for 6 at \$30 per month, \$180, as soon as he reached Thomaston the man he worked with last summer hired him, price not fixed, this trade is from 2 to 3 dollars per day this year.

Sedate Young, buried his only daughter last April, I believe she was about 20 years old - guess she weighed 30 pounds when she died,

want you to write me as often as you can,

Thursday Morning 29th

My wife is quite sick, Darius is going to Camden after a doctor, How frail a thing is man!

You ask, "Is there any true happiness for man?" In the things of earth there ^{is} are not, Nothing short of an interest in Jesus Christ can insure true happiness, and my solemn conviction is, that man's probationary state is soon, ~~very~~ soon, to expire, and when he that is filthy, will be filthy still, and he that is holy will be holy still.

I do believe the resurrection of the just is just at hand, I do believe that God's people on the earth will soon be changed, and I do believe that those who do secure an interest in Christ, will soon know what true happiness is, and I do most earnestly pray for you dear children, that you may not regard these sayings as fables, but that you may secure an interest in Jesus Christ now, while it is an accepted time, and day of salvation, May the Lord help you dear children to give your hearts to him, is the prayer of your unworthy father, Nehemiah Richards.