John T. Creigh, Jr. to Lewis Allen Alderson

These four letters are addressed to Lewis Allen Alderson from his friend, John T. Creigh, Jr. Alderson later moved to Atchison, Kansas, in 1858 and was a prominent Baptist minister. He died in Atchison in 1881.

Date: December 1831-June 1832

Callnumber: Lewis Allen Alderson Coll. #255, Folder 15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 228647

Item Identifier: 228647

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John T. Creigh, Jr. to Lewis Allen Alderson

Lewisburg Va Dec 6th 1858

Dear Friend

I received your letter a few days since with feelings of peculiar pleasure. It was quite exhilirating to hear from my old retreat, although it contained an account of the great demenution in ~~your~~ the number of your students. I was a little surprised to hear of the approval of professor Wells conduct by the Board of Trustees; for I supposed his "highhanded" movements and the great dissatisfaction expressed by the students, would have drawn down their just indignation. Perhaps ~~however~~ the convexity of the lens through which I looked magnified the object and presented it in more glaring colours, than those through which they looked. If differs not with me, who are professors, all I desire is to see the institution flourish. I suppose J. Wright was very much chagrined at his great discomfiture, and twisted his head and ~~his~~ muscles of his face in his old accustomed manner. I suppose also some of the citizens were a little disappointed if I were to judge from some of their scrapes. I hope that it is all right now, let the consequences be what they may.

I am now situated in a different place far seperated from those concerns that used to engross my

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attention and those cares that used to agitate the "world of mind"
Every thing is changed; what used to be a burden to perform
is now accomplished with pleasure; and what was done with pleasure
and delight has now lost all relish. Those things in which I formerly
did engage have become loathsome, and those books ~~which~~ which I
once entirely neglected, are those in which I find most delight. I keep
constantly in view, that divine saying, "To him that overcometh I
will give [redacted] to eat of the tree Life" Rev 2d Apocalypse. Now I can lay
down on my pillow, and enjoy "Natures sweet restorer Balmy Sleep"
without that dread and fear, & without that trembling of body and
lashing of conscience, which formely tormented me with such excruciating
agony. Now, the contemplation of celestial glories is the constant
exercise of the mind and the enjoyment of celestial happiness the
sole aim of all the actions. I felt once a little mortification
at choosing my profession so soon; but not knowing or rather not
attending to that divine injunction of our Saviour, "Seek first the
kingdom of heaven and all other things shall be added to you";
but upon more mature reflection and minute inquiry and examin-
-nation I have concluded to proceed in my present course. Should
I find however in my course any thing to obstruct or impede my
progress in spiritual attainments (as I have been told I will not)

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I will immediately abandon it. I have not attached myself to any church, on account of not having concluded in my mind which one I ought to join. The revival in the neighbourhood of town has mostly subsided, but at some distance from town and principally in the extremities of the county I believe it is progressing. Every where we hear of the heavenly work advancing with an increased velocity. We are going to have a quarterly meeting here in a few weeks, when I hope and all Christains pray that we may have a more profuse display of divine power. I have understood that the most talented preachers among the Methodist divines are expected [illegible] I confine myself closely to my room; Edgar calls occasionally and Charles every day; Steele has had an attack of the fever and chills, but has recovered. Charles a few days since started with his farther for Philadelphia and I believe the sole cause of the old man taking him, was that he was afraid, he was courting Miss Ann Mayo. (But say nothing) I am certain that he was entirely captivated with her. John Stuart is attending to his farm, and comes in town only every day; he is about to start for Richmond. Edgars health I am certain has improved although

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it is a very hard matter for him to believe so. Miss Martha Arbuckle was married a few weeks since to a Mr Ball. Her nuptials ~~were~~ were celebrated in the most splendid manner. John Lynn was married to miss Woodget a few ~~days~~ evenings since without any person knowing it's butt except the parson and his relations. He has left here for Kentucky. Mr. McClung and Miss Elizabeth are

1854

Mr. Lewis A. Alderson
Ohio University
Athens
Ohio

PITTSBURGH DEC 7

via Charleston

at Charleston attending a four days meeting held there. I believe I have told you all the news of our little village. I would be glad you would inform the Diploma Man, for I dont recollect his name, that Mr. Withrow has not yet received his Diploma and does not know wether they are written or stamped. Excuse the errors of this epistle, I did intend to have copied and written more, but I find I have not time. Give My Respects to your Roomates and accept the same of ... all are well ... Your Friend J. Creigh

John T. Creigh, Jr. to Lewis Allen Alderson

Jan 28 1852 Lewisburg Va

Respected Friend

I received your letter some time since with more than ordinary feelings of pleasure. I have differed the time of answering it, untill the meetings that were held in this place lately, should be over that I might have the pleasure of returning to you the same joyous news that you communicated to me. I have waited in vain; their exertions though unremitting have evaporated like the morning dew, leaving no vestiges of any having been used A dead and solemn calm has succeeded; the joyous music of family devotion is not so often conveyed to our ears as formerly; the solemn exhortations of ministers are not so frequent: nor do the meditative look appear so common on the countenances of our citizens. We were alarmed, but gratified to witness the sublimity of the storm; and as natural consequence, we must view the calm.

The methodists have held meetings in their church for the last two weeks; some disorder occured, and judging from the noise at a distance, something worse than disorder might have happened.

I should have been pleased to have been at Athens, this winter

nothing would have given me so much pleasure as to have been permitted to behold what your eyes have witnessed. For such a sight, the soul longs for, and desires with ardent aspirations. You must tell me the number of converts in college. I suppose that you would like to hear some of the news of the place, and as I feel incapable of writing but a few lines more, (being worn down at present both in mental and physical strength) I shall give all I know. I have never observed before the great influence which the change of temperature has upon men. A few weeks ago and all were alarmed; sickness and deaths were very common; and each one seemed depressed. But now, since a change has occurred every one is lively and gay; nothing thought of but "marrying and giving in marriage". Edgar is going to Giles Cty To attend his uncles wedding. Maria Moore was married a few evenings since to Mr. Anderson, also Samuel McClung to Miss Davis. Many others are Talked of, as you know report always has them married before they are really. I happened to hear of these on the very evening that they took place. I have not seen Charles lately, perhaps some might have occurred ~~and~~ so that I have not heard of. Charles has returned from Philadelphia and entertains the natives truly. Steele is assisting Mr. McClung in the

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Your Father was in Town a few weeks since, all were well. Edgar going to write and Steve taken up purpose what he allowed me. Tell me if you have an exhibition in the spring and who are the performers. Give my Respects to all my acquaintances. Tell us all the news in your next. Yours Excuse inaccuracy J. T. Creigh jun

Jan. 23. 1832.—

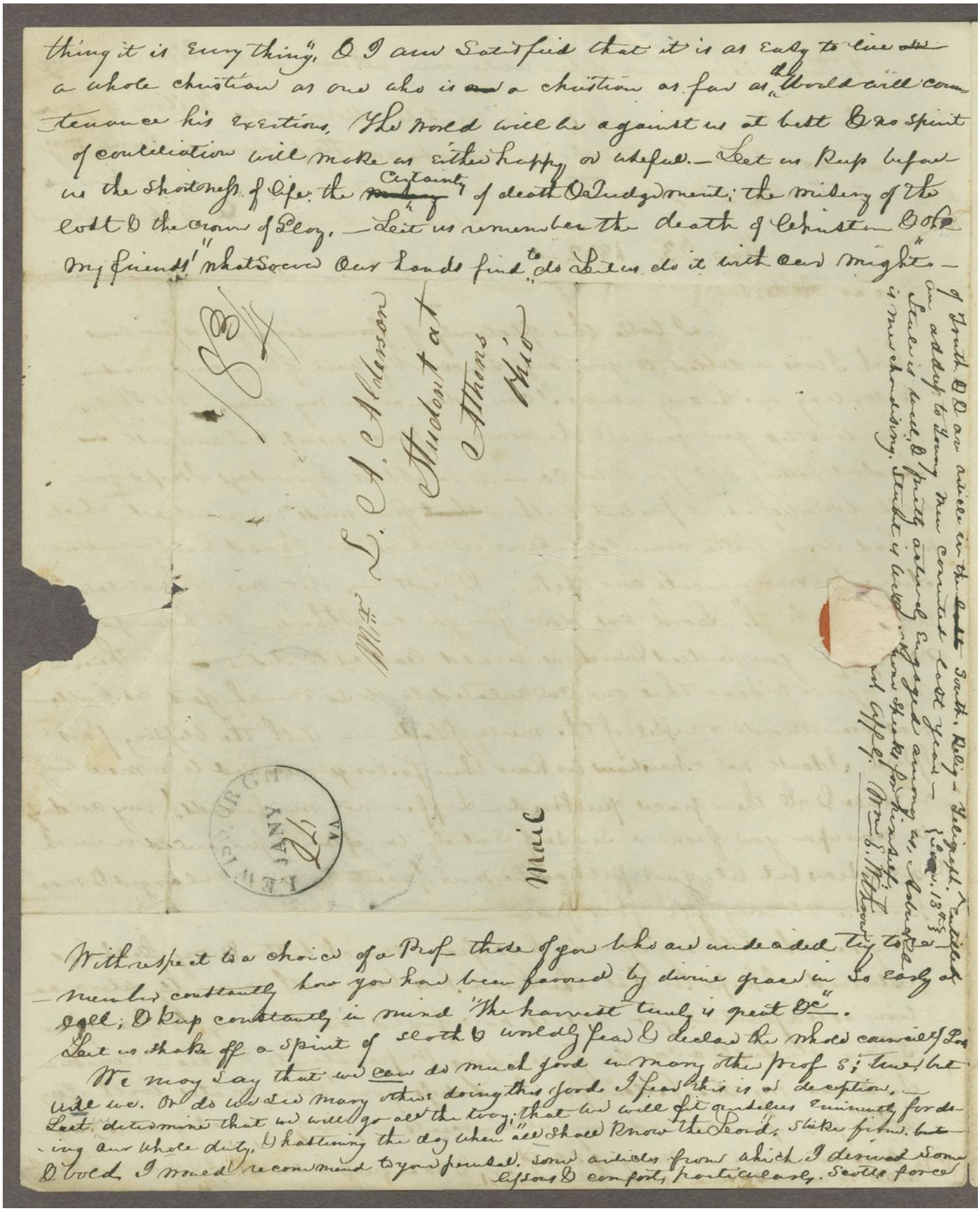
Dear Alderson

I take this opportunity of forwarding you a few lines which I was indebted to you long since. My want of time and attention to writing are the only excuses I can advance for my delay— As Thos.— will doubtless give you all the common place news, & I am just on the about setting out for Lilies Co.— to be absent a few days I hope you will be satisfied at present with a ~~short~~ few words on a subject on which we had some little conversation & one on which we should have a cordial desire to communicate our thots. O Just—, let me congratulate on the work the Lord has done for you in Athens.— We hear good news from you indeed & such as would lead us to desire to be there— We rejoice to hear that one calculated to do so much good as Butler has been made a vessel of the mercy of God.— With the blessing of his Spirit, I doubt not Christians too have their feelings awaked to a more lively exercise & all their graces quickened— Suffer not my friends, any coldness to come upon you from a sense of Safety, too often experienced on such occasions but let your petitions be more fervent & more enlarged & more humble at every gift of his grace.—

My health with my Spirits has grown much better & my flesh has returned. I hope too that the Lord has been with me. My determination as to a pursuit for life is now fixed on Divinity & I am pursuing Studies & course of reading preparatory to the Theological Course— And now my dear fellow, for I address you as a bosom friend & mate with you, let us fix upon no ordinary attainments in piety. "If religion is any

N.B. Rec'd Sometime since Mary's & Bro. Cary & Marquis I mean. I know not the date Letters to be answered as soon as time will permit.

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thing it is every thing." O I am satisfied that it is as easy to live as a whole christian as one who is a christian as far as the world will countenance his exertions. The world will be against us at best & no spirit of conciliation will make us either happy or useful. — Let us keep before us the shortness of life. the certainty of death & Judgment; the misery of the lost & the crown of glory. — Let us remember the death of Christ & for my friends "whatsoever our hands find to do let us do it with our might". —

Mr L. A. Alderson
Student at
Athens
Ohio

Mail

With respect to a choice of a Prof. those of you who are undecided try to remember constantly how you have been favored by divine grace in so early a call; & keep constantly in mind "the harvest truly is great &c".
Let us shake off a spirit of sloth & worldly fear & declare the whole counsel of God.
We may say that we can do much good in many other profs. & times, but what use we. Or do we see many others doing this work. I fear this is a deception. —
Let determine that we will go at the duty that we will fit ourselves eminently for doing our whole duty, & hastening the day when "all shall know the Lord, from the least to the greatest". —
I would recommend to your perusal some articles from which I derived some lessons & comfort, particularly, Scotts force of truth. Q. O. on advice in the [illegible] South. Relig. Telegraph. Intellect in addition to many new contributors. [illegible] Nov. 13th
Dear Sir, I am truly grieved among us. Adieu
I remain dear Sir yours affectionately
J. T. Creigh Jr.
Mr. L. A. Alderson

John T. Creigh, Jr. to Lewis Allen Alderson

Lewisburg Va June 20th 1832

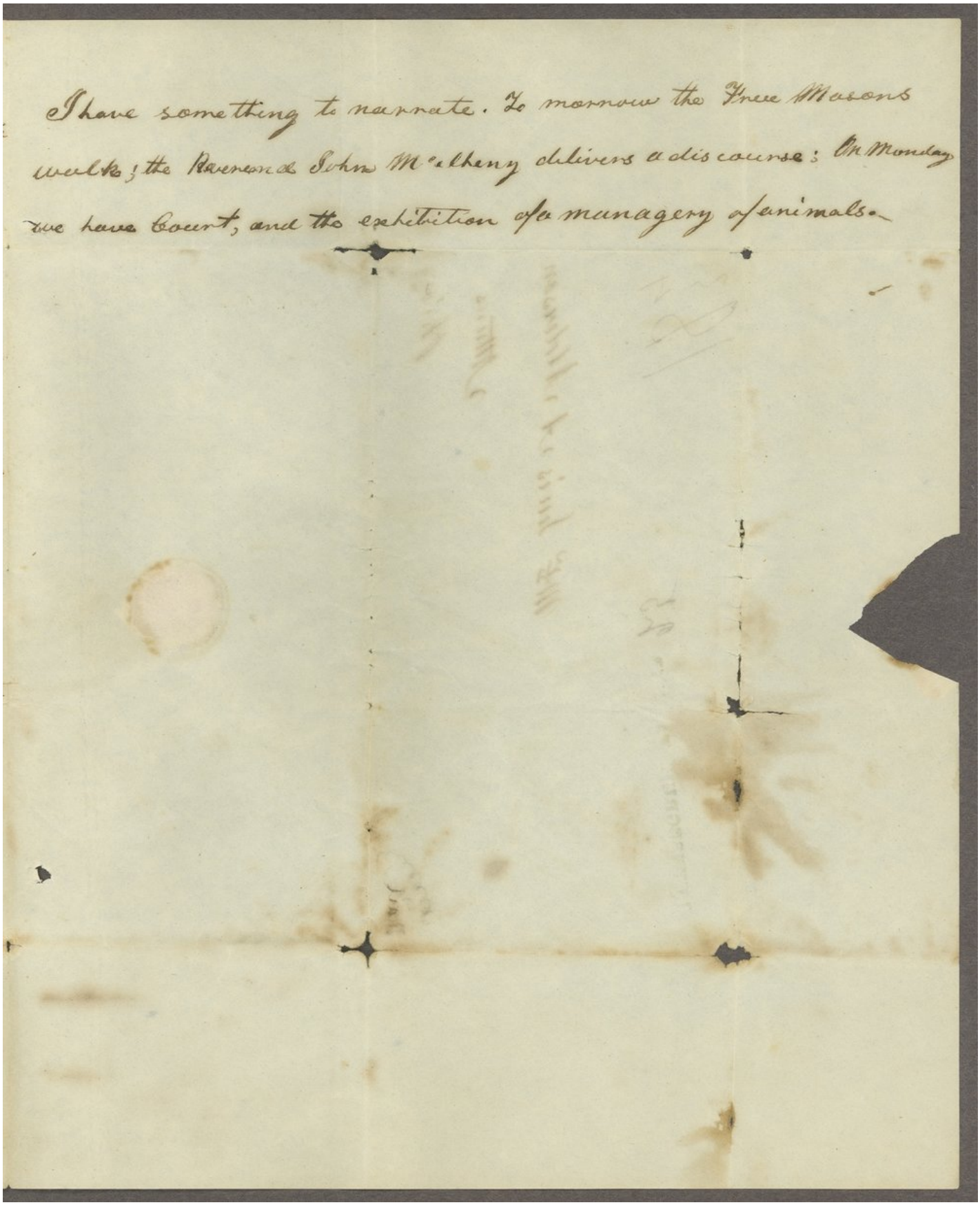
Dear Friend

After a delay of a few months I sit down at present to fullfill an obligation, due you some time since. This delay has been occasioned, by circumstances, beyond the control of any human influence. I have been subject to all spring to that most loathsome disease, the fever and ague; by it I have been incapacitated from attending to those duties which conscience dictated to be performed, and from those, which my feelings urged me to perform in the circle of my acquaintances. The charms of spring and the beauties of nature are scenes which scarsely delight the vision, or refreshed the spirits. The company of friends and the society of our most pious and intelligent females, afford no longer, that refreshment to the feelings which their conversation was formerly capable of effecting. Nothing it appears can liberate me from the stupidity, ennui, and inertness which this malady casts over me. It is really a "vampyre" upon the mental and physical energies; it "obumbrates the intellectual perceptions" like the moon intercepting the rays of the sun. I will "cease" this egotistical disposition by remarking

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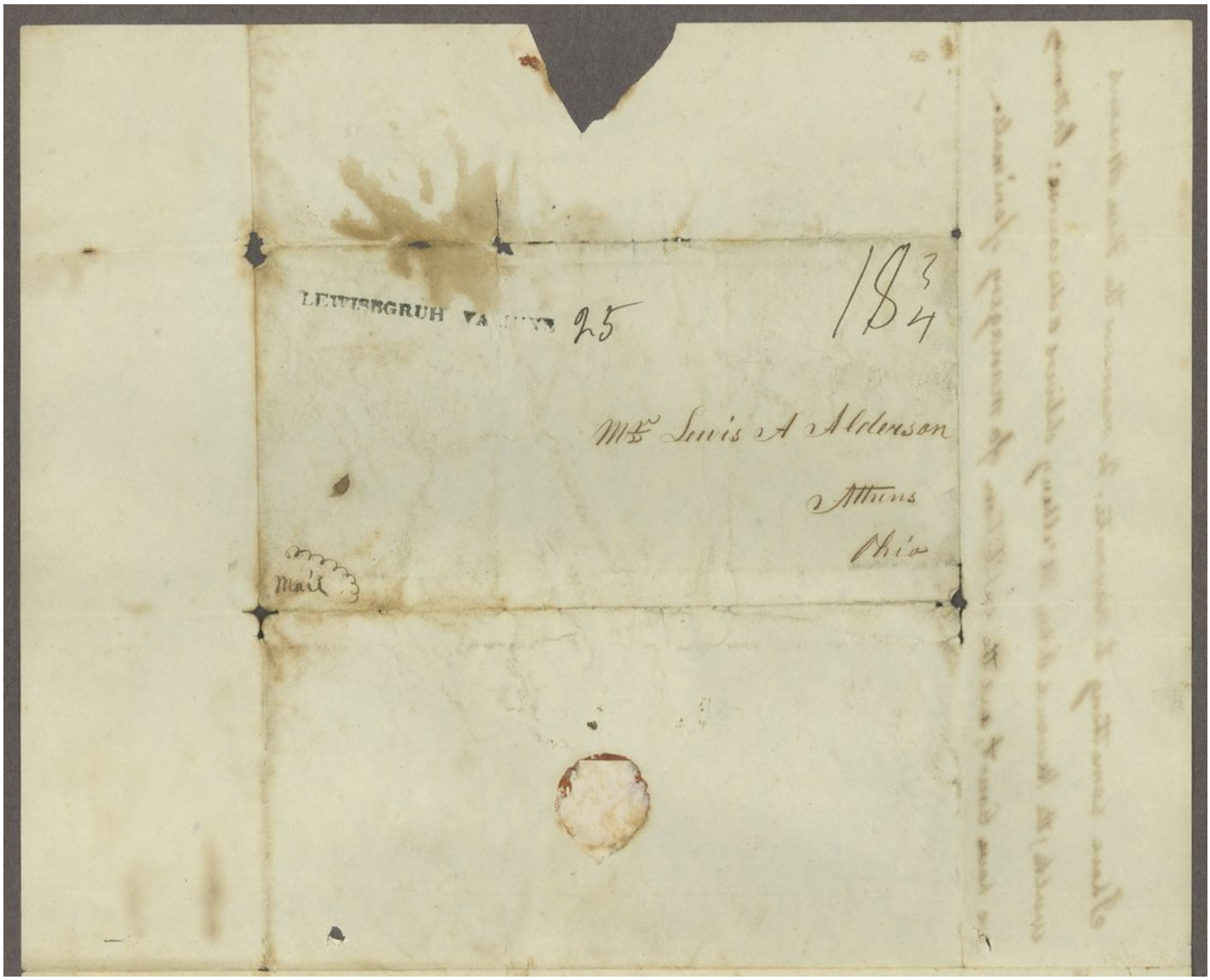
that I believe I am recovering and hope by care that I will not have another attack. I must however plead the apology of a valetudinarian. The acts worthy of record in this place are not numerous, (if indeed any). Edgar leaves on Monday next for Hamden and Sydney, there to persue his professional studies. He looks dejected, but is quite lively; enjoys good health, but a little hypocondraical at times. Steele enjoys the pleasures of the season with cheerfull feelings and the company of his freinds with his usual pleasure. Charles has been unwell and the solving of the question "what he was created for" seems to be a difficulty with him; he has not found the "bent" of his own genius as he says; he still follows the shadows of his own brain and the devices of his own imagination, on the persuit of pleasure, which he does always found to evaporate like smoke. Stuart continues the same thing. Smith is as pompous as if he owned the universe; he thinks nothing of residing over a race. Nothing has transpired the least interesting. I want to hear from you; tell me how you all negotiate in that country and have "a nice negro". You will excuse this as it is merely to fullfill my promise and to get you to write that I send this. Give My Respects to all enquiring Friends. Yours &c J T Creigh junr

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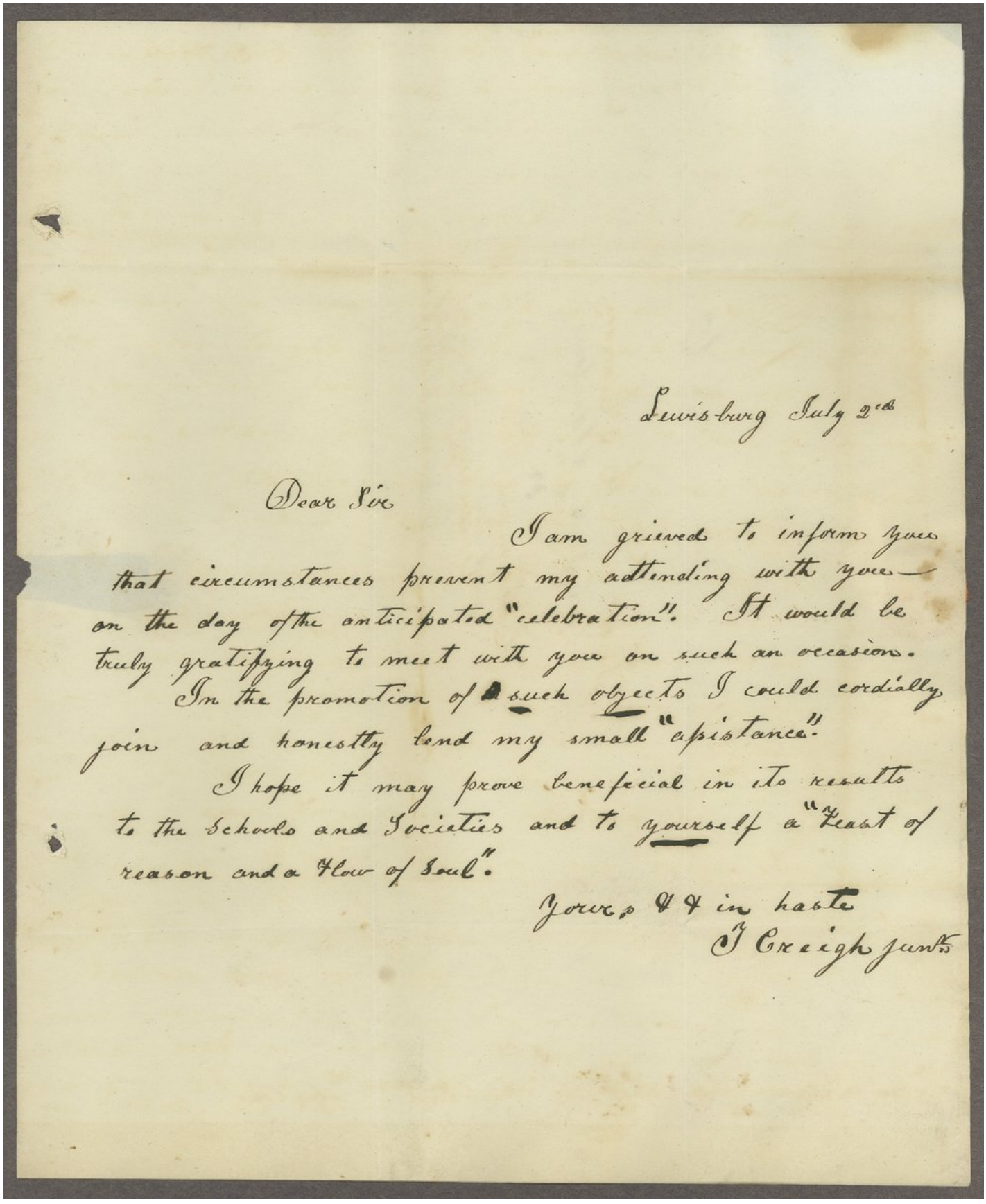


I have something to narrate. To morrow the Free Masons
will lay the Corner Stone of the Rev. John McElheny delivers a discourse: On Monday
we have Court, and the exhibition of a managery of animals.

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John T. Creigh, Jr. to Lewis Allen Alderson



Lewisburg July 2nd

Dear Sir

I am grieved to inform you that circumstances prevent my attending with you on the day of the anticipated "celebration". It would be truly gratifying to meet with you on such an occasion.

In the promotion of such objects I could cordially join and honestly lend my small "apistance".

I hope it may prove beneficial in its results to the Schools and Societies and to yourself a "Feast of reason and a Flow of Soul".

Yours &c in haste

J Creigh junr

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