to day any thing more about him.
I was sorry to hear, in your letter, that your school consisted
of only 12 scholars, including those that went from home, but I
hope that by this time it has increased to at least 20 or 25; otherwise
you will have to lose considerable by it. It appears to me somewhat
strange that the people in that neighborhood (with one exception only,
which is yourself) have not the least care or anxiety to encourage
literature. It is my firm belief that there are some of them
who are more willing, in order to save a few cents, to send their
children to a man who can but just read and write, than to one
who has the best education our country can afford.
I expect by this time, that you have made a full trial
of your (picking) machine, and I hope that it has not only
exceeded your expectations, but also amply rewarded you for
your trouble and expense. I saw a day or two since, in a
Fayetteville paper, that cotton was from 15 to 16 cents at that market
and if this be the case in New York also, I hope that you will
make considerable by your cotton this year.
I would give me much pleasure to hear in your next letter
that you had obtained good prices for your cotton and
Bacon, and that trade was flourishing with you.
My health is, I believe, as good as usual, only my eyes are much
weaker than they were 12 months ago and occasionally
troublesome to me, but I hope that this will soon wear away.
I must now come to a close, with humbly wishing that
this letter may find my dear father and mother enjoying
good health, and that they will accept of the best love that
their son can impart, and believe me as ever their
affectionate and dutiful son

Richard H. Lewis