

Otago Sept 20 - 1856

Respected Brother Sister, I now take  
 this opportunity of writing a few  
 lines to inform you of our health  
 which is tolerable good at present  
 hoping these lines will find you  
 and yours in health as usual:  
 your letter last evening and were  
 glad to hear from you once more  
 you must excuse me for not writing  
 oftener for we have been for the last  
 three months hurried with work we  
 are building a house and hope to be  
 able to write in it it is small  
 only 24 by 30 but costs much labor  
 say \$160 dollars for the wood work  
 mostly paid stone for cellar to clear  
 most of them 1/2 meter it is raised and  
 most of the work prepared to put on  
 It appears it has been wet with you  
 but it has been very dry here having  
 had but few showers since corn planting  
 grows light or replant corn cleared up  
 or the openings not half crop in some  
 places water source wells failed so  
 our corn is stout however frost nipped  
 it last evening potato light crop  
 Oats light wheat good worth 112 1/2  
 to 125 Oats 3 1/2 we have sowed six  
 acres of wheat had six or 7 of corn  
 had from 20 to 25 tons hay little are  
 tall here I sold a yoke 8 year old oxen  
 for 40, 1 pair 3 year old for 30, 1 pair  
 2 year old 25 - dollars a short  
 time since