Richfield Nov. 15, 1874

Dear Father & Mother

Your letters were received. Glad to think that I got the first letter that Ma has written for three years. Hope it will not be three years before you write the next letter. While writing Uncle and Aunt, also Aunt Abby and [??] is in the room. Aunt Abby says she will write a few lines and send it in this letter. Yesterday Uncle Tom[??] and I went [??] after the mail and coming home between the corners and center the Burr came off from the bolt which goes through the suckyk [?] and let the pole down. The horses were on a good smart trot. At the time Uncle spoke to the horses. And I supposed they were going to stop and I jumped out for the

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... purpose of picking up the pole and fix it, and in so doing my foot caught in the lines. At the same time the horses started up, which drawed me about 20 feet by one of my feet. And when I got loose I had no use of my left arm for about 5 minutes. After that time I could use it, although it is lame. Also one of my limbs. Shall be all right tomorrow. No damage done except [??] brake the pole. I expect to go to bedford [Township?] in the morning. I only sold 6 books last week in Northfield. I wrote a letter to Mr. [??] telling him about the trouble in Northfield and he told me to go to Independence and then to Bedford. I went to Independence and saw one of the [?]cesters and he told me that 2/3 of the inhabitants were Germans that could not read Inglish and that I would not succeed unless I could drink lots of Lager.



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I thanked him for his [??] and started once more for Northfield. I have finished that Town. Wm Berry expects to come to Elsie soon as a [??] on a Lawsuit between Leach & Ramey & Gould of Owosso so he wrote me. I am affraid that Bill will be compelled to give up canvasing, as he says he can not work more than half of the time. After he has worked about half of a day it makes him cough, and he spits up lots of Blood. I have not seen Mr. [??] since I was over there nor Shorty. I do not know what is the reason they do not come and see me. While in Northfield I made it my home at Mr. Palmer's, a very nice place indeed. While there they had a great landslide on the river. About 8 miles from Mr. Palmer's. He went and saw it. He said that there was about 5 acres of land that slid ...

... down under the River throeing the river bed up about 15 feet and completely damming it up [??] that it must have gone with some force to have done that. The people that live in the vacinity of the place say that it [??] the houses when it went down. Mr. Palmer saw fish that was thrown up with the River Bed so you see that it was done very quick. We are having very nice weather here for the time of the year. It [??] seeks [?] and a pair of [??]. I think them very nice. I tell you I think I have got a nice little wife. It is getting so late that I don't expect to do much more, but will do the best I can. Everyone treats me well wherever I go, and I find them a very fine people. We think that we have agents in Mich but we know but little about them there. That is now [?] to one but that there is short book agents and map agents. Pa will you notify H. Setterington on that Wooll note. You will find it in my notebook penned [?] on. I do not know but the time has passed by [completed on top of first page] that he should be notified. Charlie wrote me that Thomas Price wanted four months more time. Tell him that I cannot wait . F.F. Smith chattle note [?] comes due the 21 of this month -- punch him up.

With this I will close. Give my respect to all with love from your affectionate boy.

Mottie Bates