

Portland Feb 18 1840

Dear Brother and Sisters, I now embrace the opportunity of writing a few lines to you to inform you of my health which is very good at present and hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing I received your letter the 15th of this month and was sorry to hear of the death of Brother Clark but we know that death is the certain lot of all of us and that sooner or later we shall have to bow to the grim messenger and it behooves us to be also ready for it may come in a day and an hour when least expected and if we are prepared it will not be an unwelcome visitor for the sting is taken away and we can rejoice even in the agonies of expiring nature it was a great consolation to me to learn that Sister Susan died happily in the arms of Jesus and although it is grievous to hear of the death of our brothers or sisters or friends yet it gives me satisfaction to know that it is gain to them to leave this unfriendly world and the bright prospect of meeting them again in before the dazzling throne of God if I only continue faithful unto the end is my greatest joy Sister Lydia I hope that you live in the enjoyment of religion if you do pray for me to the throne of grace and do not forget