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Northampton County N.C. Feb 16th 1797

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Dear Brother -

Our Worthy Brother Wm Brainerd came to my
House last Evening & in our Conversation
Informed me, that he was acquainted with
a Preacher named Isaac Backus, & calling to
mind the Reading of a Piece of yours setting
forth some Years Past, caused me to desire
the happiness of seeing your face in Person
but thinking of the Distance being so great
& the Many Years ^{not} we have both seen can
Expect it, therefore have made bold to
Write to you ~~as a~~ Stranger; Dear Brother some
years Past The Candle of the Lord seemed to
Shine among us, Sinners were crying
for Mercy & Saints rejoicing in the Lord
but our Present State seems to be much
to the reverse, many have lately Departed
from the Faith & it is to be feared given
heed to Seducing Spirits, Iniquity also
increasing & the love of ^{an} Hating God, which
causes me many times to complain of my han-
ness, & makes me often crave the Prayers of
all them that know the truth, If we cannot
with your Personal Presence we hope to be ^{be} rememb-
red in Prayer, So I do with a sincere desire that the
Lord may add many to your Ministry
in your last Days may see your best Days ^{survive}