John H. Linn to Lewis Allen Alderson

Three letters from John H. Linn to Lewis Allen Alderson. Alderson later moved to Atchison, Kansas, in 1858 and was a prominent Baptist minister. He died in Atchison in 1881.

Date: March 3, 1831-May 24, 1831

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John H. Linn to Lewis Allen Alderson

White Sulphur Spring March 3

Dear Lewis

In conformity with the promise I made you some time since, I must indulge my pen a few moments in giving you a manifestation of that friendship which I have ever professed and entertained towards you and which should ever subsist between the disciples of that old philosophick Dutton — who never failed to inculcate the important lessons of amity and friendship. how far those precepts will be followed our future necessities will verify — We have had some delightfull weather for the last 2 weeks which was followed last night by a severe storm after the sun had made a golden set our northern horizon was illuminated by vivid [redacted] flashes of lightning which following each other in quick succession [redacted] lighted up with one continual blaze the whole heavens overcast with clouds black with impending rain. while ever and anon the harsh toned thunder in connection with the tempestuous winds made the very earth rock to its centre — Last Friday Jim left his native village to try his fortune in a country by him unknown. and of him unacquainted May heaven smile upon him and render him yet a usefull and valuable member of society. For none is better qualified both by education and natural endowments — Nature in the dispensation of her

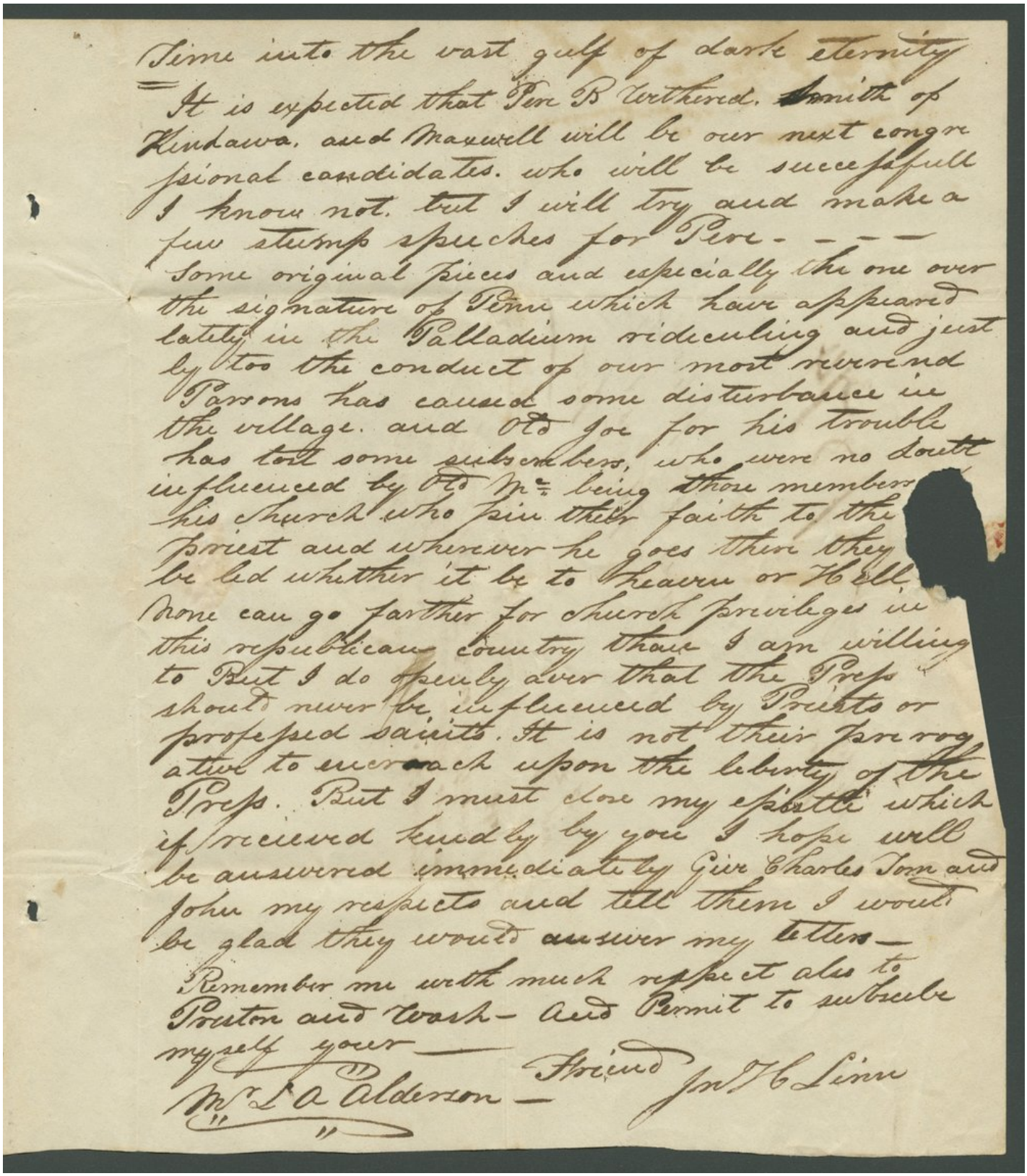
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gifts has been peculiarly favorable to him
in endowing him with uncommon powers of mind
which will enable him to become (if he chose)
a shining star in those western regions
Sorry as I was to part with Jim whose conduct towards
me forced me to regard as my very best friend, I
regretted equally as much to part with his wife
whom I respected with no common regard and
verily every person who was acquainted with her
must always hold in the highest estimation the
virtues of so perfect[ly] an amiable woman as
Cornelia—

How hard to part, perhaps to meet no more
This side of Jordan's troubled Shore
And truly we did all respire
When we bid Farwell to Cornelia Caroline
And if no more we are to meet
Let this idea our feelings greet
That where bright seraphs always shine
There we will meet Cornelia Caroline

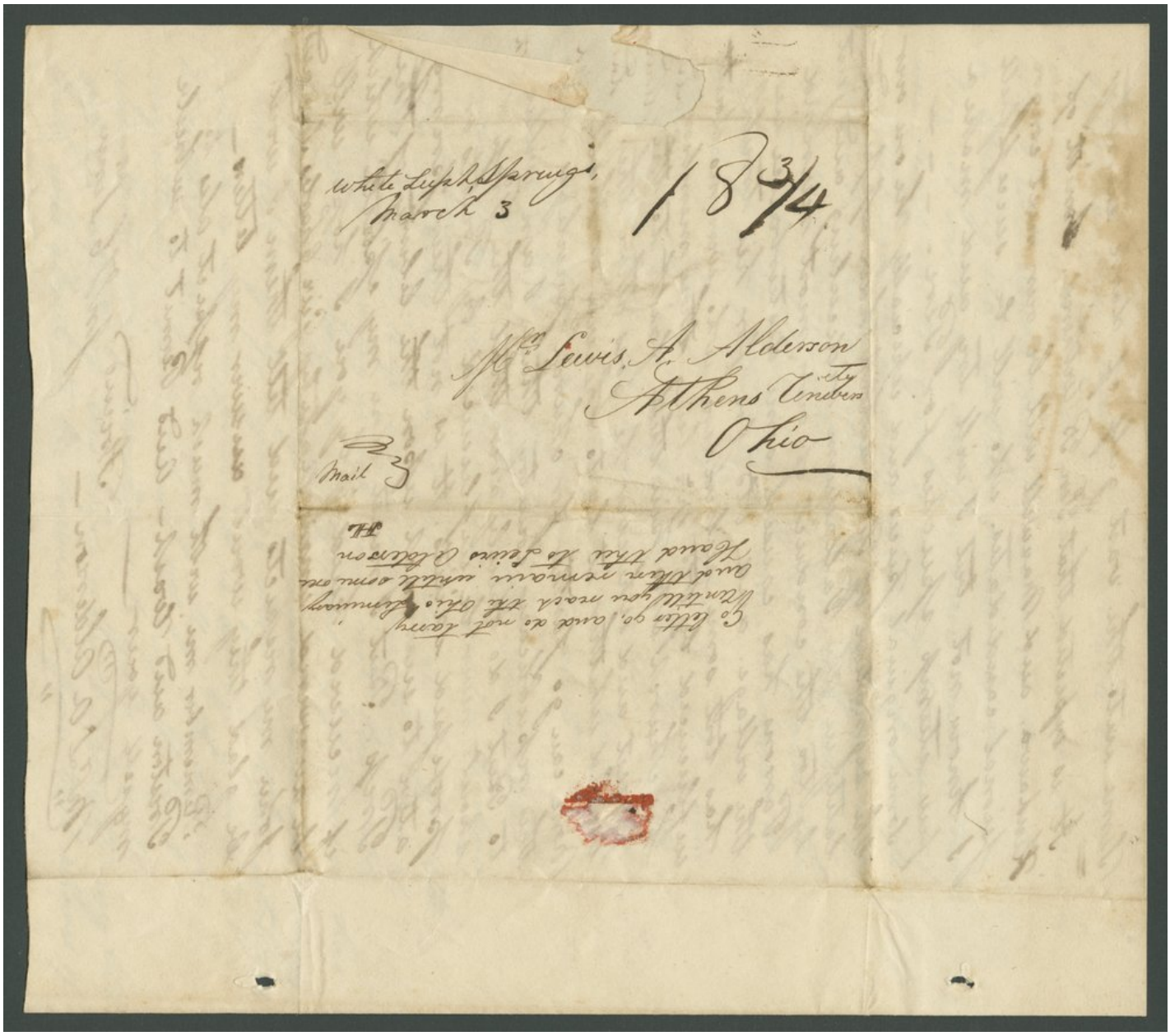
The afflicting hand of Providence has for the
last 3 or 4 days consigned me to a bed of
sickness during which time not being able
to eat any thing my physical appearance has
been very much impaired. But I am now recovering
and feel myself regaining every hour that strength
of which a sudden sickness is always calculated
to deprive us— During my illness the boys were
very attentive. But with all their assistance I
was almost ready sometimes to yield myself
up an object of despair— when I thought my little
bark was about to be launched from these shores of

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Sine into the vast gulf of dark eternity
=
It is expected that Pen B Withend. Smith of Kindawa. and Maxwell will be our next congressional candidates. who will be succesfull I know not. but I will try and make a few stump speeches for Pen. — — —
Some original pieces and especially the one over the signature of Penn which have appeared lately in the Palladium ridiculing and just by too the conduct of our most reverend Parsons has caused some disturbance in the village. and Old Joe for his trouble has lost some subscribers, who were no doubt influenced by Old Pr. being those members of his Church who pin their faith to the Priest and whenever he goes there they be led whither it be to Heaven or Hell. None can go farther for Church privileges in this republican country than I am willing to But I do openly aver that the Press should never be influenced by Priests or professed saints. It is not their prerogative to encroach upon the liberty of the Press. But I must close my epistle which if received kindly by you I hope will be answered immediately Give Charles Tom and John my respects and tell them I would be glad they would answer my letter—
Remember me with much respect also to Preston and Wash— And Permit to subscribe myself your —— Friend Jn H Linn
Mr L A Alderson —
"
"

John H. Linn to Lewis Allen Alderson



John H. Linn to Lewis Allen Alderson

White Sulphur Springs April 28th

Dear Lewis

Your favor of by the hands of Mr Jno Stuart was thankfully recieved and it affords me pleasure to reciprocate that friendship which you profess and evinced through your epistle -

And really it would be an unpardonable indifference should our communications breathe any thing save the sweet-toned voice of friendship - of pure disinterested friendship =

With you I am ready to rejoice at the welcome news of the conversion of an old and worthy schoolmate and class-fellow - How much soever we may differ in matters of religion I am not so scrupulously nice or so destitute of every generous feeling as to discard from my well wishing those whom infinite Mercy has elected to be the heirs of eternal glory = If Edgar is a subject of the late revival of religion at Yale = If the heavenly rays of divine grace have beamed upon his soul I hope that he will possess at least one characteristick of the meek and lowly Jesus I mean humility for I am conscious that before he will be welcomely recieved in Lewisburg yea before he hear the voice of a merciful and just Judge saying "Come thou blessed of my Father" he must divest himself of that "Self - Importance" that ambitious, contemptible Pride that hurled an angel of light from the shining courts of bliss endless to the dark and terrifying abyss of eternal damnation - For it was visible to all in his last visit

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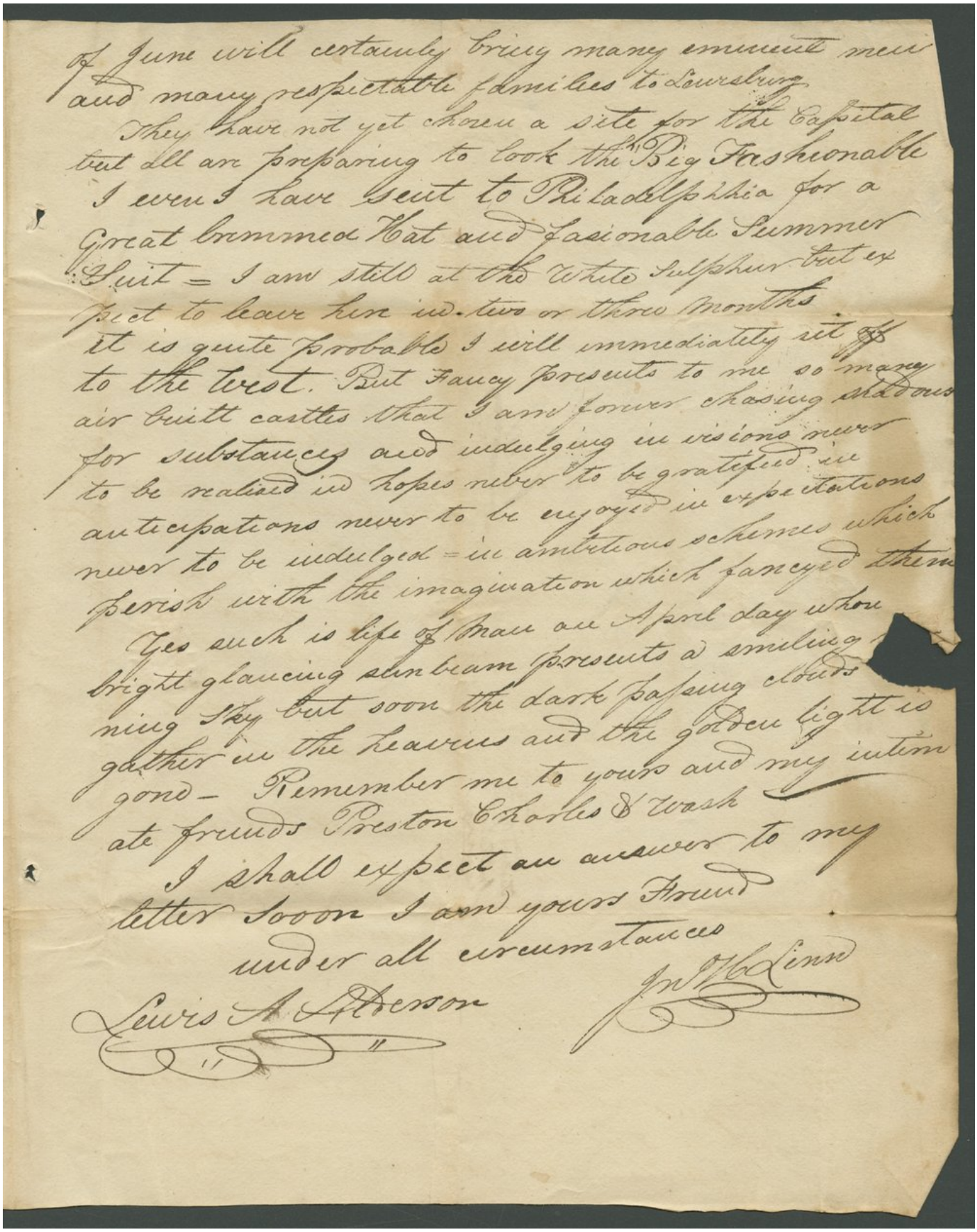
to his friends in the village, that he thought himself a God infinite in wisdom if not omnipotent a self-adoring Deity and if it were possible to dethrone the Supreme Ruler, he would have willingly usurped the Regal sceptre- And I regret that few hesitated to pronounce him a selfish, vain contemptible little coxcomb-

Perhaps you may think I am persecuting him without cause, but I appeal to you his cold treatment towards me last fall would justify me in renouncing forever his friendship = Last Sunday was a sacramental occasion in Lewisburg- I know of none who for the first time communed at Lords table = Mr Calhoun. Greenwood- of Massachusetts- Johnson Reynolds' father an old Baptist preacher were the Reverends present = The general tenor of their sermons turned upon the divinity of Christ- Greenwood I consider a young man of some talent I understood that his place of destination was Cincinatti — Mr will start in a few days to Philadelphia and intends taking with him Elizabeth- I expect this will throw Hale into the "agony" for he is giving Lizzy the "clear set"

Squire Erskine has returned home he is again a candidate for the Legislature And I suppose will have no opposition = The New County Lafayette I suppose will be connected with Nicholas in a representation J. M. Woods Esquire intends settling in Lafayette- What a luminary in a benighted land! Ballard Smith. Bowlin and Carey also intend practicing at the Lafayette Bar

The Citizens of Lewisburg expect much company and gaiety in the village this summer. The Court of Appeals which commences its session the first

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of June will certainly bring many eminent men and many respectable families to Lawrence. They have not yet chosen a site for the Capital but all are preparing to look the Big Fashionable I even I have sent to Philadelphia for a Great brimmed Hat and Fasionable Summer Suit = I am still at the White Sulphur but expect to leave here in two or three months it is quite probable I will immediately set off to the west. But Fancy presents to me so many air built castles that I am forever chasing shadows for substances and indulging in visions never to be realized in hopes never to be gratified in anticipations never to be enjoyed in expectations never to be indulged = in ambitious schemes which perish with the imagination which fancyed them

Yes such is life of man on April day when bright glancing sunbeam presents a smiling ning sky but soon the dark passing clouds gather in the heavens and the golden light is gone – Remember me to yours and my intimate friends Preston Charles & Wash

I shall expect an answer to my letter soon I am yours Friend under all circumstances

Jn H Linn

Lewis A Alderson

John H. Linn to Lewis Allen Alderson



John H. Linn to Lewis Allen Alderson

White Sulphur May 21st 1831

Dear Friend

I received your very acceptable communication a few days since and now have laid it before me with the intention of answering it. I regret you did not give me a more lengthy detail of your visit this Spring. You no doubt saw many things which would have been interesting to me

I should like to have heard what were the prospects which offered themselves to a professional character. For I can assure you my prospects are dull in this country. I sometimes become so much discouraged that I almost conclude to relinquish my scientific pursuits and engage in some mechanical art. Every part of the surrounding country is filled with office hunters starving pettyfoggers and quacks=

If you go to even Fayette there Mr Woods Atty is ready to meet you with all the formidable artillery of his all conquering eloquence— If further west you must contend with Penn ell. a Harris and a host of talents calculated to deter any one from even casting a longing look towards the "sumanit of [redacted] applause

I suppose before you receive this letter you will have heard of the melancholy news of the death of Wm Casperton. She died I understood in child birth last Friday night. Mr Casperton I understand was not at home and does had arrived but a few days

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This will be no doubt mournful intelligence
for her absent husband, and her sons who are
at Athens and have left home for the first
time. What can a day bring forth? What a chan
in mortal things will a thought of Omnipotent
effect? Ah! none but those who have felt, have
an idea of the anguish of soul which is felt
when they behold for the last time the cold
and motionless frame of a tender a fond mother.
or hear that the most gracious boon of heaven
has been taken in the dispensations of Providence
If the boys have not heard any thing of it Perhaps
you had better not mention it untill they hear from
home. For I do not wish to be the bearer of such mourn
ful intelligence. I feel for them my sympathies
are excited. For it a shock their young minds are
not able to bear. Harvey Feamster is still getting
worse and I fear in a few more days he will be
numbered with the dead. I have not yet seen him
but frequently hear from him. I believe they
have not yet selected a situation for the new
Publick buildings in Lewisburg. Jno A North
has been appointed Clerk of the Court of Appeals
and it is probable J. B. Caldwell Esq. will be appo
inted the Reporter. Cardozo or North the Clerk of
the Superior Court and. Mason Matthews or Mun-
nis the Clerk of the County Court. Wetherred has
declined being a candidate for Congress at the
ensuing election - Maxwell will doubtless be
re-elected. And Erskine will be our representa
tive in the Legislature. Old Joe Caldwell will
run a quite respectable poll I hope - but there
is no chance for his election -

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The weather continues very cold and disagreeable too cold to sit without fire. A large quantity of the fruit has been destroyed by the frost and I am apprehensive many crops will be materially injured. —

Ed Steele has commenced school again in the "academy" he has quite a small school only about 20 scholars. Miss Howe I understand has a very good school. so has Cardozo and Sparks

The Springs season is late commencing this year. there have only been 4 or 5 visitors — and those were invalids. They will be able to accomodate near 300 persons this summer. I will be here during the whole summer and will try and make it at some woman that has a fortune for the only way I can possibly see of making a livelihood is to marry it — Love is and must be the grand ornament passion and if I can't love her person I will her money and I am informed that if a man does not court them they will him so it does not matter whether there be any love for I would not permit any woman — to court me Lewisburg is "chock full of gals" of eyes of every hue of colour of every kind from the first coloured circle taking Reynolds' John as a specimen to perfect whiteness — Tell John Stuart his cousin Robinson Stuart is Green bur I saw him at Capt at Iguana last Sunday where 18 the blacke eyed yankee had walked on Saturday Evening Bob Quick starts next Monday and with no doubt be glad to hear from you. when he arrives at West Point. I believe I have given you a detail of the News My respects to all and Believe me your Sincere Friend

John H Linn

L A Alderson

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