

Otrigo February 23^d

[nd ca 1850]

Dear Aunt

to inform you of I take my pen in hand
my health which is not
very good this winter I have been sick ~~for~~
a good deal of the time for almost a year
confined to my bed part of the time but I
have done my work all winter I have been
of a tough rugged constitution ever since I
left the east till within about two years
since my complaint or weakness which the female
is often subject to I have not forgotten you nor
from that nor none of my much loved friends
to the east they are all well remembered
never to be forgotten while life and reason
lasts often often Dear Aunt does fond memory
linger around the spot where I spent my childish
years surrounded by near and dear friends
the times are sadly changed hundreds of miles
now lie between us friends that we loved are
gone to their resting place since I received your
letter Hiram Holdridge who followed Curzel
dame he died the 30th of October leaving his
children orphans I have got one of them to
live with me and mean to have the other
O when you call your little ones that God has
entrusted to your care around you O then stop
think of their children who are left without their
mutual protector and when you raise your
thoughts to God and heaven then O then pray
for me that I may supply the place of mother
to them as far as possible can You wished or mentio-
ned a desire that I would return to the east
and live with you that you thought I would