

Jan 15

January 9th — For three days past, we have had more than a whole sail breeze, & that little snow we have now lies in drifts from 4 to six feet deep, It has driven the teamsters out of the high-ways, into by-ways. It now is rather milder and looks likely to rain.

Muddah and Frances are now at home with wife and myself. They are quite smart, you know not how rejoiced they would be to see you, their sister, and little niece, but they fear they shall not have that happiness.

All well for any thing we know. When we write to you, we mean you and family.

Friday Jan 9th, 1/2 past two afternoon,

N. Richards

N. B. your Uncle Isaac's wife, or widow died Nov. 10 - 1856

N. R.

Jan 9, 1857

Lancaster, Jan 6 - 1857

My Dear Son

I have been waiting for an answer to my two last letters for a long time but have received none, I don't know as you got the letters I send you & my wife the last were dated, or mailed, Sept 25th and Oct 14th 1856, As I have not heard from you since about the time of the date of my Sept. letter, I have concluded to write again, for I am very anxious to hear from you, and to learn the health of you & your family, and to hear how you are getting along.

I want you to be frank with me, and tell me all about your affairs, and what your future prospects are, please tell me what you possess, and whether it is your own, if so, what value you set upon it, and what you can take for it.

I have no foreboding that you are not doing at all well, I do hope you will let me all, and keep nothing back, though I fear you may, I think you are in a hard place so long, for one, I know what a hard word for a living is, and I know how to sympathize with those who try hard

Jan. 9, 1857

and yet are unfortunate, Was it not for the distance, and my inability to travel, I would come and see you for the sole purpose of learning what your future prospects were, but I cannot.

I must change my subject, We have had but very little snow as yet, to say the least, the first snow that came here followed, and carried off by rain, not much doing by way of learning, I am also in this winter, and not able to do much, Harsham has persuaded Larius to leave his school, and home, in full to take hold with <sup>him</sup> and try to buy the place on which he lives,

Larius might have done well, at least, I think so, ~~had~~ he remained with me, What I have got came here and slow, and I am so old and infirm I can't take care of it, Buren wants me to dispose of it, and go to Canada and live with him. But it would come as hard to me so to do, as it did for the Indians to leave the graves of their dead in our Southern states to go west of the Mississippi River,

Mary's family are all well but her mother she is quite poorly - has a cold ten weeks old yesterday

~~Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through. Some legible words include: "I think she will be", "I would like to", "I remain affectionately", "yours".~~

~~Yours truly, Stephen Richards  
died October 13th 1856~~

~~Old Aunt Mabel Young  
died Oct. 5th 1856~~

~~Widow Mabel Young - Stephen's  
I remain affectionately  
yours  
Stephen Richards~~