

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

This series of the Isaac Tichenor Goodnow collection includes sent and received correspondence of Isaac T. Goodnow (1814-1894) and also the correspondence of his brother, William E. Goodnow (1807-1876). This correspondence includes early courtship letters between Isaac and his future wife, Ellen Denison, as well as letters between William and his future wife, Harriet Paddleford. There are also several letters written by their brother, Jotham Goodnow. The correspondence is arranged in chronological order. Box 6 includes undated letters arranged by the first letter of the correspondent's last name. Isaac Goodnow moved to Kansas in 1855 and established the town of Manhattan and Bluemont Central College. He died on March 20, 1894.

Date: 1826-1940

Callnumber: Isaac T. Goodnow Coll. #357, Box 1-6

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SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Dear Cousin,

This evening I retire to my lonely seat to devote a few moments to friendship. But what a poor substitute is writing, compare'd with a personal interview still it has a tendency to keep alive that glow of friendship without which time and absence, might possibly destroy. where are you this evening; are you sailing on the tide of prosperity, or groaning under the load of affliction? I hope peace and prosperity, are your daily companions. I devote many a silent hour in thinking of my friends which are far away, although many a high hill, and lofty tree, now separates us your Mother came here to day, and I, together with your Mother and mine, have rode to Wilmington this afternoon to visit the dear mansion of your former abode, but everything there wore a gloomy aspect, and brought to ^{mind} part ones which can never be recall'd. - My health for the summer part has been extremely poor, and is very delicate at present but I anticipate being able to leave Millbury and
Plantamaking this fall, I calculate to work at Brattleboro with the Miss Windsteens, and regret your absence very much. I must close my letter, for I am tire'd, sleepy and unwell, and shall bid you good evening after concurring yours you will ever be shaner in the tenderest wishes of your ever affectionate Cousin Hanniat W. P.

1st received

Marlboro Sept 9th 1826.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

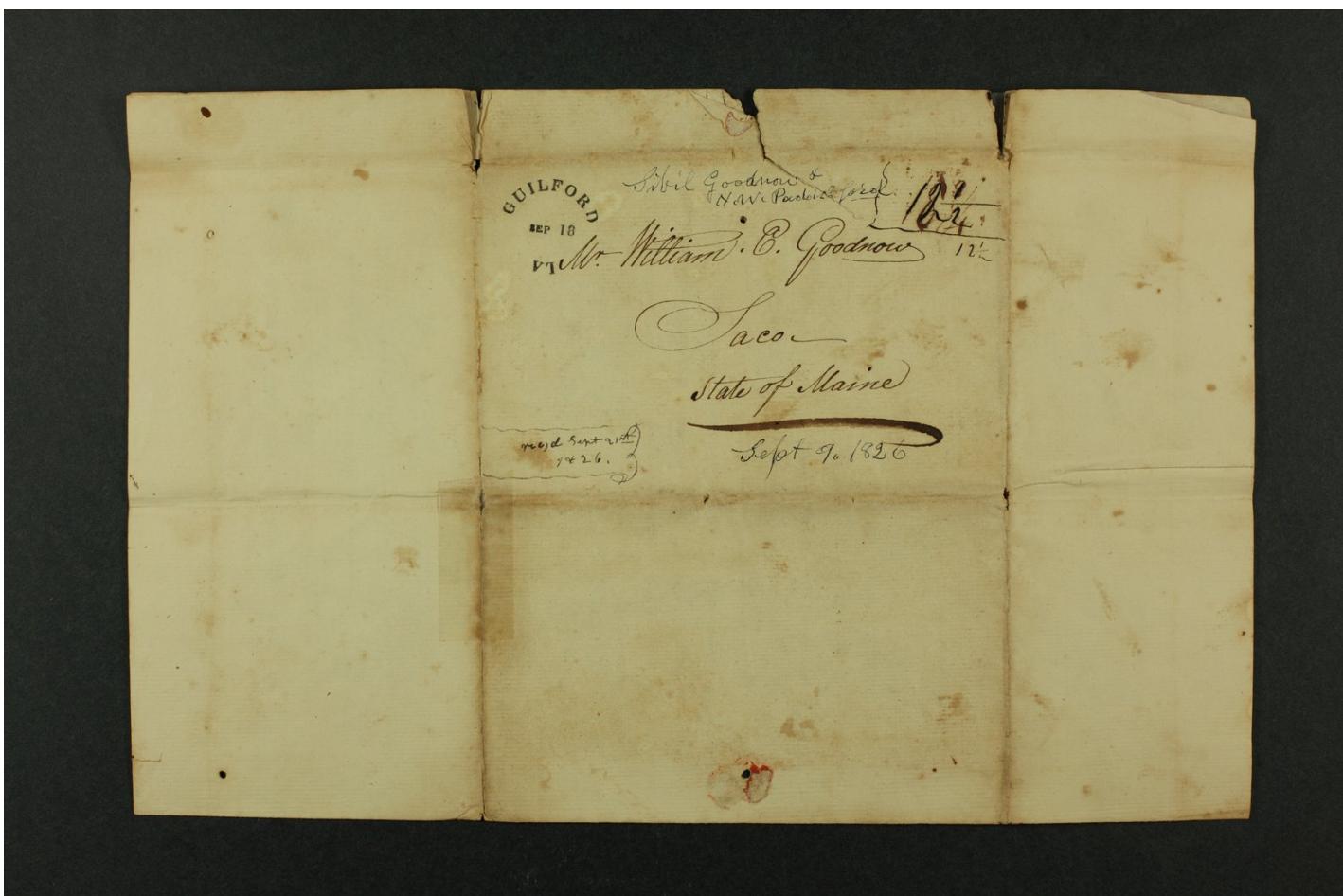
Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Most resped Son, I retire to my room
to spend a few moments in writing; as writing
is the only way we can converse together at present.
My anxiety is great to see you, I think it would be
for your health to take a journey as far as home
this fall and visit your friends which they ~~would~~ ^{want} be
be very much pleased to have you; our family is well
at present your Father has not gone his journey yet
i expect he will go in course of a fortnight & i expect
to go with him - your grand health is poor! Aunt Phoebe
and Harriet talk of moving to the west next spring
as wants we should move ~~with them~~: Eaton i fell
anxious to go and try to get a little place for our
selves as you know we have nothing here to stay
for; this day our children are all here except ~~one~~
which almost overcomes me to think you must be placed
at such a distance that i cannot see you. Edwin Arms
a fine young man 19 years of age went to Woodstock
Lived was taken sick ~~and~~ Lived just 24 hours ^{having taken} after
he was dead and buried the man he lived with went
to your uncle Willard that they had put him in
a tomb; if they could come his body could be seen
that must be great consolation to the parents.
It is great comfort to me to think you enjoy religion
one of the greatest comforts this world can afford; i should
write more if i had room you will write me a letter
soon i hope; i must now to a close after wishing you
the children all sends their love William E Goodnow

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Portland, Me. Jan. 10th 1828—

Beloved Hen.

It is with pleasure that I now improve the present opportunity of addressing you, not with all the doubt of former time, but with all the confidence and assurance which Friendship can demand; and also with feelings that can be expressed in a different tone, than formerly. I am now considering how different my situation is from what it was two weeks ago^{the time you know what it was then, but I will let you know what it is now.} Instead of communicating with one person^{to whom I must say my future happiness depends,} (it respects earthly felicity) I am using writing as a substitute, and instead of injuring myself with one, I am putting up with the company of three representatives and Mrs. D[—] my friends full of their chats but they little know what my enjoyment or the substance of my employment is. As you probably wish to know what kind of a journey I had to make, I will give you some account of it. After Mr. & Isaac left D[—] I made Mr. McLee a visit in the P. M. and had a very good time. Taking train Thursday night I staid at Mrs. Barker's taking breakfast with them Thursday morning. Left Wm. Abbott's 10 o'clock A. M. and had a tolerable good ride to Keene — started from Keene in the P. M. and put up in Peterboro^{/40 miles from D[—]} having a comfortable ride but feeling a little sick. Had a little snow fall in the evening. Left Peterboro^{very early on the morning of Friday} Jan. 20 and had a good carriage and ride to Luntstable^{/22 miles} Left D[—] for Exeter and arrived about 5 P. M.^{/24 miles from D[—]} The afternoon was cold and stormy, and having a poor carriage and two sick ladies who must have their heads out of the carriage occasionally made the journey rather disagreeable. Saturday, 21^{Left Exeter for Dover /15 miles} and had a very agreeable ride leaving a good & full carriage. But instead of going on to Saaco as I expected the stage did not arrive at Dover in season, and I must therefore wait till Monday if I did not get a ride otherwise. However, feeling a great anxiety to get along, I set out in foot for the East^(having my trunk for the stage) hoping to catch a ride. I travelled about 6 miles, having a real cold wind to face, and began to feel so lame that I thought I could hardly go a mile farther, but luckily a man came along with a cutter and I rode 3 miles, thankful for my good luck. And soon after I stopt at the tavern where I put up, there happened to be a man night from Saaco, who was calculating to return Sunday P.M. after going to Dover, and I was very glad. He returned about 4, with my trunk, and we set out on our intended journey; but we did not go any farther than Kennebunk^{/15 miles}, and my ride was extremely cold. Monday morn. arrived at Saaco^{and got ready for D[—]}, Tuesday morn. found Mr. Nuttall much better, and Miss C. B. very reconciled, and affairs being soon closed arriving at D[—] Tuesday morn. and was received very joyfully. Went immediately to work in the P. M. feeling like buying, and this evening close it is so far^(12 o'clock exactly.)

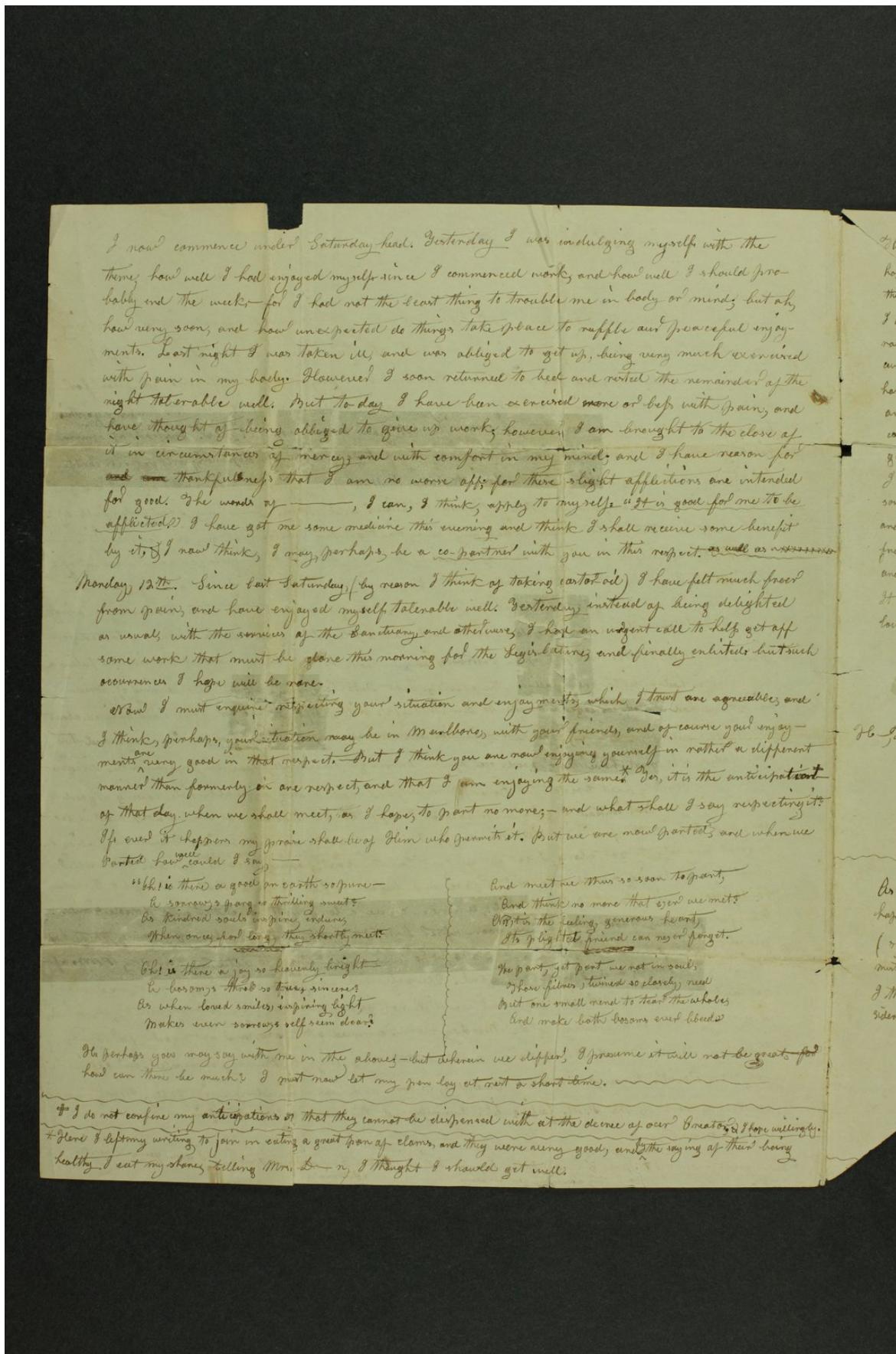
* In a great measure + Mrs. D[—] brother to representatives, # Mrs. D[—] wishes to know if I am going to write
to Lucy mutually and they are very good company. # Mrs. D[—] writes to know if I am going to write
editorials.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

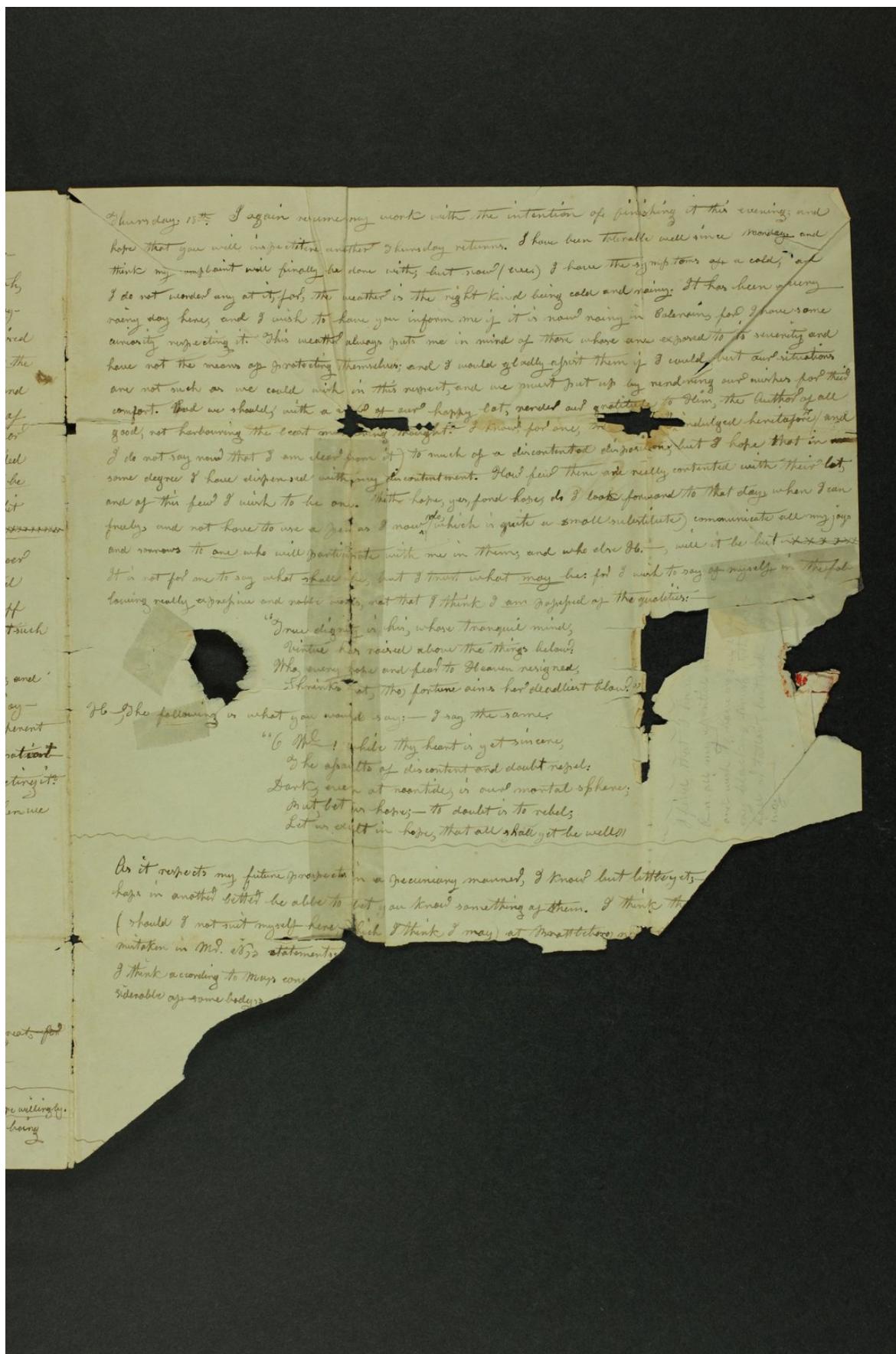


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

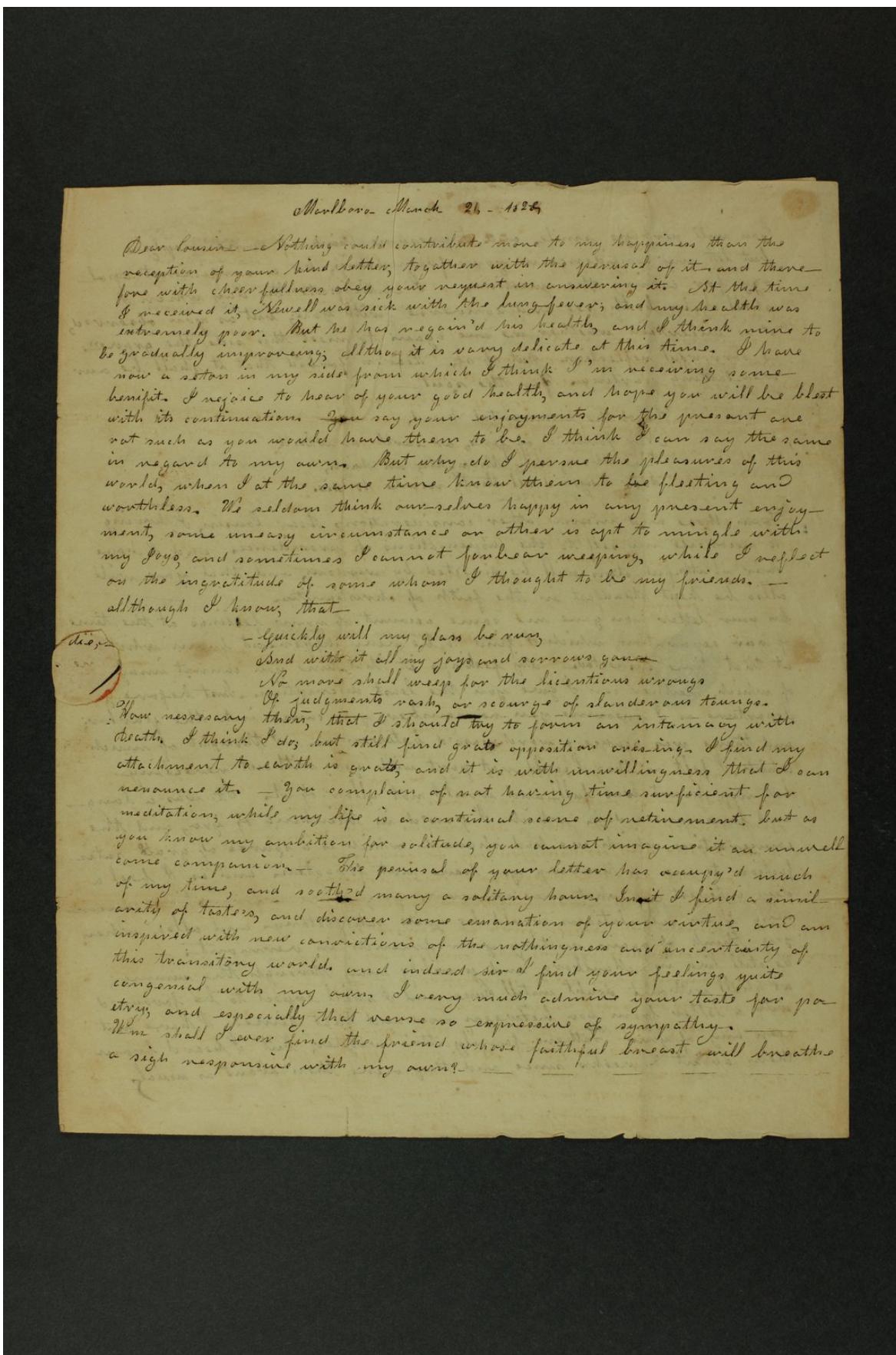


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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

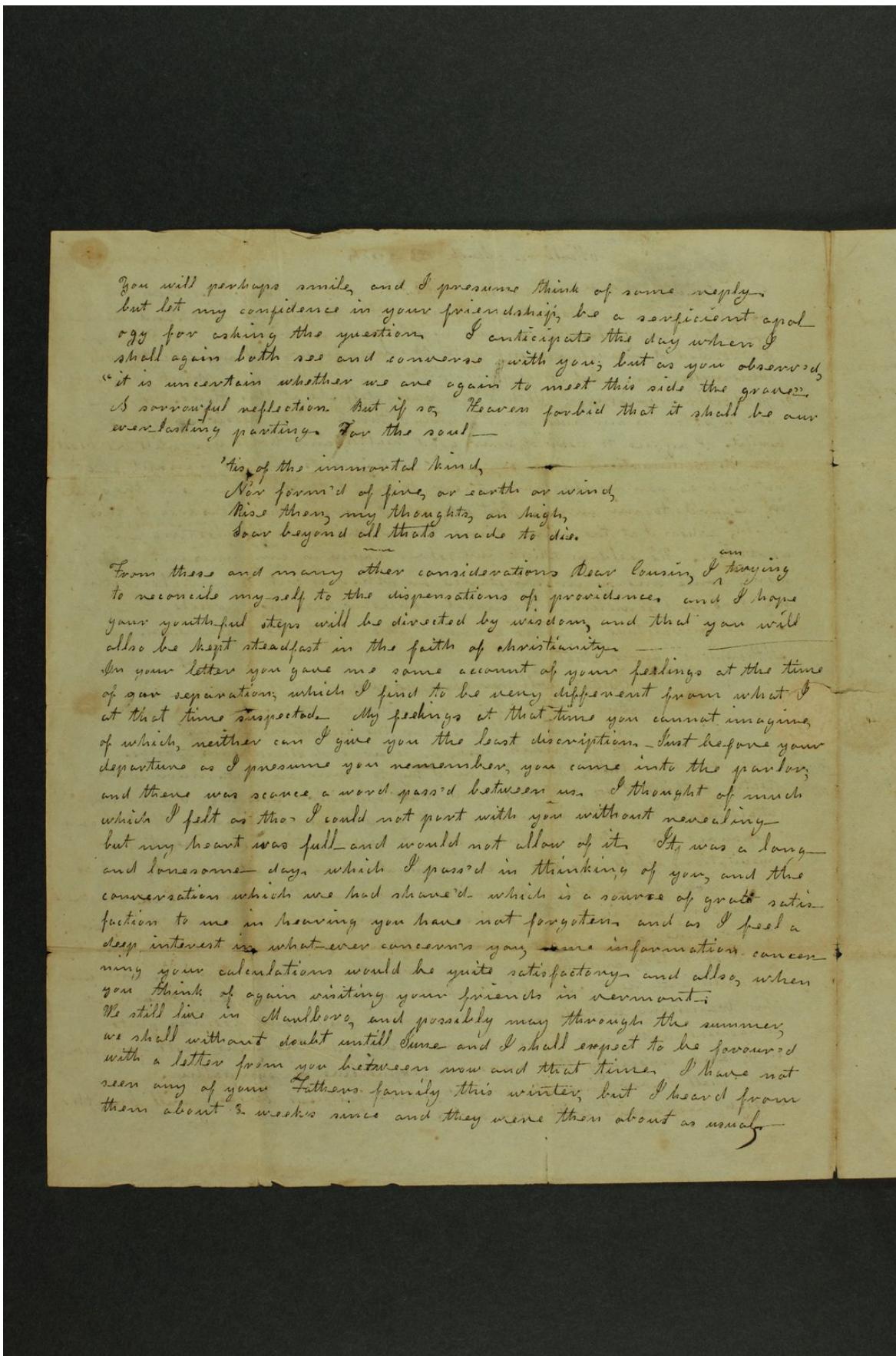


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HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

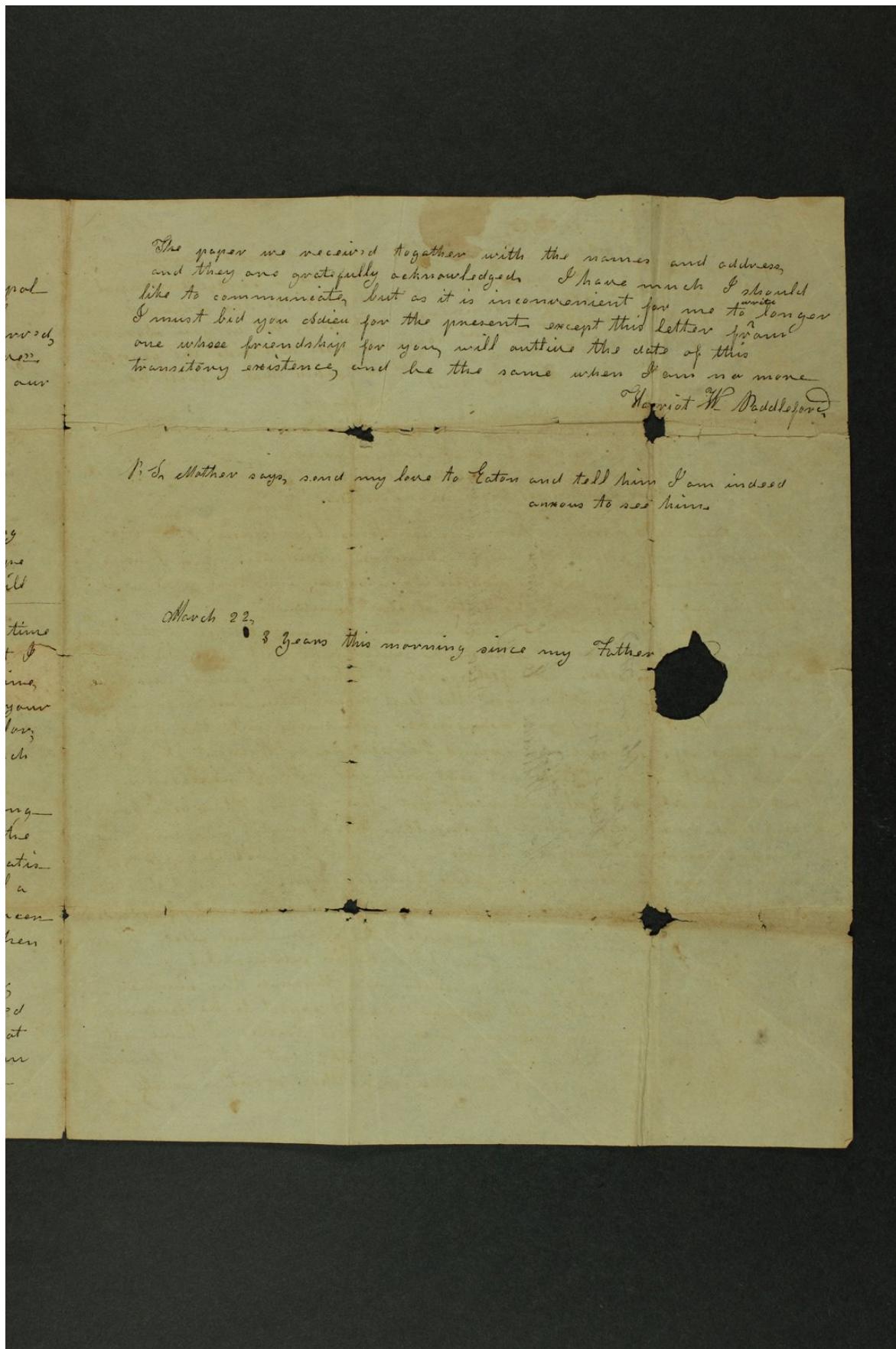


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

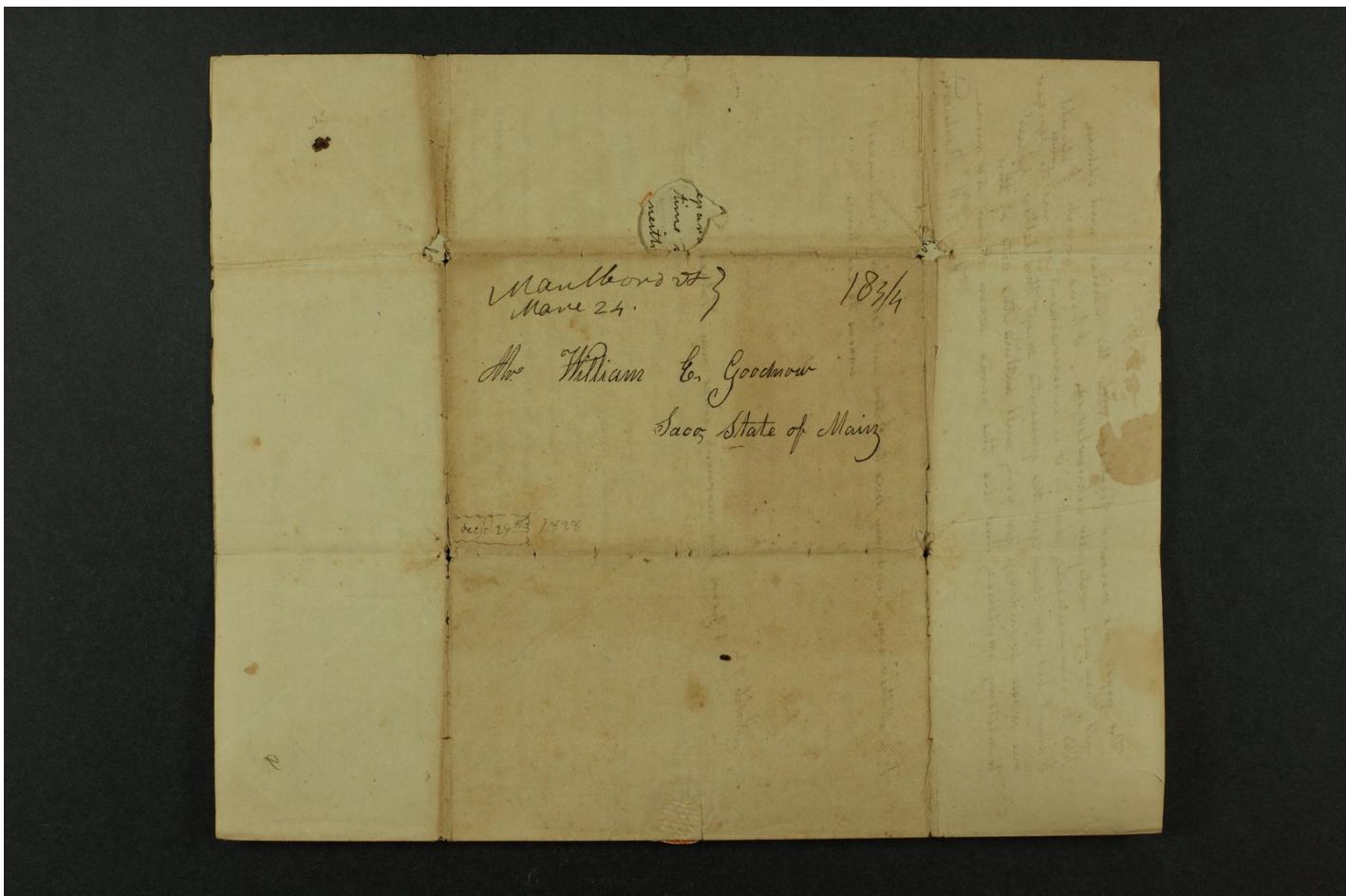
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Marlboro 2d }
Mass 24. 1834

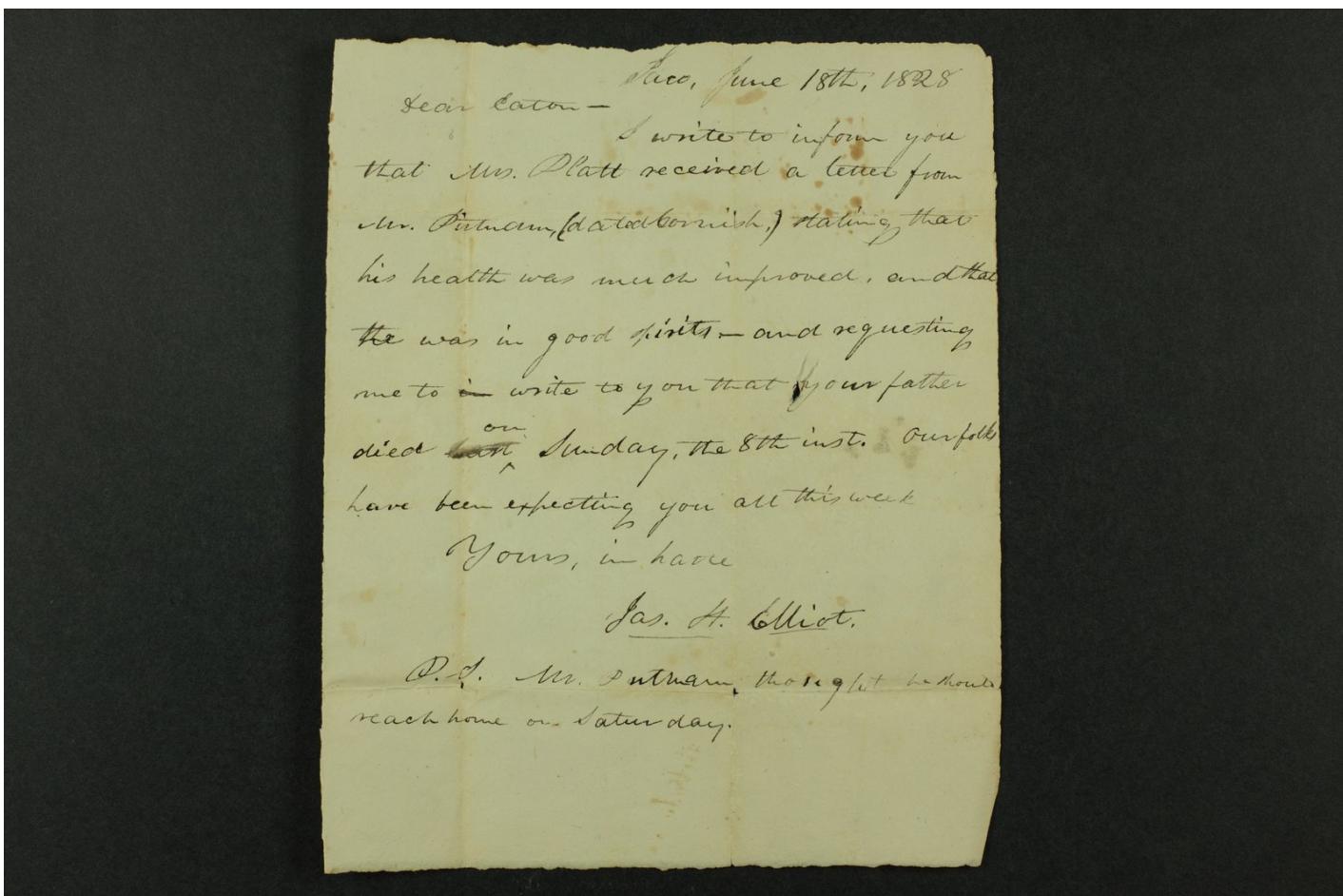
Mr. William C. Goodnow
Saco, State of Maine

Rec'd 27th 1828

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

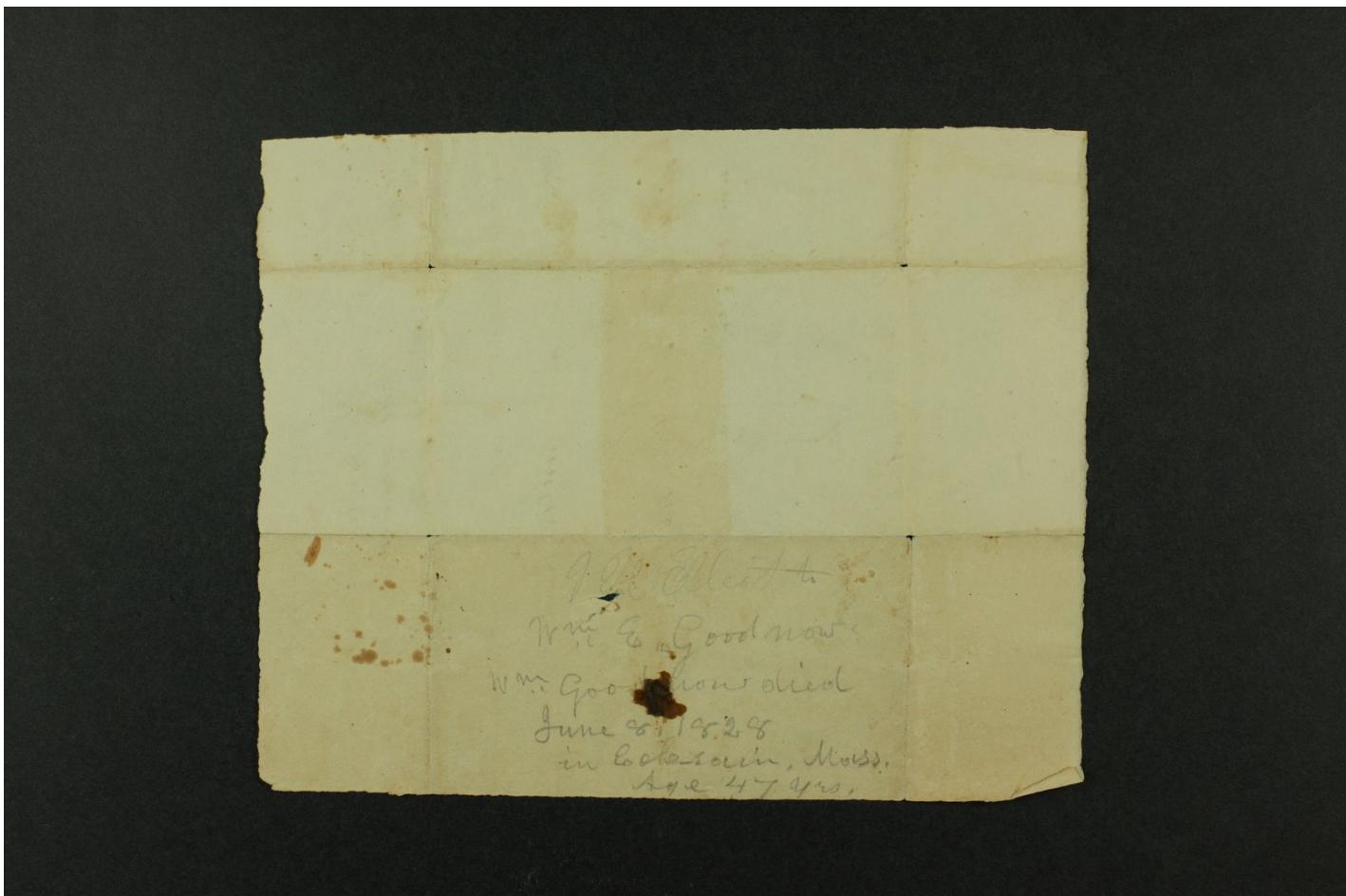


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Your Father was indeed anxious to see you, and said ^{he} knew not what
but his days were prolonged that he might; but still he has always
said he should never see brother again. If when you started for
Portland, you had set out for Oregon, you might have seen him;
which would ^{have} been a great satisfaction to him and the whole family.
you cannot imagine how much your absence was regretted by us
all; neither can you form any idea of the feelings of my heart, when
in viewing the circle of mourners—your seat was empty; and at
the same time considering what your feeling would be did you know
the transactions of that day; and also what they must be when the
news reached you in a distant land, where you would be under the
necessity of bearing your sorrows alone; And our Heavenly Father will
be the Orphans friend; and what a consolation I have found that no
flection to my desponding heart; and I presume you will to yours.
There has been the appearance a great alteration in your Father's mind
for the last months of his life; he has thought much of those Books you
sent him and would scarce ever lay down to rest without one of them
on the Bible in his hand for perusal; and would often request some
of the family to read to him. He has for several months been fail-
ing very fast, and has been sensible of it; and for the last fortnight
of his life your mother informed me she could see he failed hourly.
He appeared to be reconciled to Death, and was anxious to be gone.
He had his senses to the last, and talked as long as he breathed all
those last words were not perfectly understood.

June 1855. My health since I wrote you last, has been better than it
was at that time; until of late my ride for the week past has been
very troublesome, and it is with difficulty that I can write.
I have made several attempts in writing thus far, as I can write but
little at a time. Your Mother wished me to be particular in writing
to you as she felt as tho' she could not write at present.
I told her I thought it very possible you might receive her last
letter, and agreeable to her request set out immediately for Venment,
and as she acquiesced in my belief she proposed my waiting a few days
but on further consideration, and knowing your anxiety to hear

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

from us I concluded to write as soon as possible; & think there is an uncertainty whether you receive this letter or not. Your Mother requested me to write you concerning those articles of mourning which she wished you to obtain (as she informed you of in her last letter) for her, and enjoin you, that unless you come home before the 1st of Sept, you need not purchase them; as she cannot wait until that time. Your Mother, Brothers, and Sisters wished me to remember them all to you, and enjoin you of their anxiety to see you but your Mother said, as she knew not what your engagement for the summer, and as it might be for your disadvantage to come home at present as long as you could not see your Father, she should acquiesce in your stated time of coming in the month of Sept. Isaac lives with your Mother half of the time this summer and the other half with Mr Mac. Your sisters are all at home, Elmeline has worked in Greenfield for 1 week, but she is not going back. Mary Eliza has not been neither is she a going, she lives with your Mother this summer, likewise your little Sisters, as she calculated to send them to school. Newell lives in Marlboro this summer. There is 6 miles from home, Ma and I live pretty much alone.

Sabbath morn - I now sit down with a determination to finish my letter, which I intended doing before now, and I hope as soon as you receive it you will write me one in return. I have much to say to you but as it is inconvenient for me to write, I hope you will excuse me. I shall know to a close after informing you - I very much anticipate your return to next and assuring you that

Whate'er may forth, thy fate may be,
When we meet again may none
The faithful heart will follow thee,
Wise & regard shall never move
For vain'st an infant's highest hill,
In sorrow's vale, on life's smooth plain,
They name, they form, thy virtues will,
On memory's tallest stile remain - H.W. Burleigh June 15th.

R.B. Ma, and M.C. sends their respects to you

My mind is confused, and you must excuse mistakes.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Marlboro June 12th - 1828. Tuesday Morn,

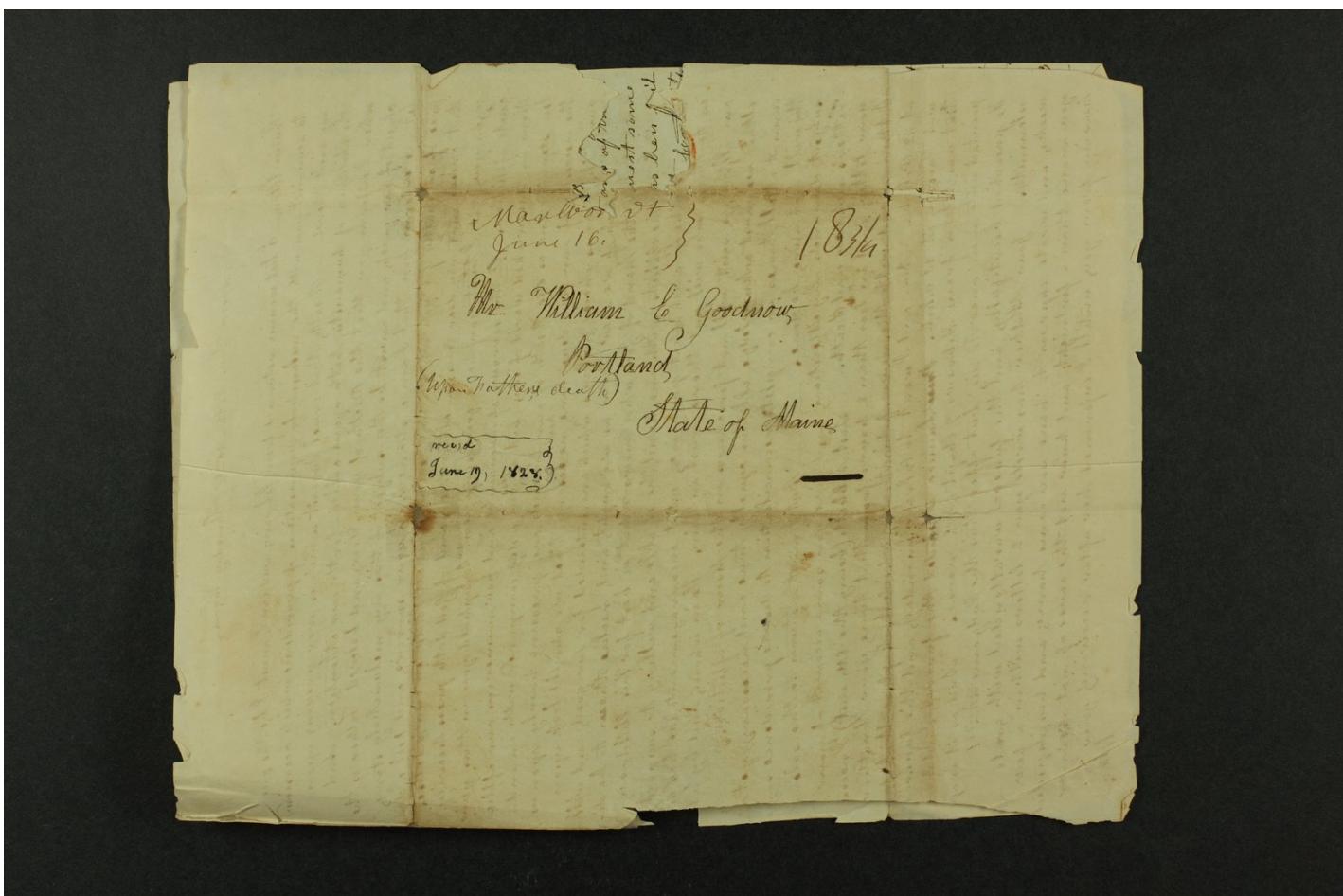
Dear Father, — I last evening returned from Colvairs; and can & must I be the one to acquaint you with the melancholy dispensations of providence which occasioned my visit there — Death, that cruel tyrant which is ever preying upon the children of humanity, hath again called forth our attention, and when I inform you that the Death of your dear and beloved Father is the object of our grief, and must be the subject of this my melancholy story, let me inform you that I am a sharer in your sorrows, and feel a degree of sympathy for you which no one but thy dear children can realize. But grieve not my dear Cousin altho the hand of God doth press heavily upon you, yet I trust you have grace sufficient to uphold you in this your great affliction. — O the sorrows of humanity, and how numerous our afflictions in this wicked world of sin, but it is but a day compared with an end less eternity and as the Death of our friends are pressing hourly upon us the necessity of our own departure ^{now} necessary that we should look upon our afflictions as choice mercies which are intended for our good, and will be so if we view them as we ought, and realize thence to be divine the hand of God who knows what is best for his children, — he afflicts with one hand, he is able and willing to support us with another; — and what promises what encouragements he has given to those who will put their trust in him. He in whom, and by whom all things exist, will not forsake us in the hour of affliction. — altho we must acknowledge all this equally true and necessary, yet it cannot at all times in complete reconciliation to divine providence say they will not mine be done. — — But I must return to the solemn subject demands my attention, and give you some account of your Fathers sickness and death. — Last Sabbath (being the 8th inst) I received your letter, and in less than 2 hours from that time your brother Mr. Tottam arrived with the news of his death, which took place that day at 12 o'clock A.M. and I went to Colvairs Monday, and the funeral was Tuesday at 10 o'clock. Mr. Lumsden officiated at the funeral, and his text was taken from Hebrews 9 Chapt 2 14th verse. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement?" He preached beautifully, and the funeral was attended with great solemnity. Your Mother has wrote you 2 letters within a few weeks, and wrote express to have you come home; and has expected you more than a fortnight; and knew not the cause of not seeing or hearing from you until I informed her after receiving your letter.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

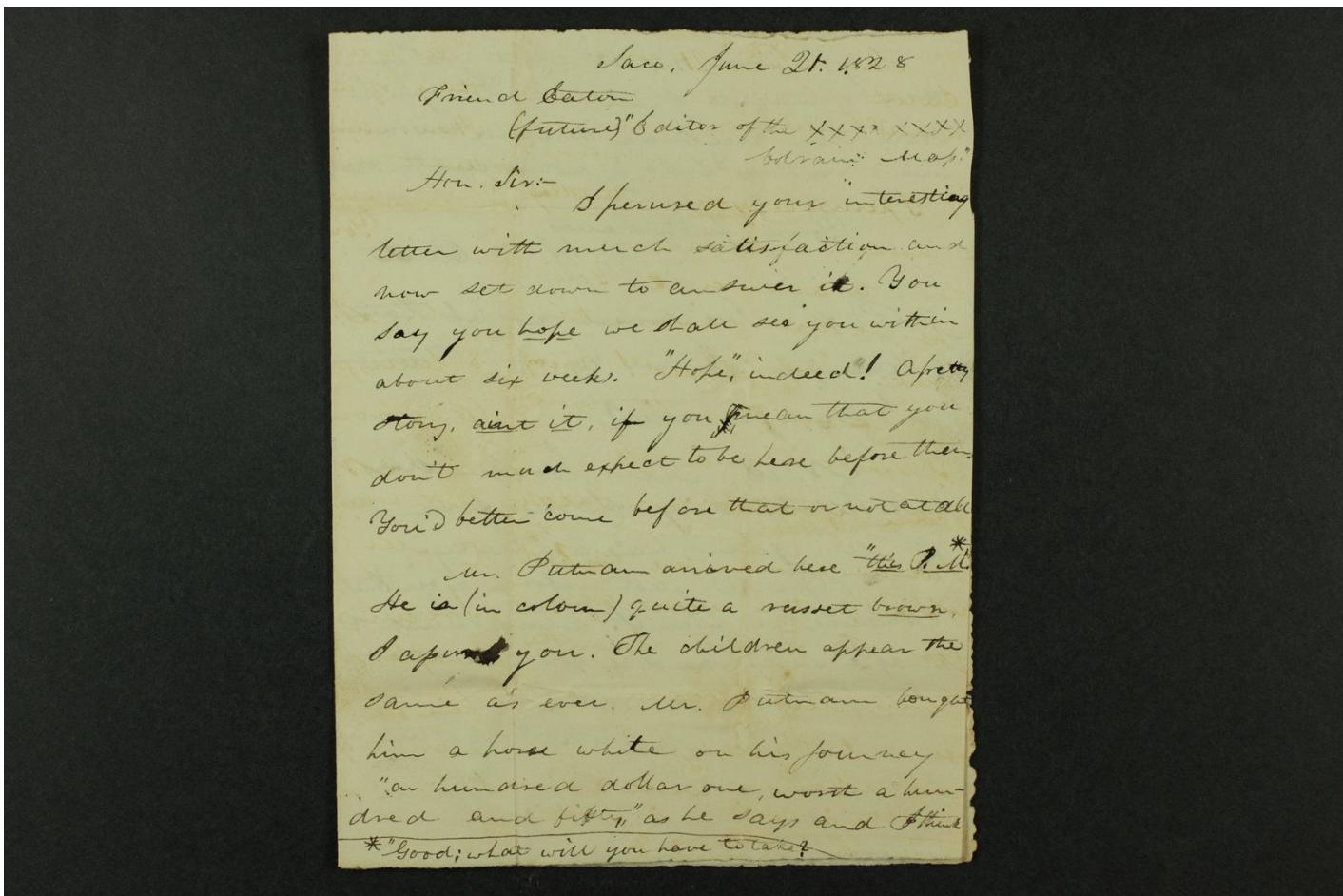
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

As you wish me to write you "every thing of interest," I have to inform you that Hon. Mr. Rice thinks there will become an interest on that \$2,50, if not settled "for good."

Yours, fraternally
J. H. Eliot

P. S. I received no by train 8 letters from home by Mr. Putnam (one from Jessie.)

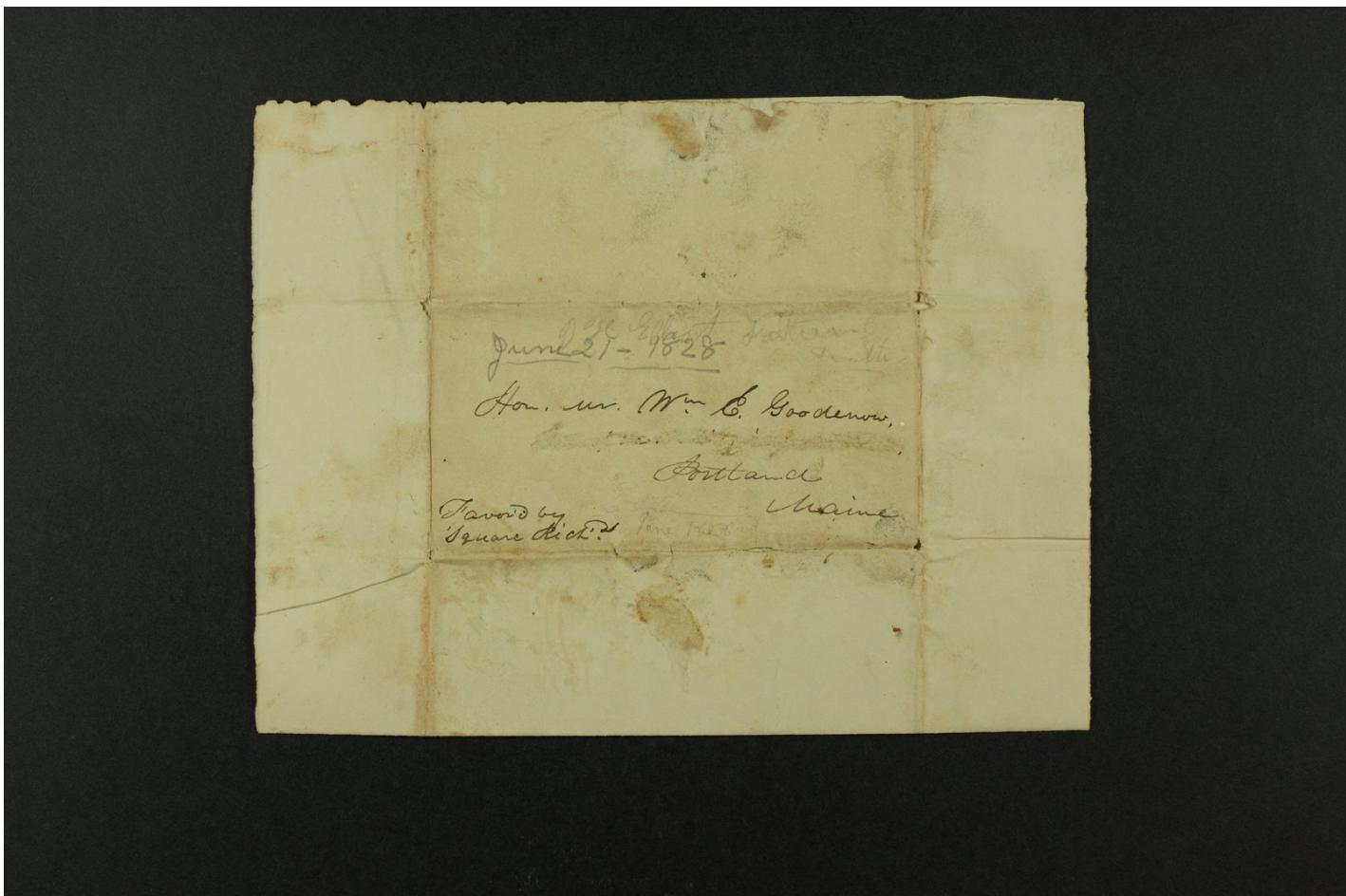
N. B. Mr. Cookin does not want any Ivory from P. as Mr. Meier has a plenty.

I will just inform you that I received by Mr. P. a large lump of maple sugar, and if you will come here this week I will try to let you have a "great gauk" which is ~~as long~~ a time as I dare set now.

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

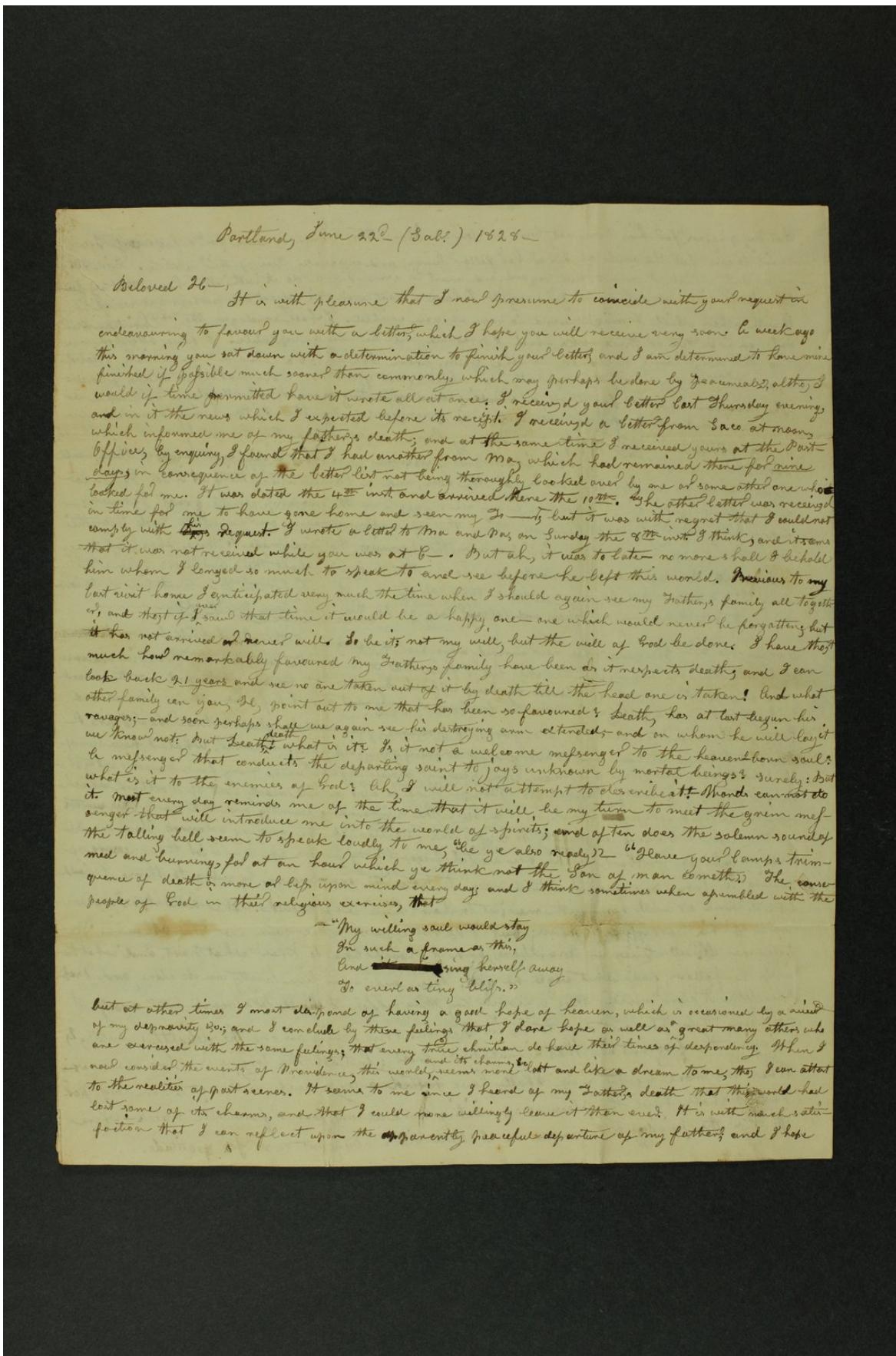


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

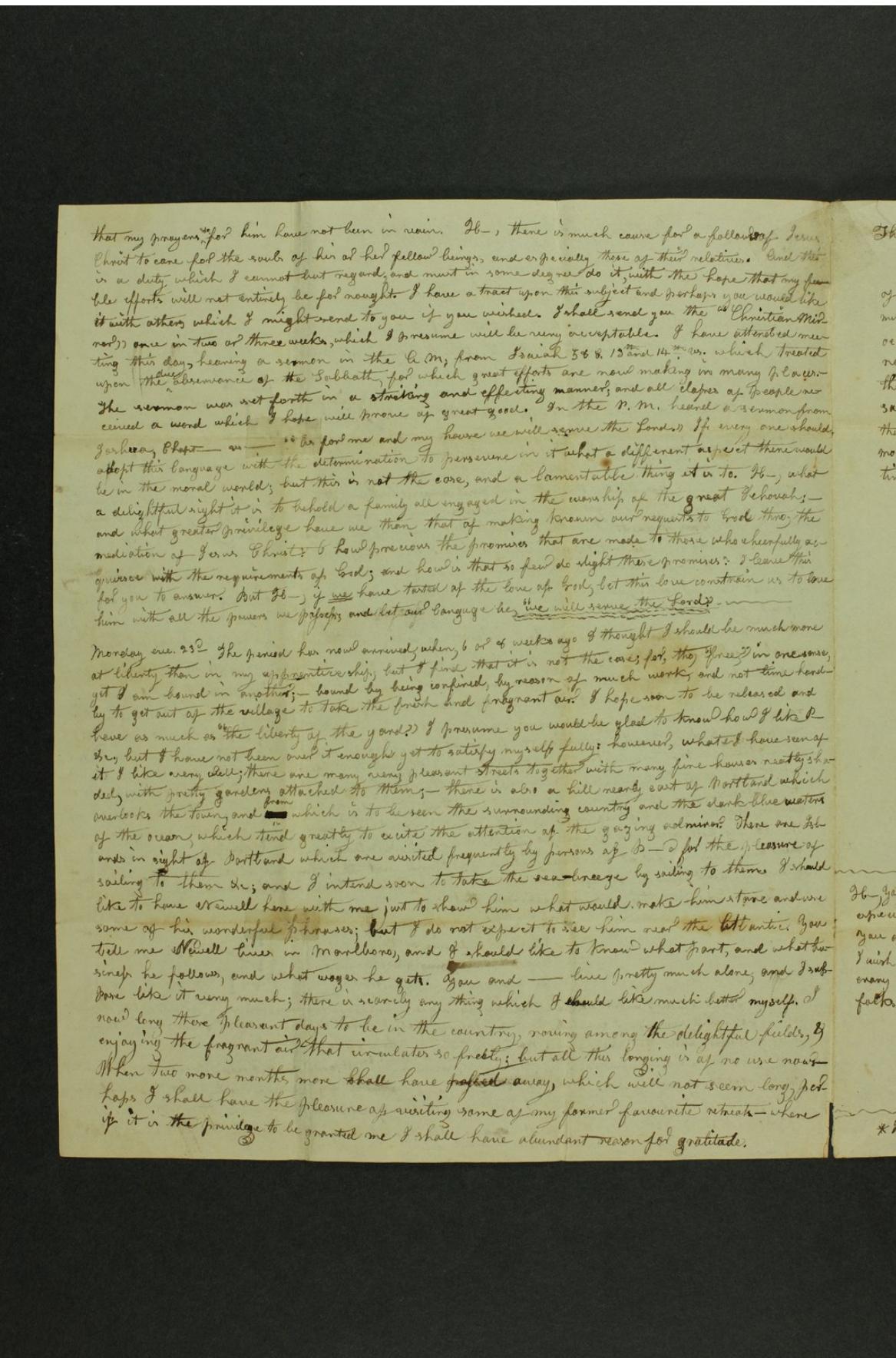


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

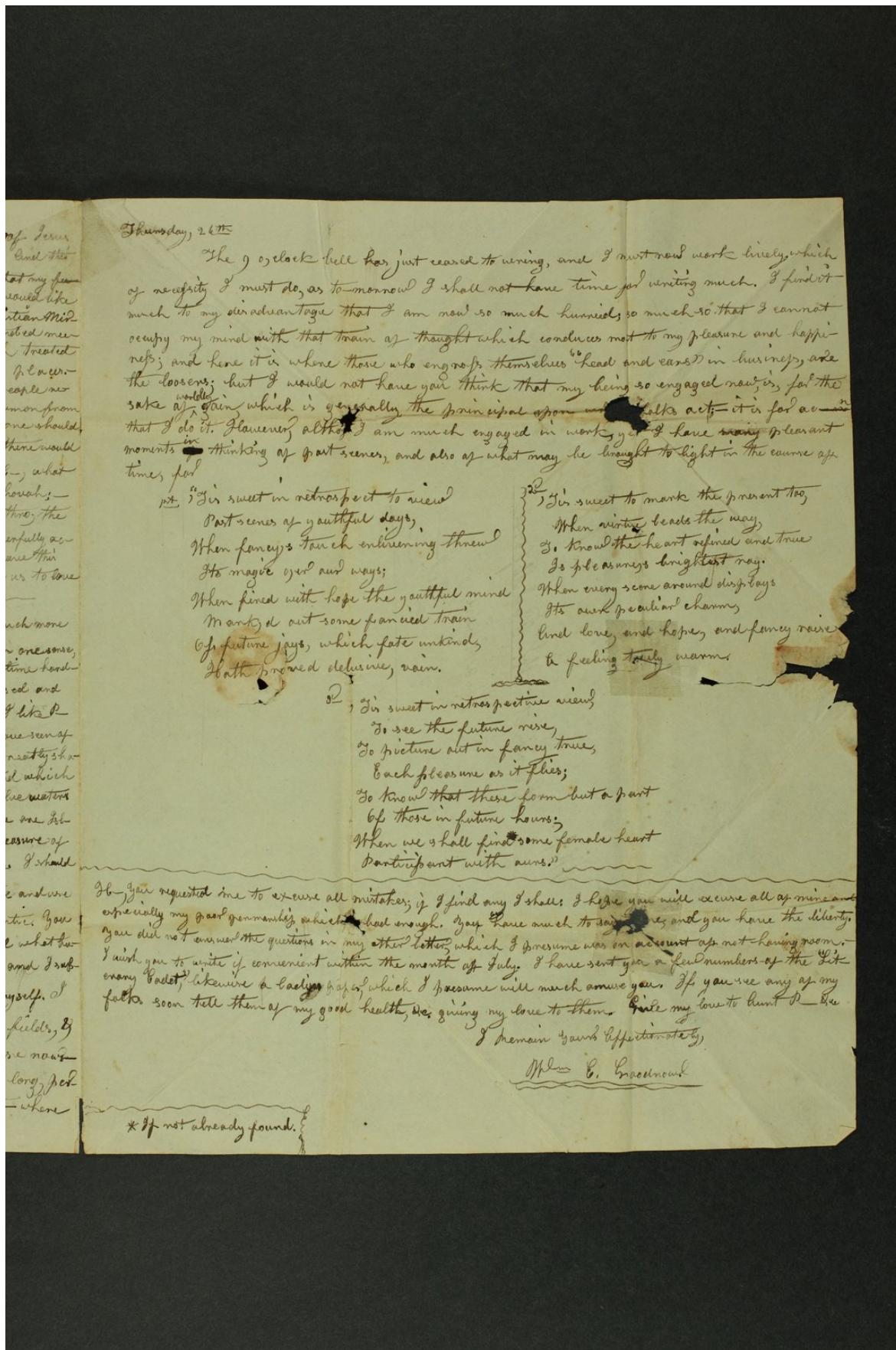


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Marlboro Sept 26 1825.

Bab's friend,

For by that endearing appellation I must still address you; have you forgotten your friend? How do you think she has forgotten you? I trust quite the reverse from either. I feel a degree of confidence in your friendship sufficient to silence every such suspicion, and at the same time I have neglected writing (according to request) yet the recollection of our past and happy hours, and the perusal of your letters which are expressive of every feeling sensation, have occup'd much of my time and attention. When I wrote you last, my health was upon the decline; and when I received your last letter I was unable to answer it, and continued so far several weeks, I many times thought I would try to write a few lines, just to acquaint you with my ill health, but feeling inadequate, and thinking every day that I should soon be better, I put it off until the time of your expected arrival was so near I thought it unnecessary. I expected you would be in company surely by the first of Sept., and have look'd for you every day. Once until this week, your Brother and Sister Isaac and Emily, came to Marlboro and inform'd us they had received a letter from you, and that you had also suspended your visit until the month of Nov., and I must acknowledge I was disappointed, as the perhaps it is all for the best. When I think of absent friends, and especially one to whom my heart for years has been devoted, the following lines are quite applicable to the deep feelings of my soul.

1st And can the flight of anxious time,
Remove the image of a friend?
Can changing places, or various climes,
The dear delightful contrast end?

2nd Still faithful memory still your trays
To the fond heart's anxious views,
The visions of departed days,
In softened shades of tend'ry hue.

3rd Still knit in friendship's sacred tie
Days, months, and years, shall vainly roll,
They but demand the passing night,
But dare not disunite the soul.

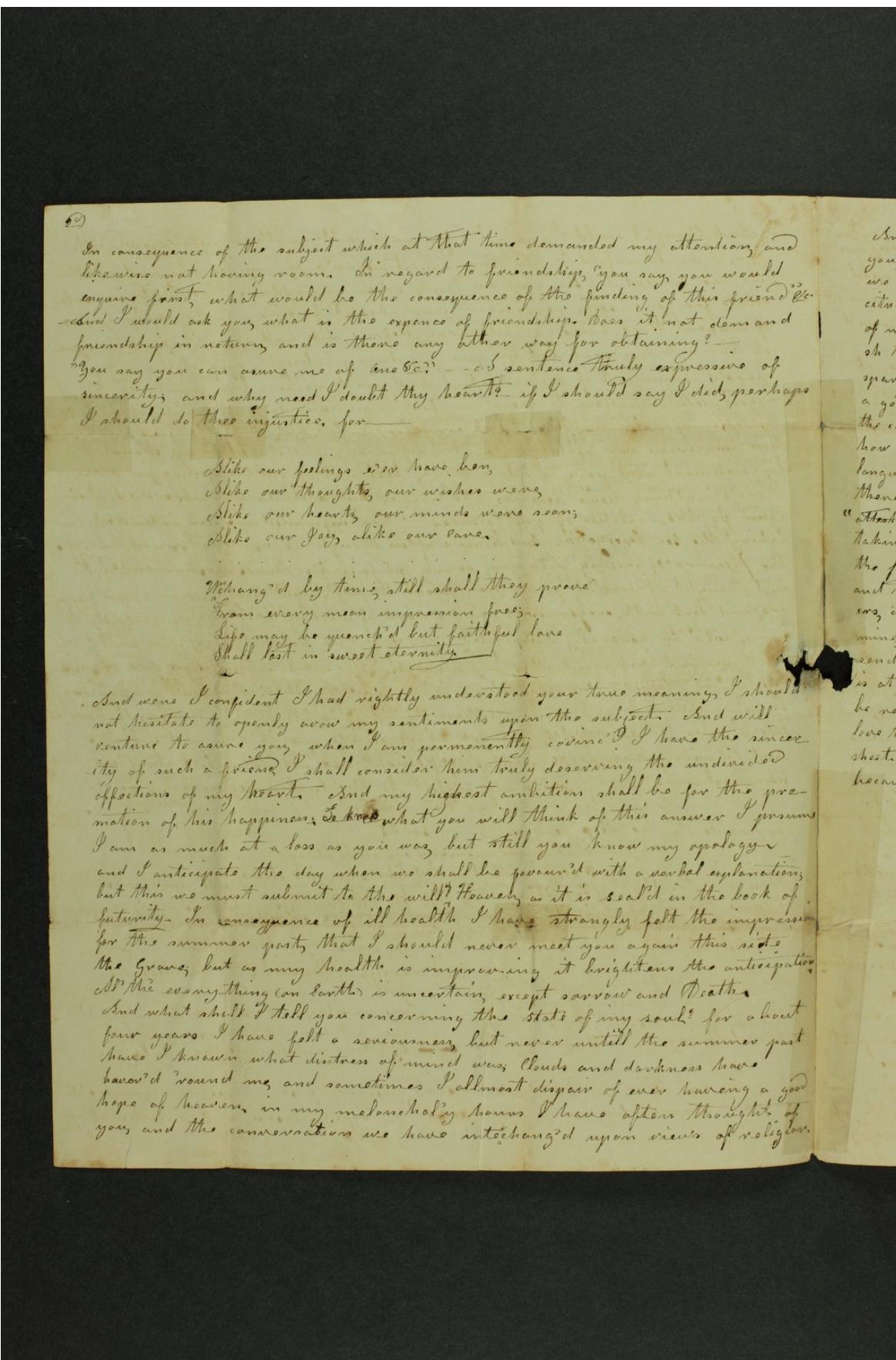
In your last letter you reminded me of ^{not} answering some questions you ask'd in your records, for which you assign'd a proper reason, as I neglected it

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

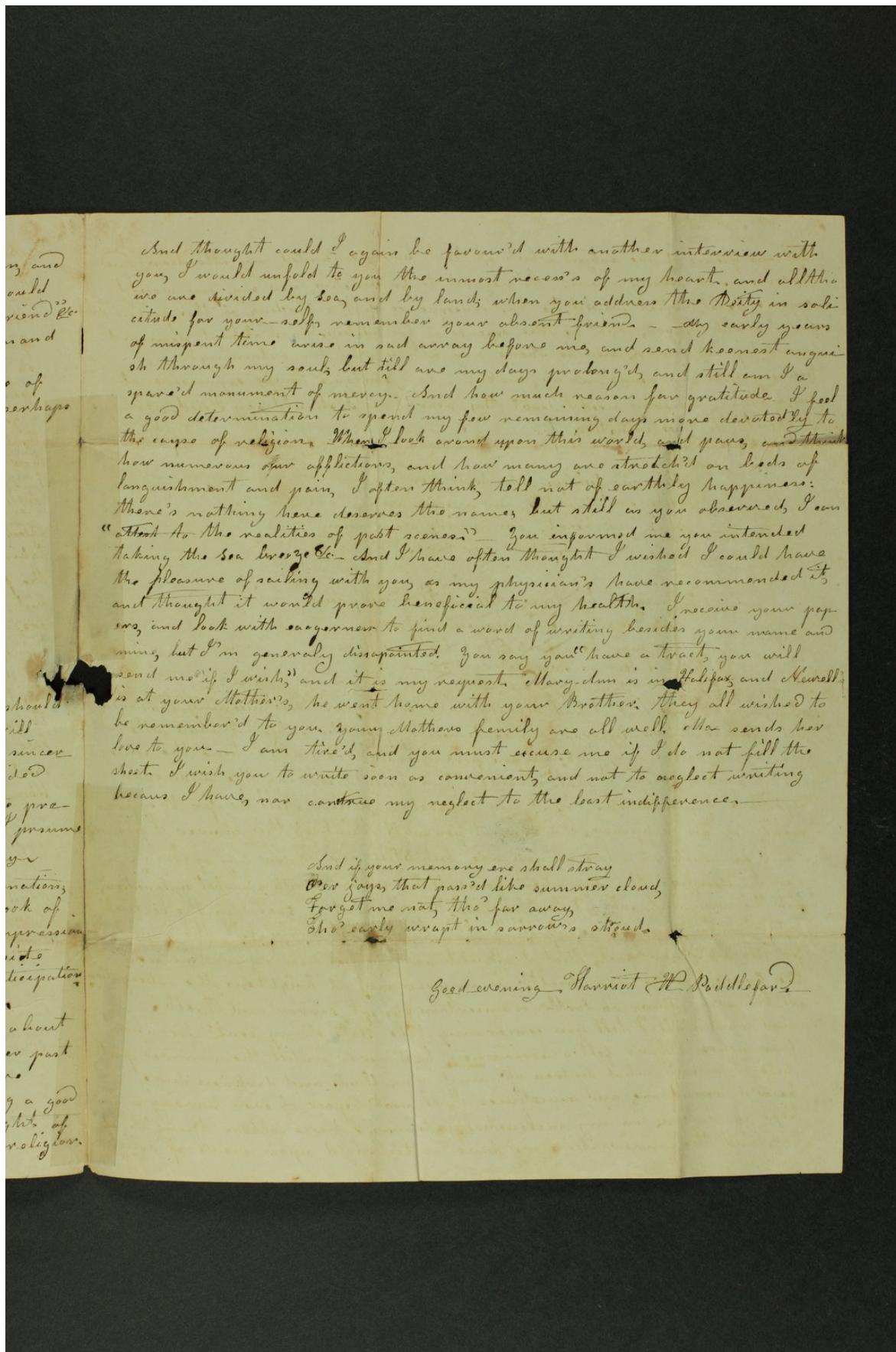


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

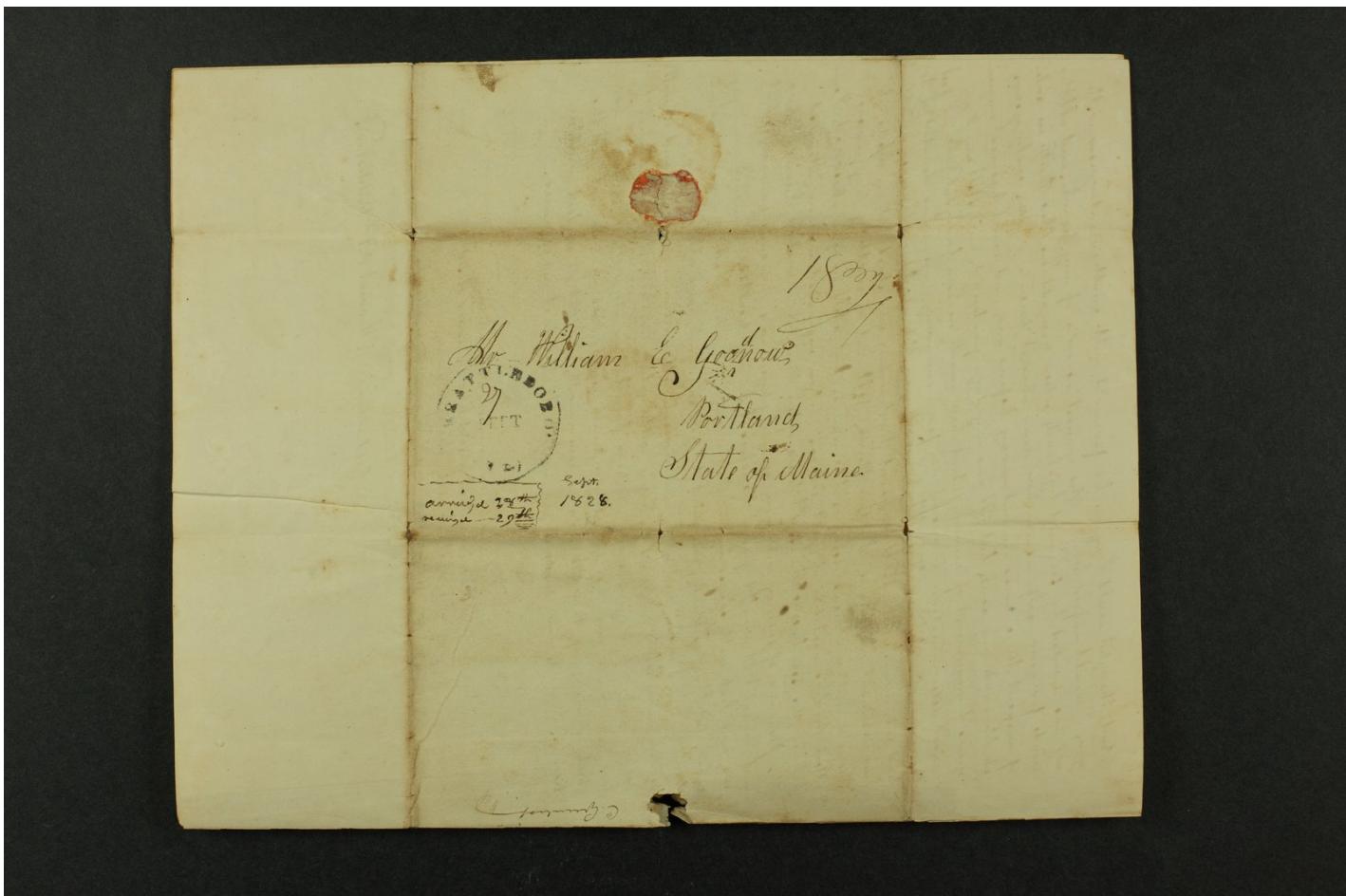
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Brattleboro, Oct. 9, 1828.

Friend William,

Yours of the 29th Sept^r came to hand last Friday evening but I have not had time to answer it before, owing to Master, &c. — If you look at the Messenger you will see that Mr. G's advertisement is altered, so that you now can see what he wants of the 100 young men. The work mentioned there is a new Grammar which he has just published.

I have no news to write. Brattleboro is uncommonly dull this Fall. But the Printers have business yet, and are likely to have at present. Mr. Nichols is in great want of a journeyman. Can't you come? — I have been rather homesick of late. Should you know of a good situation in your town for a rather unsteady journeyman printer, will you have the goodness to inform me of it. — Dan'l M. was at Haverhill, the last I heard from him. Mr. Nichols says your Messenger has been sent regular. — Will you have the goodness to send me a Patriot now and then, and oblige

Yours respectfully

W^m B. Goodnow, Esq.

Chas Greenleaf

I wish you would send me a Portland Jackson Paper.

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

