

Atsego Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 1868.

Dear Aunt

It is a long time since any communications have passed between us and hence we know nothing of your welfare or you of ours. Living as we do so far apart it would seem that we ought to keep up a correspondence and by this means obtain not only a knowledge of each others welfare but also an insight into the transpiring events of the time in each others locality.

Why this has not been the case is hard to tell without it be a mutual indisposition to write. And after a long silence again taking the pen with which to write & speak we scarcely know how or where to commence. A few general items <sup>however</sup> to begin with. We are having some rather cold weather for this western country this winter with a tolerable share of good sleighing and until within a few weeks past it has been quite healthy all around us.