

Freeport Dec 5 1855

Dear aunts I now sit down  
feeling unable to keep about upon my  
feet to do my duties here in this  
world of troubles trials and afflictions  
to write to you a few lines of the  
most trying news that I ever before  
experienced in all my lifetime a  
duty which I ought to have done long  
ago but my health being so bad  
and being left alone here on the shores  
of time and trying to bear up under  
our lot and portion which is of the  
hardest character I delayed it from time  
to time being all cramped and <sup>not</sup> capable  
of standing in my place we must  
I beg your pardon and forgiveness  
for not doing as I ought to have done  
and would wish to have done had  
it been convenient owe aint a fault  
as if you I would grant your unworthy  
nephew in request I have written to  
the west and should do so by all the  
friend had I not had the luck to  
spoil my pen and being sick did  
not obtain a new recruit till now