Dear Brother,

Having never written to you and a good opportunity now presenting itself, I have thought best to improve it. I have not heard anything in particular about you for six or eight months. I received a letter from John Smith dated Northwood about the middle of January last. I understood you were teaching a singing school, music school &c. I also learned that Cox Hill had again taken up residence in Northwood for the third time and that he would be very likely to come to a sticking point this time. I wrote to the Cox in February and directed it to Salisbury, it did not reach there before he moved from that place. It appears that the great burseng part of your town have all fared except Cox Hill. I am glad the merchant escapes those trying times that turn men purses. Understand one Bennett & Cox Hill have purchased the Coxett farm. Think if they had been caught up by the power of magic and sat down in one of our prairies, they would not have taken that farm as a gift. However, it is all for the best that some like that part of the world as this country would not contain every body. I was a thinking a few days since that I would not take the gift of the best farm in Northwood to be obliged to get my living on it. Smith wrote me that D.C. Buel talked of purchasing farm, they think he must of taken his mind. Caverso told me Buel was a coming to this state this summer but I think it very doubtful. You have doubtless heard of this that C.B. Caverso is in line with J.D. B. we have boarded together all winter, they now are going to build one mile from us it being nearer their land, are very well contented, left the county very much are going into farming story are fencing, breaking and going to put in twenty-five acres of corn this season. Caverso has been very sick but is getting better. We have had in all four snows and all put together would not make four inches.
Singly.  New Salem, Dec. 31 17,

Hollis J. Clarke, Esq.
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