

Ello

Otsego Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 1862

Respected Brother and Sister I now take my pen in hand to inform you of my health which is not very good this winter I have the Phtisis and Rheumatism and am not able to do much I hope these lines will find you and yours in good health We have written 2 letters and have had no answers and want to hear from you very much Lemuel and family were well the last we heard from them he lives 10 miles off Lyman is here a part of the time We have had 3 or 4 weeks sledding this winter 4 or 6 inches snow now We are wintering 21 head of cattle 2 horse 29 sheep 17 Hogs We have plenty of hay sold 4 or 5 tons 5,00 a ton wheat worth from 40 to 1,00 Corn 25 cts Pork 2 cts and other things in proportion Groceries high Tea 1,25 Money hard to be got by those in debt I owe nothing I suppose not 10 dollars I have since I saw you Built a house and Barn which cost over 400 dollars A great many of our young men have gone to war and I hope this rebellion will soon be put down and Slavery and oppression cease to exist in all our land It seems to me that our rulers are trying to preserve Slavery while South they are seeking to extend Slavery I think emancipation the surest and quickest remedy to put down this rebellion Carseldanus 2 children are both well Abner lives withus Hosea lives with his Grandfather Holdridge about six miles from us