

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 13, Pages 361 - 390

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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I have been able to carry four studies some of which require close application and have succeeded in them beyond my expectation. We have made some progress in Hebrew and shall continue it through the year, Providence permitting. We hope to gain much profit from it. We have now got through with the first Mathematics, having been over Spherical Trigonometry & ^{a part of} Analytical Geometry this term and are now beginning to apply the rules of the Mathematics to the laws of nature in the study of Natural Philosophy. The student, after having been long perplexed with abstract & abstruse formulas, greatly rejoices to see their application to natures laws, and how clearly many of her phenomena can be demonstrated. It is like being led from the mazes of a labyrinth into the bright rays of noon day. Our recitations in the mental and moral sciences are very interesting and do not require so much time and close study in their preparation as the languages and Mathematics. We have been over Rhetoric and Paleys evidences and are now reading Upham. His style is quite flowing, yet too diffuse I think for a textbook. Abercrombie is preferable in many respects, but no more of this. — While we have been improving the mind in science and literature we have also learned also to attend to the cultivation of the heart knowing that literary attainments are of but little worth except they be sanctified to God. We have some very interesting meetings in the University though there is in general among us too great a lack of entire devotedness to God. We have two bands that meet regularly once a week. The Lord meets with us in these meetings and often causes us greatly to rejoice. The class I have had this term is generally prospering. We have some blessed seasons when gathered together in the name of our Master. Oh! how good it is to worship God in the spirit and feel the healing balm applied to the heart. What more can we wish ^{for ourselves} than to be saved through Christ in the present tense and to live in hope of future glory. Methinks nothing. Ah! no, this is enough.

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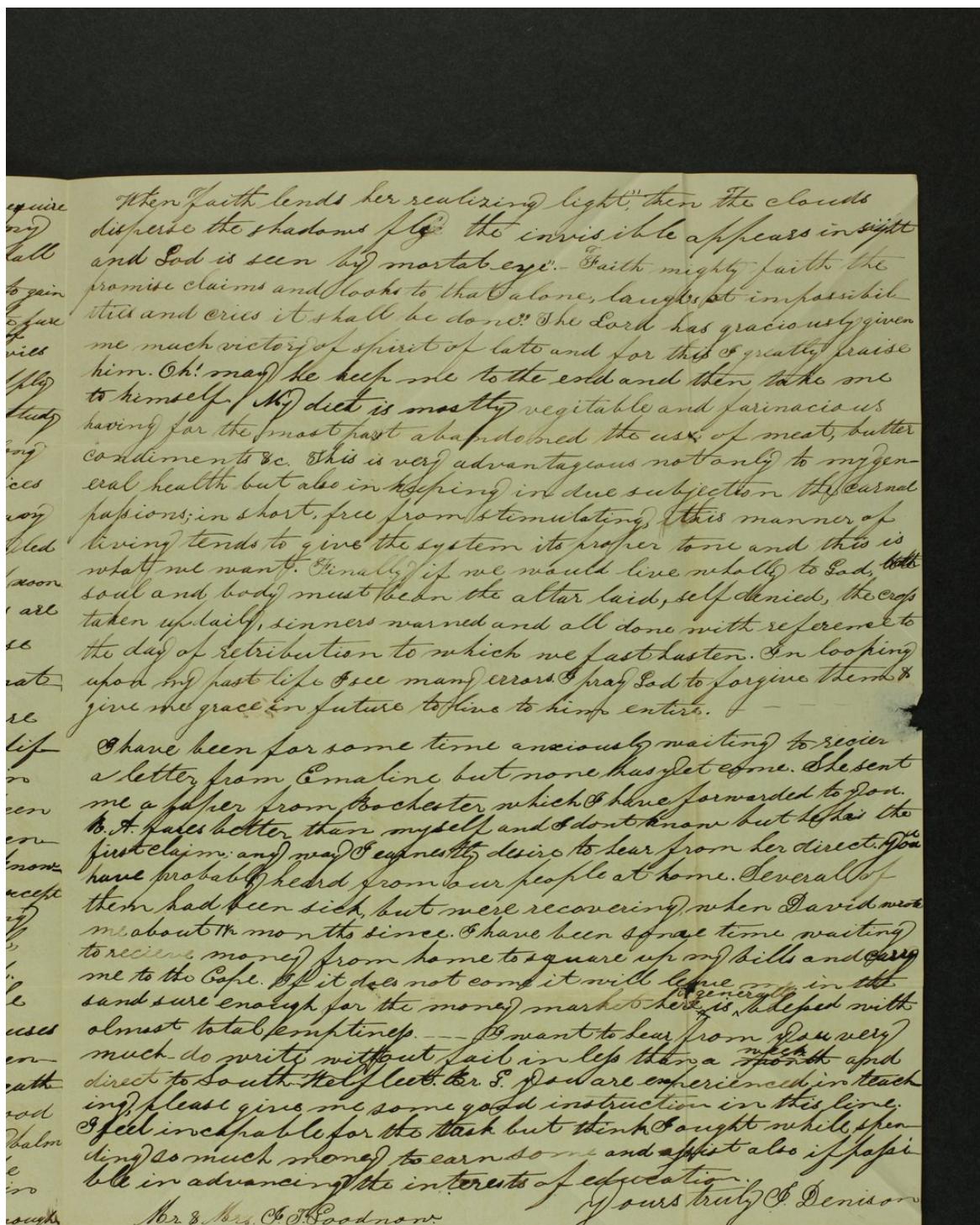
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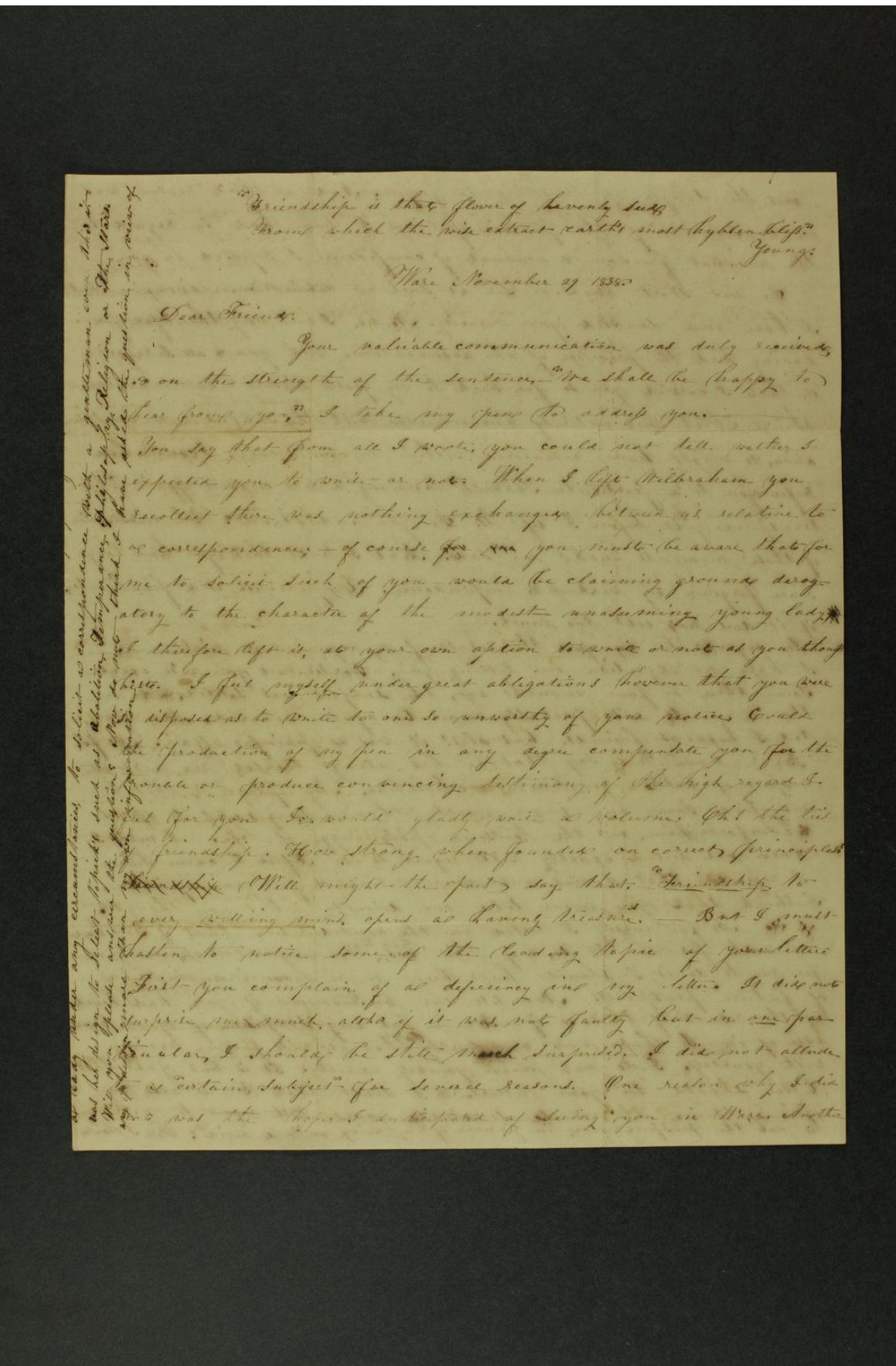


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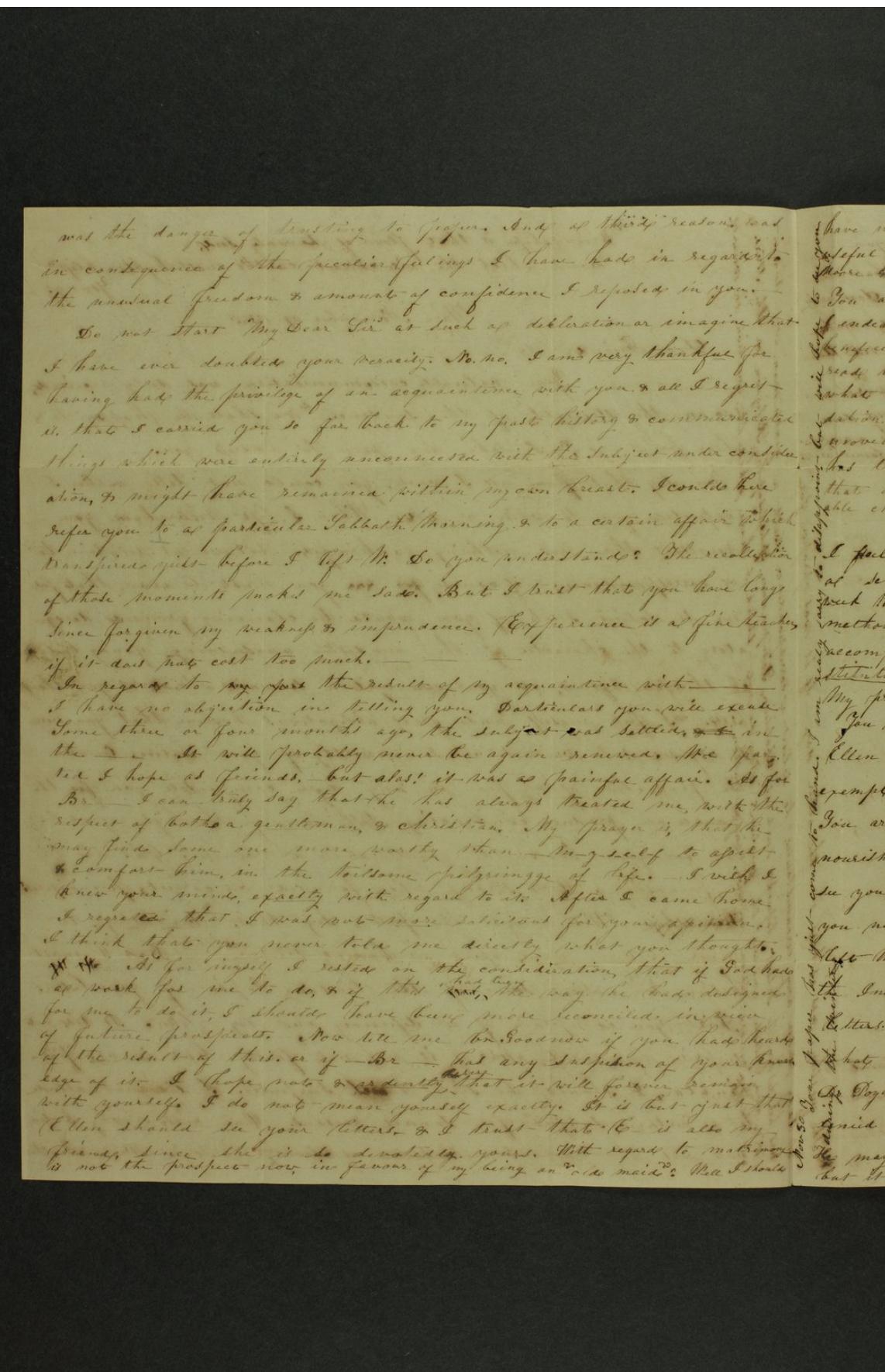


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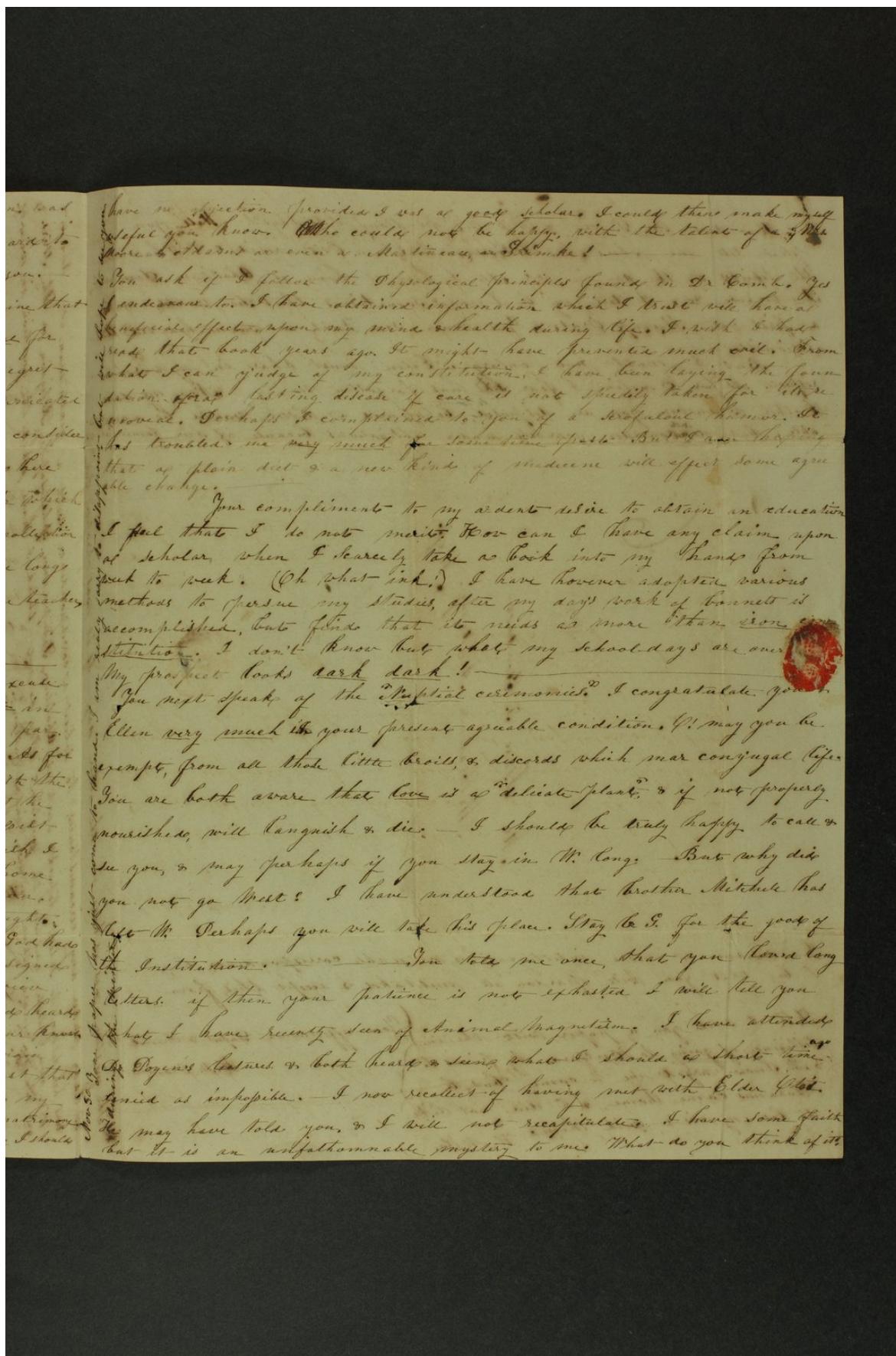


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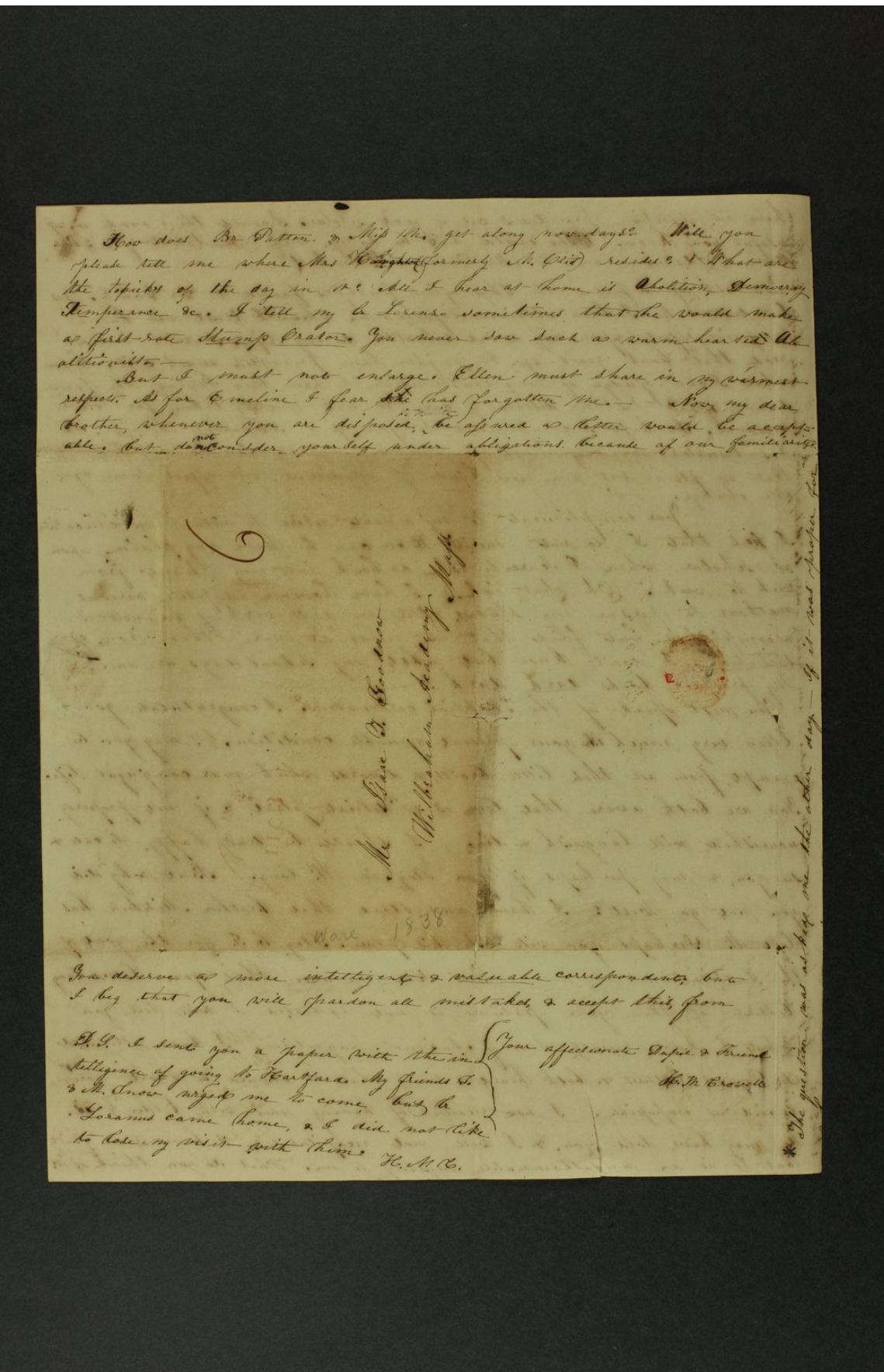


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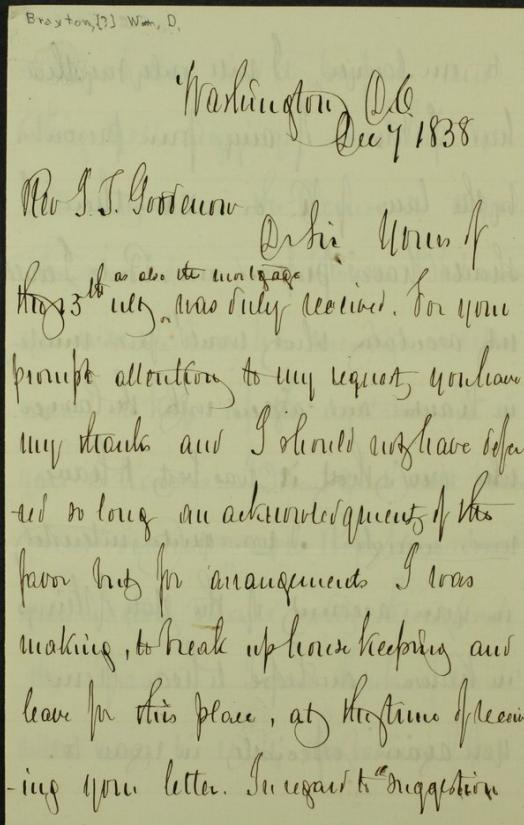
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to our lawyers, I will only say that Manhattan and its prospects and
has I known of any from presented they "got rigging". — I hope you
by the laws of K. or in use there I will not allow the Democrats to gain
should have profited me. But I could the ascendancy in Kansas. Buchanan
not ascertain what would "pass muster", you will see from his message is Peter
in Kansas and agrees with the lawmen mind to keep up the agitation in re
who thought it was best to have going to Kansas — "Dine Deus vult perde
mors enough. I was quite interested Miss Clement — A Republican or
in your account of the State of things organization should spread throughout
in Kansas and hope to hear from the Territory — I can think of no
you again especially in regard to. better way to mend the balance of forces

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on the mortgage brought enclos
monago stamp. I also send you
the Smithsonian Report for 1837 now
fully published

Precinctly yours
W^m D^rayton

PS I desire to much pleasure
hear from you at your leisure

and will give much attention
to your wishes and be patient with
you until you shall have time to write again.

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Sunday P.M. Feb 10, 1839

Dear brother Goodnow I have just come from meeting, & having retired alone to my chamber, my thoughts have wandered away to the place where I have sat & conversed with my friend G. & notwithstanding it is now "Holy time," I have concluded to dedicate a few of the passing moments to you. I often think of you, & the many agreeable chats we have had, with feelings known only to the true friend. But, ^{how} consoling is the thought to the Christian, that altho' we may be absent from friends, yet we may be present with the Lord. Yet! brother G. we may be present with the Lord in every circumstance & condition of life; & while we possess the bright & blessed hope of the gospel, no change of circumstance, no loss of friends can make us miserable. As said the lamented sister Wright, "Let me but know that Jesus waits to welcome me to glory; and I will brave every danger, & stand unmov'd amid

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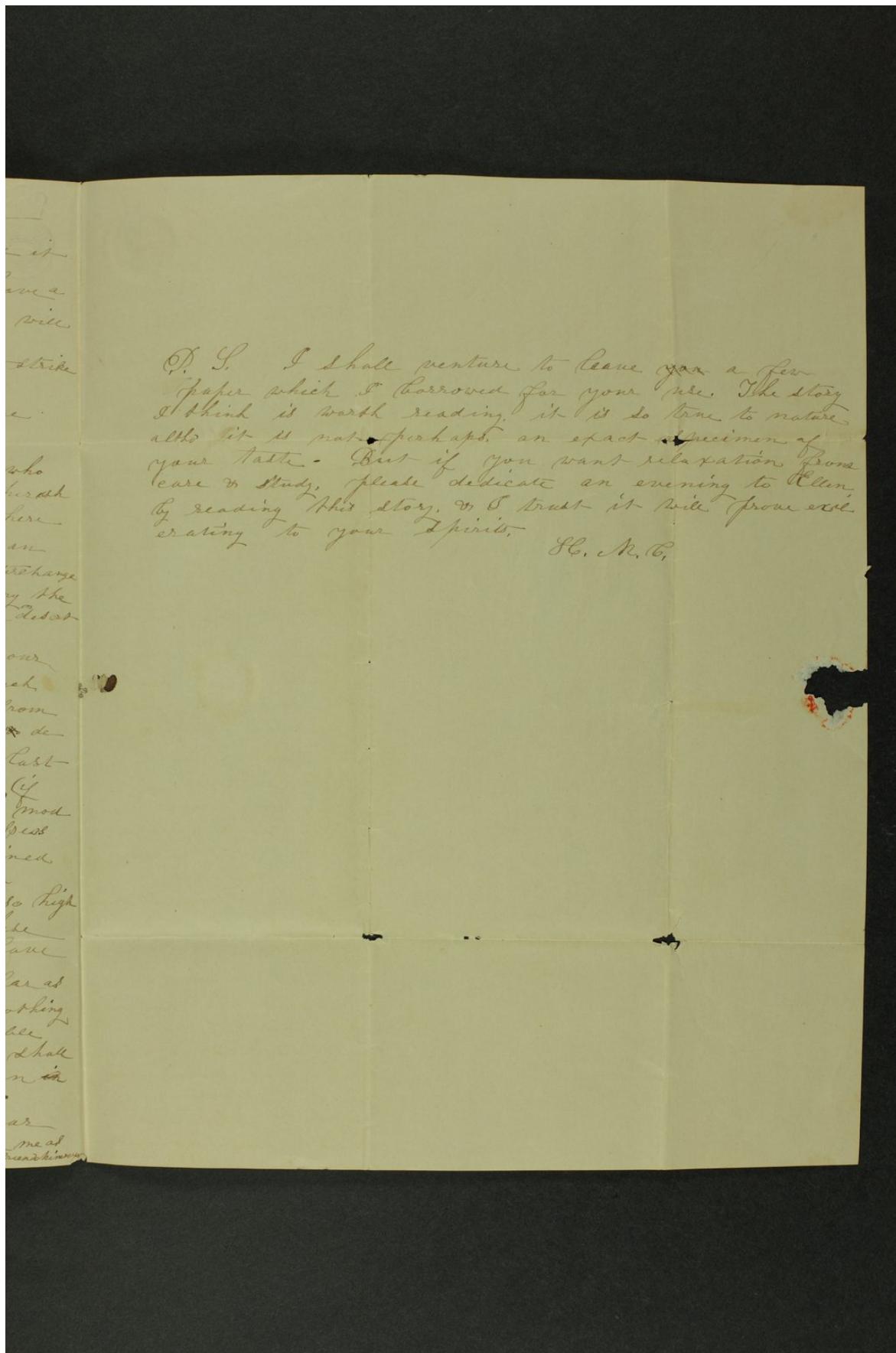
the storms, perplexities, trials, & vicissitudes of life.—
Your kind letter was graciously rec'd, but since it
is the Sabbath & as I soon expect to have a
more favorable opportunity for answering it, you will
I trust pardon the delay. One or two points strike
me however, as deserving present notice. These are
among them. Few indeed are the individuals who
are capable of gaining the esteem so ardently cherish-
ed for her valuable qualities; but permits me here
to add, her mantle &c And again methinks an
intell- so capable of giving interest to the interchange
of thoughts &c, and at heart so capable of rendering the
one &c will not spend their墩ings on the desert
air?— Had you been better acquainted with your
friend, you probably would not have used such
falsome epithets. I must say they were far from
giving me pleasure, knowing as I do, the ~~bad~~ * de-
pravity of the hearts. In commenting upon the last
clause of your letter I would say in return, (if
it is not impeding too much upon your mod-
ely) that few very few I sincerely think possess
your noble qualities, otherwise I am constrained
to think, I should have long since been in
possession of that education which you prize so high-
ly. But this is no time to talk of these
things, & I will close by saying that I have
concluded to accompany Brother Granus as far as
Hartford on his return to College, & wait for nothing
but tomorrow Sun, to bear me by your humble
cottage. Your kind invitation to visit &c I shall
be happy now to accept. Perhaps I may return in
Saturday otherwise Tuesday of the week following.
Please remember me affectionately to the dear
Mrs G. And now dear C & T bid you adieu till we meet again
ever more favorably

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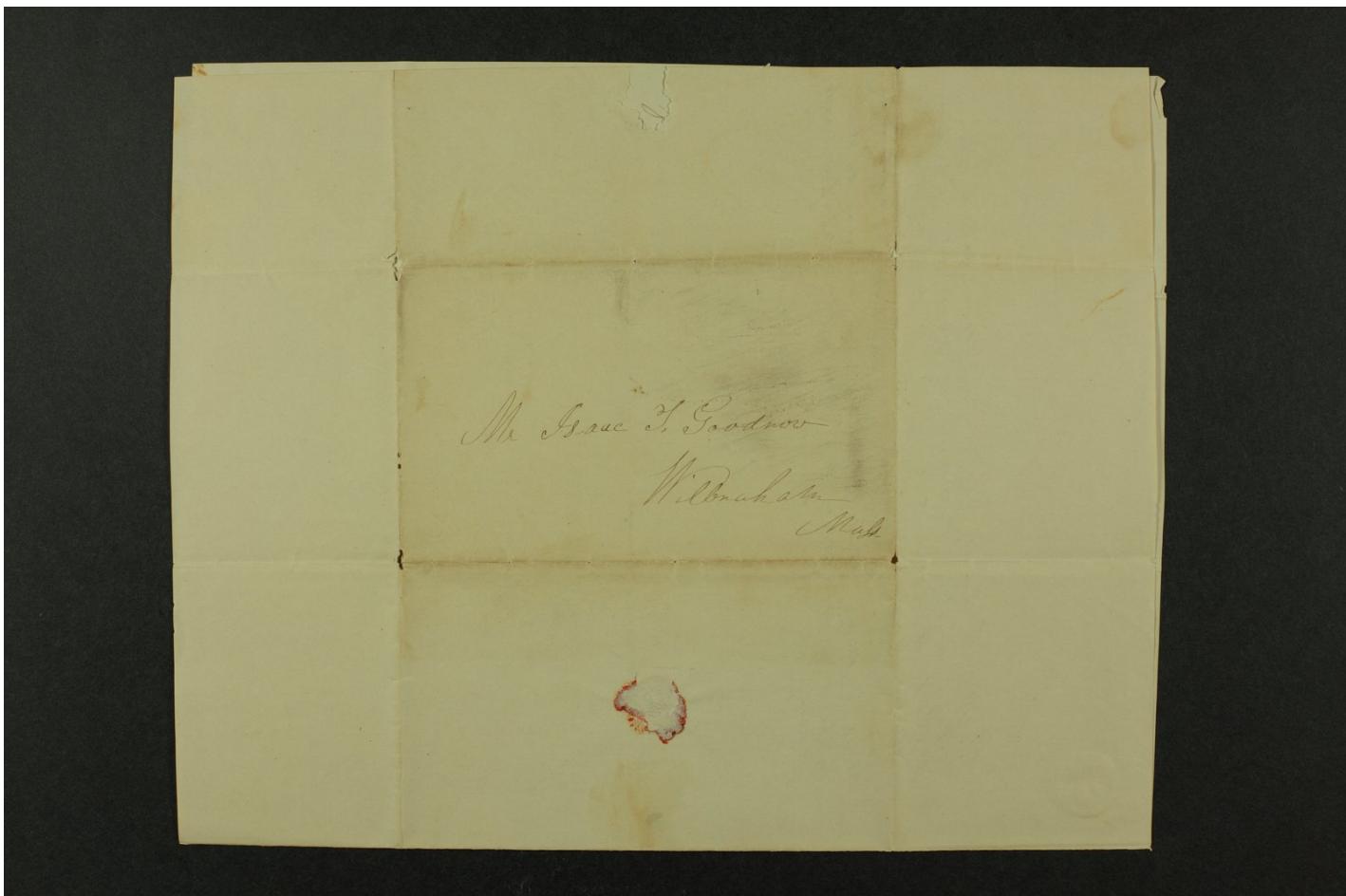
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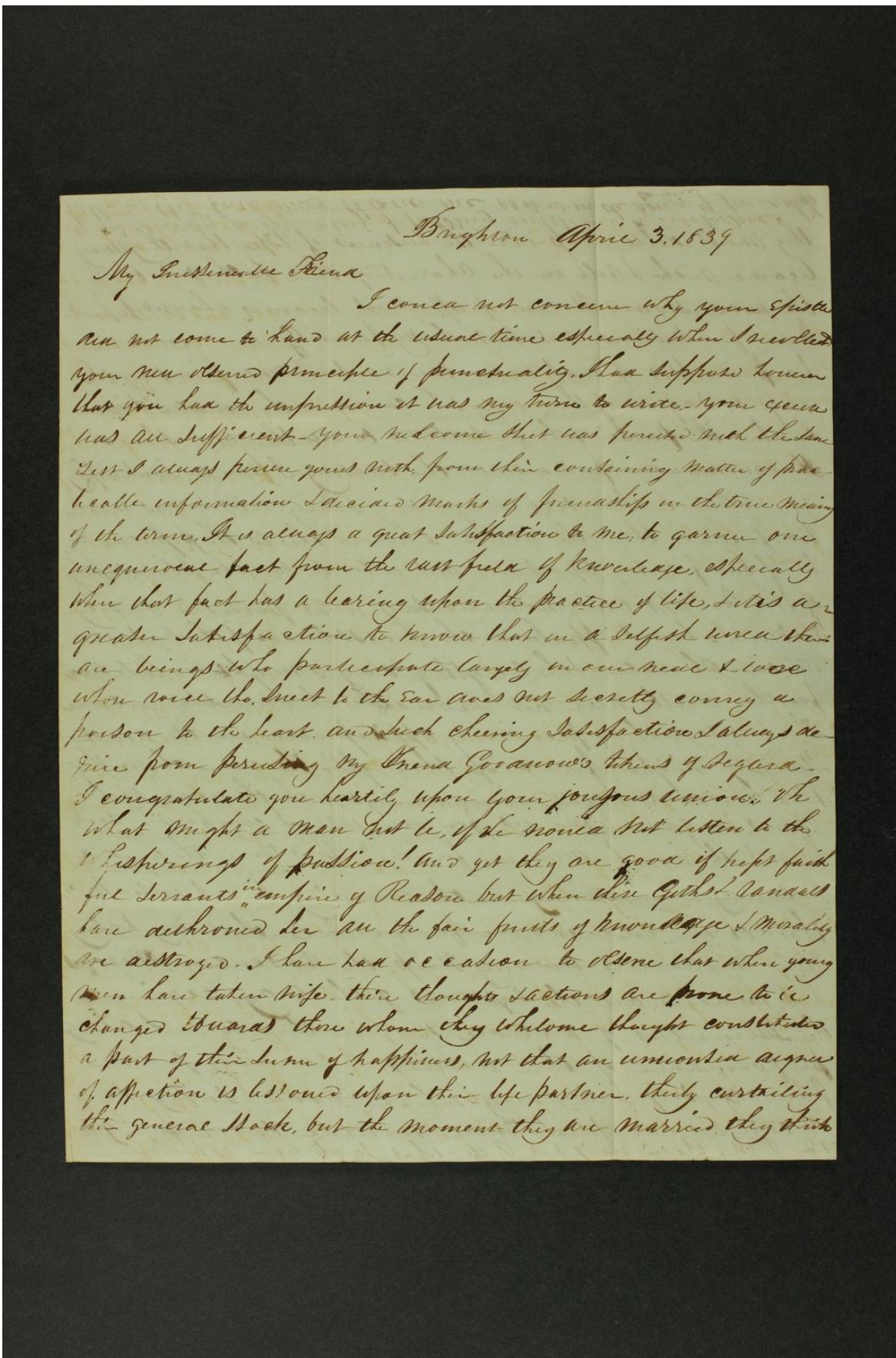


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Answering to your question now made will not be ungrateful
but more & more I am getting to think of you & hoping us to
they must surely drop into the business of life, that they may
become sick & sole in the Chariot of their fathers, to that
the accustomed dream of affection becomes changed to pas-
sion for business, not so much my friend G. here comes into
his principles of rectitude. One is a sentiment pointing the
inexpress degrees of those only who can give the counter signs
another the purser who distributes to all the poor Slaves.
The commandant presides over the treasury. I fear our bankruptcy
you observe that that early rising & early retiring is more
beneficial than the reverse. I know this is the popular be-
lief, but for my life I am not able to see the philosophy
of it. Perhaps one would say it is pointed out by
Nature. but I apprehend the necessaries of the laborer
in our climate - the length of day & night in latitudes
farther North will not second such an assertion. Such an asseveration were
there is something peculiarly appropriate in the name Bated
Hour of Night for deep thought. The mind then finds the plan
that has its silent communings with the unconscious
I pass by gain upon us for our use & comfort. "Dark-
ness hath much divinity for me" It is true there is a
hesitancy a loquacity in the morning, but I interpret upon
that as an education for exercise - oh way hating
our motionless awning sleep, the muscular, nervous
& I traced all the systems of the body - required
the stimulus of action to give the tone & a day's
performance of the duties, I can only judge
from myself I am away which I can safely say
I can accomplish more mental labor from 9 to
12 P.M. than in 7 hrs P.M. what with your phenomena

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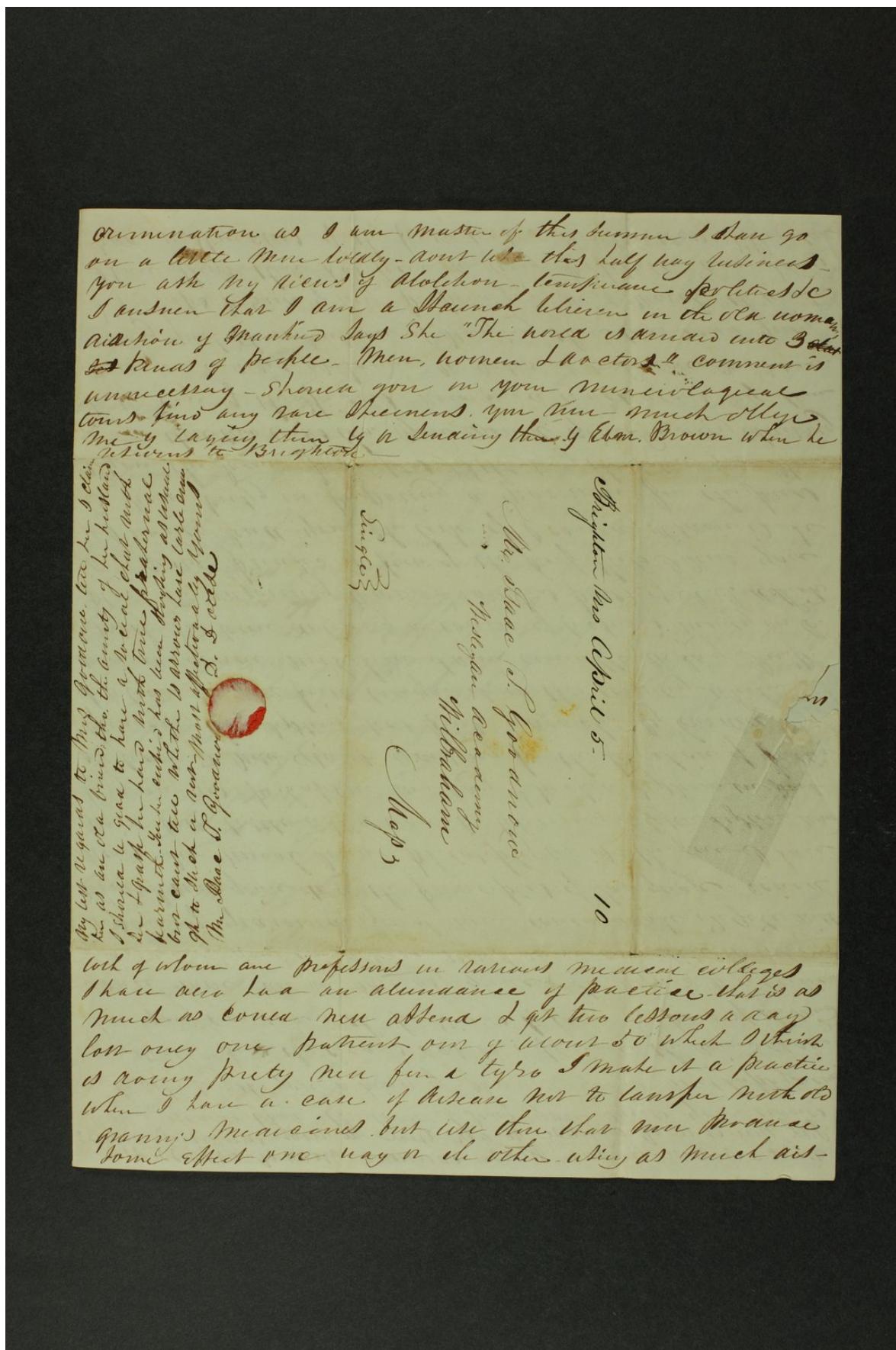
Aug 11 1839
Dear Sirs
I am glad that the book I sent you meets your wants
I much to ask you a kind of phrenological Metaphysician
question "Do the organs act or influence the mind at all?
See you consider the passions to form a part of the Mind
Since more, are all mannas equal? In regard to a critical
grammar I never before that I never saw like Murray's
System of grammar, for I never could make it agree with
what I imagined to be the principles of language - concur
more now in much sound philosophy in it - therefore I have
paid but little attention to, till recently a letter System of
philosophy be given us - perhaps in my day - I such a system in part
at least it was great wanting for the sanction of public
opinion - that system has but reached by far
I believe Webster first taught it in this country - whether
it was original with him I am unable to say. Rev. W.
Batchelder has been delivering a course of lectures mainly on C.
and the plan in adjoining towns & various parts of R. I. which
are now printed - a few of the prof sheets I send you
"Dark" I never sent you the book of I concur obtain it - It
is now busy in preparing a grammar for the press
upon the same principles & I think y^t time you should
have seen the two books tho' you would quicly Murray
verses to the care of the Spiders - now for a week about day - I am
now on a visit at home - to return to Somer next week
I am very much the intention of staying there till next July
or perhaps to end of my pilgrimage - next March - the winter
I have heard there has been a very profitable one - having
among the best instructors of the first water, Dr. Barlow, Franklin

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JUNIOR EXHIBITION,
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY,

APRIL 17, 1839.

—
* *Music.—Prayer.—Music.*

1. Latin Oration.—*Mensis Opes.*
EDMUND LONGLEY, JR. *Sidney, Me.*

2. Metaphysical Oration.—Metaphysics.
LORANUS CROWELL, *Ware, Mass.*

3. Portraiture of Character.—Lord Bacon.
GEORGE WILLIS NIND, *Lyons, N. Y.*

4. Oration.—The Dark and the Bright sides of Human Character.
CHARLES L. HUNGERFORD *Bristol.*

* *Music.*

5. Classical Oration.
WILLIAM R. BAGNALL, *Boston, Mass.*

6. Oration.—Authorship.
THOMAS G. OSBORN, *Riverhead, L. I.*

7. Oration.—Natural Religion.
WILLIAM S. WILEY, *Hallowell, Me.*

8. Dissertation.—Moral Principle and Mental Superiority combined.
JOSEPH DENISON, *Colerain, Mass.*

* *Music.*

9. Greek Oration.—*To Δέσποινα Ελλήνων.*
CHESTER D. HUBBARD, *Wheeling, Va.*

10. Allegory.—The Hill of Science.
G. FRANCIS NEEDHAM, *Rochester, N. Y.*

11. Colloquy.—"March of Mind."
CHANDLER ROBBINS, (Author,) *Alexandria, D. C.*
HENRY VAN VALKENBURGH.
WILLIAM S. WILEY.

* *Music.*

12. Eulogy.—Thomas Jefferson.
HENRY VAN VALKENBURGH, *Albany, N. Y.*

13. Philosophical Oration.—Characteristics of Philosophy.
J. HARRISON GOODALE, *Deering, N. H.*

14. A Dramatic Sketch.—Scene, Athens in the First Century.
Heleus.....G. W. NIND, (Author.)
Lysander.....C. D. HUBBARD.
Ariston.....CHANDLER ROBBINS.
Herald.....LORANUS CROWELL.

† *Music.*

BENEDICTION.

† *Music.*

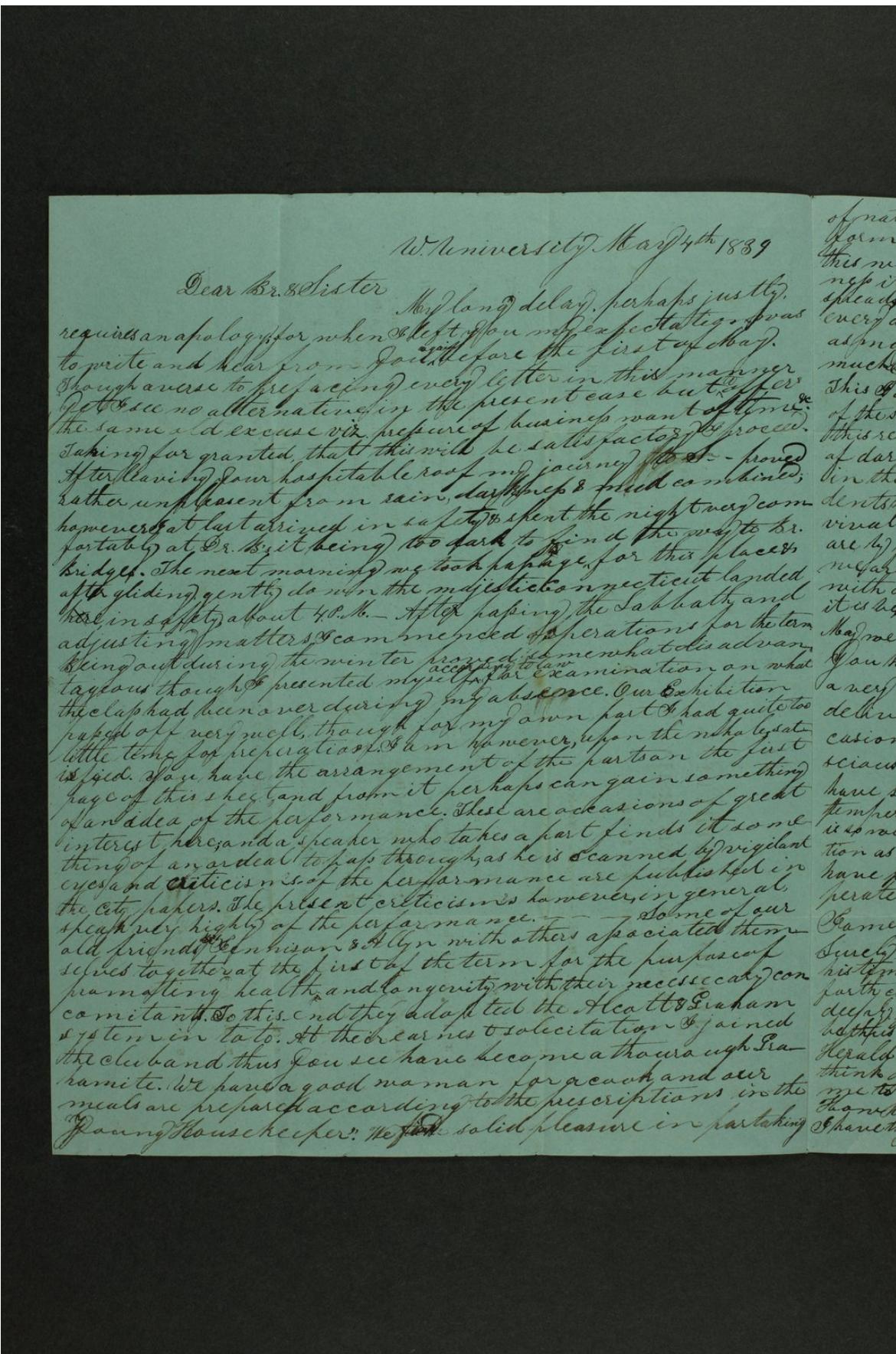
* Composed by Mr. H. S. NORTH.
† Arranged by " "

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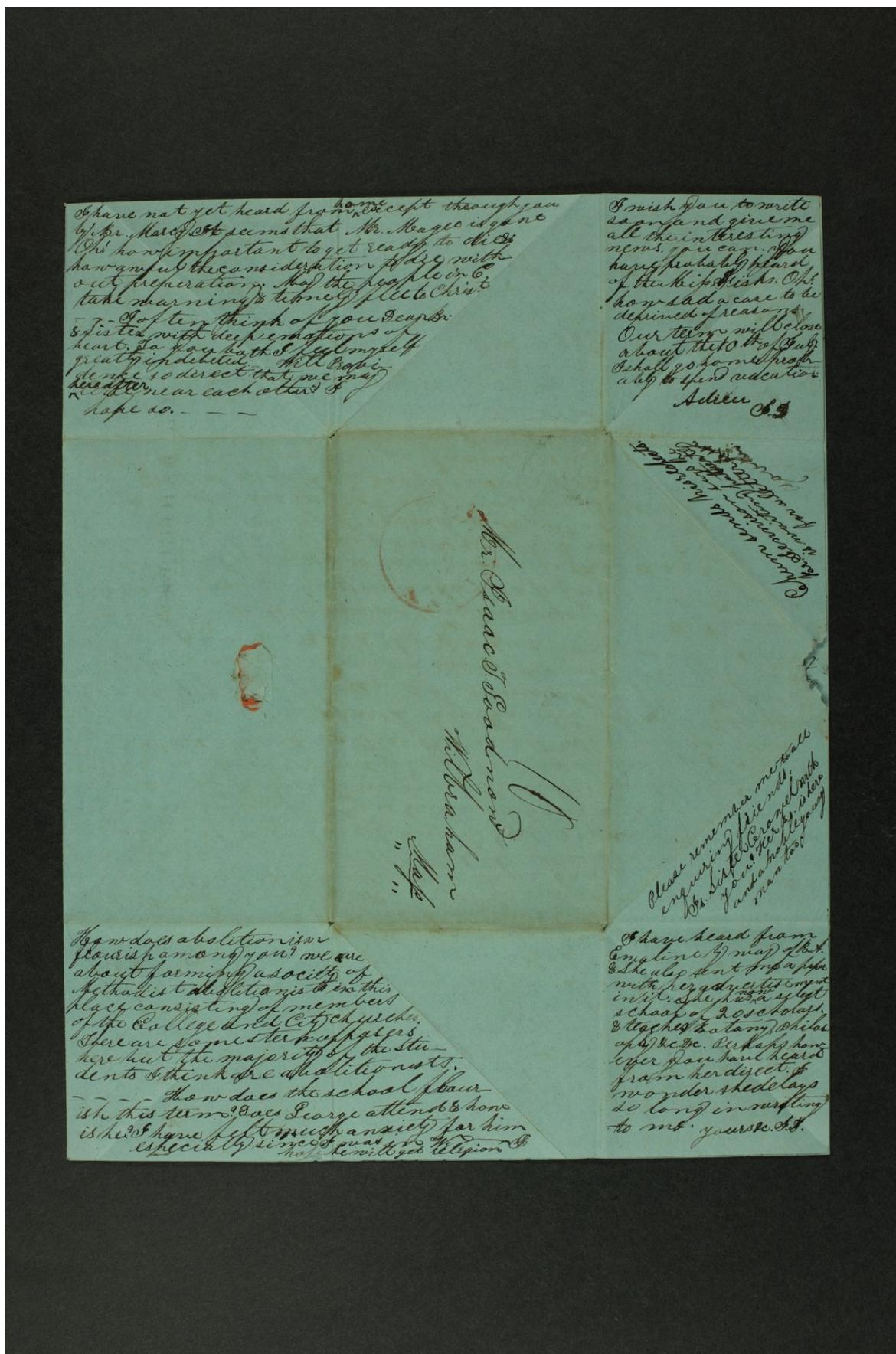
of nature's best prepared in a simple, unadulterated form. Part of us use the cold bath every morning and this we find exquisite pleasure. What has been said of what a supple complexion gives to the skin and what a healthy glow it spreads over the whole system? We bathe our face and hands every day in the bright sunlight & expose the whole body with as much propriety. I think I never have accomplished bed so much by way of study, with so little labor as I have this term. This attribute mostly to my manner of living. About 25 of the students live in this way. Oh! how blind men are in this respect to their own best interest. When will the world of dark robes be recognized? -- We have had some prosperity in the things of religion this term. Fairings fine of the students have been converted and there has been a general revival in the City church. Surely God is good to us but we are by far too unfaithful. Amidst other deep affliction we have not forsaken nor of God. The ungodly has met with a very great loss and yet one can hardly realize it, perhaps it is best we should not for this might affect us too deeply. May we trust in God, assured that he will do all things well. You have probably received the sermon sent you. It made a very deep impression upon the audience when it was delivered and methinks it a production worthy of the occasion. -- As to my own religious enjoyment. I am conscious of many failings and short comings in duty, but I do have seasons of sweet communion with God and I think temperance in all things tends greatly to promote this. Those who are well prepared to enjoy God and delight in his contemplation as he who has perfect health of body & mind. And who can have perfect health of body & mind without being temperate in all things? -- I have been reading the life of James B. Taylor and have derived much profit from it. Surely he was an uncommon Christian & a shining light in his time. The Christian graces greatly abounded in him and shone forth conspicuously in all his works. His influence was felt deeply felt in what your circle personnel. May no one be this useful in the cause of Christ. See the Herald a proposition for a Theological school. What do you think of it? Will it go? Perhaps there will be a chance for me to get additional training after closing up here. How about it? Would you try to secure your first place? I have thought of this but nothing may come to pass the future only can reveal. Yours with much esteem & regards Isaac G. Goodnow

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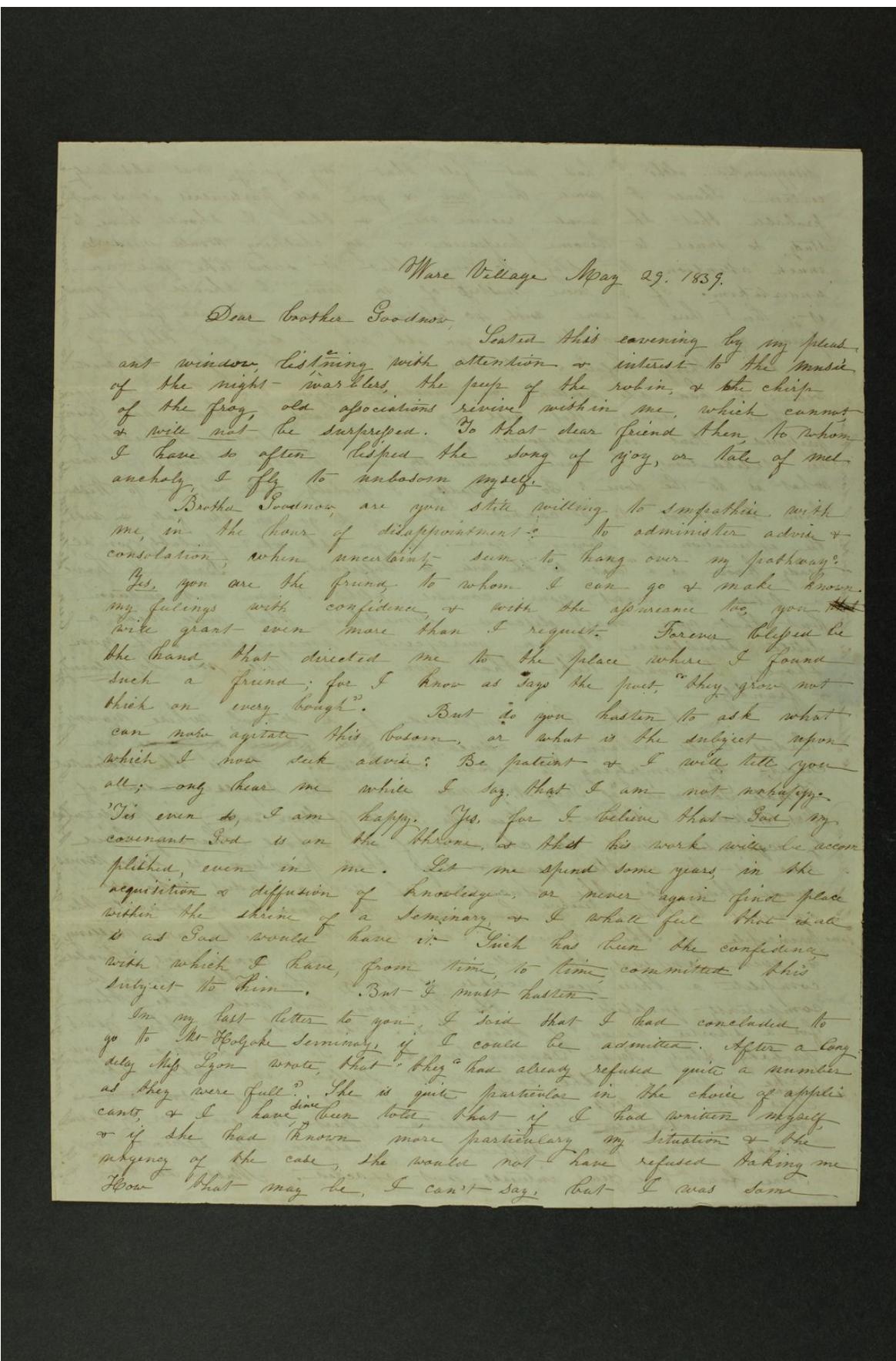


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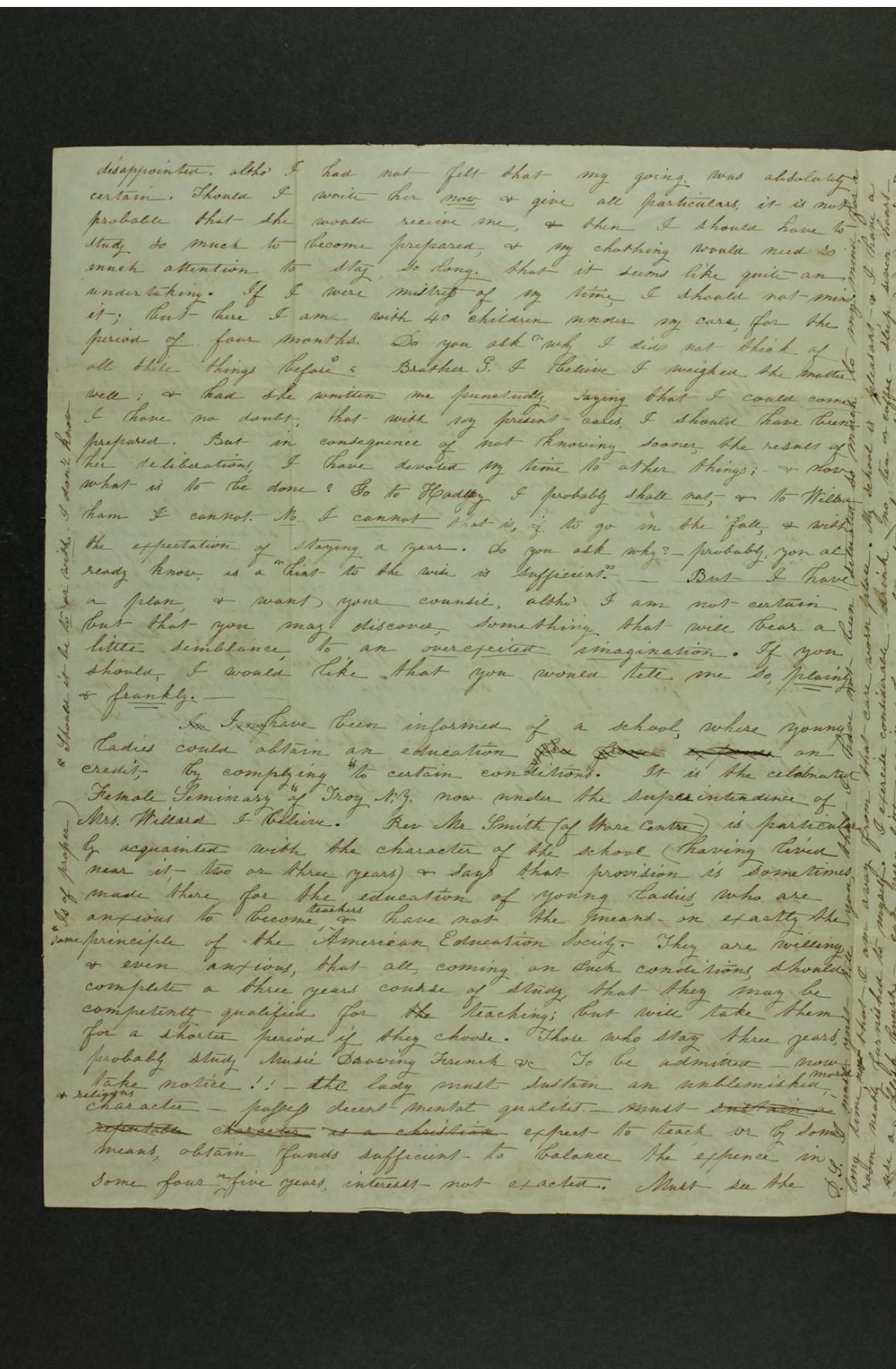


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Principal or - or produce three ~~several~~ certificates. Should they
be sent the rest of this examination, they would be accepted.
Perhaps I ought to remark that the Board of committee take
upon them the responsibility of obtaining schools, where they
may command a handsome salary: in case of sickness or death,
the loss is sustained by a certain Board. Mr Smith is acqain-
tance with a number of young ladies, who went on the above
complaint who are now teaching at the South & receive the
no. equal salary of \$900 a year. Few probably would do
as well - but to get an education - I understand it has
struck me favourable, as you ^{are} already close upon 18.

Since I acknowledged that I might be somewhat ^{imay}
distracted in my views, I will venture to proceed.

If I could go there in the fall I have thought that I should
prefer to rather than to throw myself upon the generosity of my
friends. You know there is something very unpleasant in the
idea of being dependant, at least it is so, in my case. I must
say that I had trust to the bounty of Strangers, than that
my friends should suffer loss by me. I do not know the exact
expense of a year - but more I presume than country B. Schools
I have thought that I might probably get along with 150 at year
rather than not less. One thing I have thought of some
that is, the probability of going South to teach rather than the
North. I don't hardly know, I could content myself to live where
abominable sin ^{and} slavery is exist. How could I remain
sign under the ^{awful} most awful curse, that ever stained
a nation? Home, friends, climate, health, sickness, peradventure
death even, is there thought to be considered in all this? Trag-
ical is. I have ^{thought} of it - all, yes all. Home for reasons I mourn
to speak of, that word is not very dear to me. I always spend
but little time there. ^{now} & I sometimes feel that ^{all} its
charms are gone. Friends, they are dear, yet very dear. I love
them, & they love me, still that is not an insurmountable obstacle
I think it should not be. Climate as sigh of sorrow leaves my
bosom, & the tear sometimes trickles down my cheek when I think
of those dear friends viz a Tollen, a Thompson, a Booth, a Peck, &
many others, who have fell a victim to death. Yet is it certain that
it was owing to the climate? I think not, from what I have
heard in regard to most of them, it is not probable they
would long survived amid the fair fields of New England.

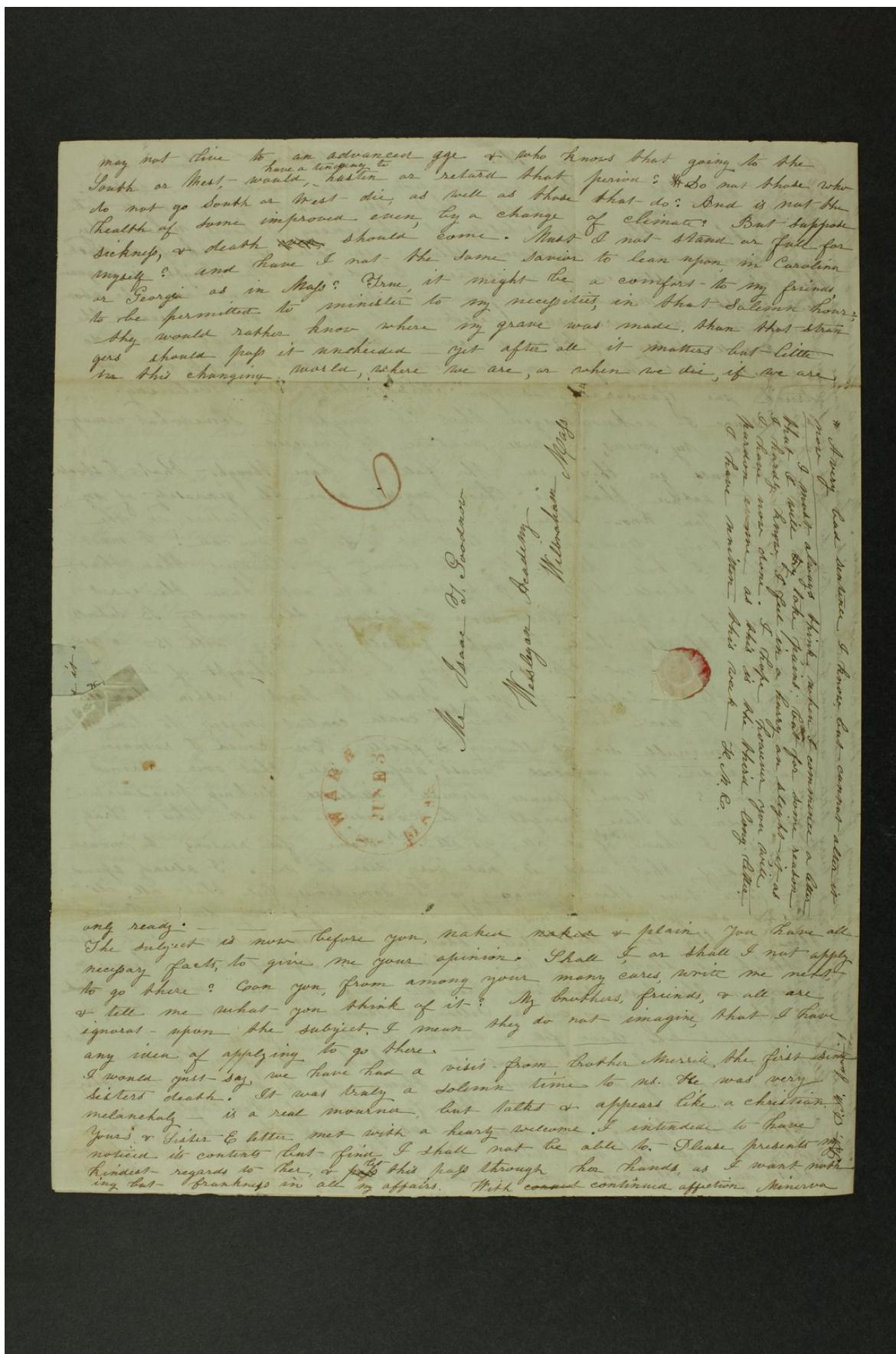
After the Spring has passed, I usually enjoy the warm seasons
quite as well, if not better than the cold. I do not feel now
that my health could be considered as an objection. I may, or

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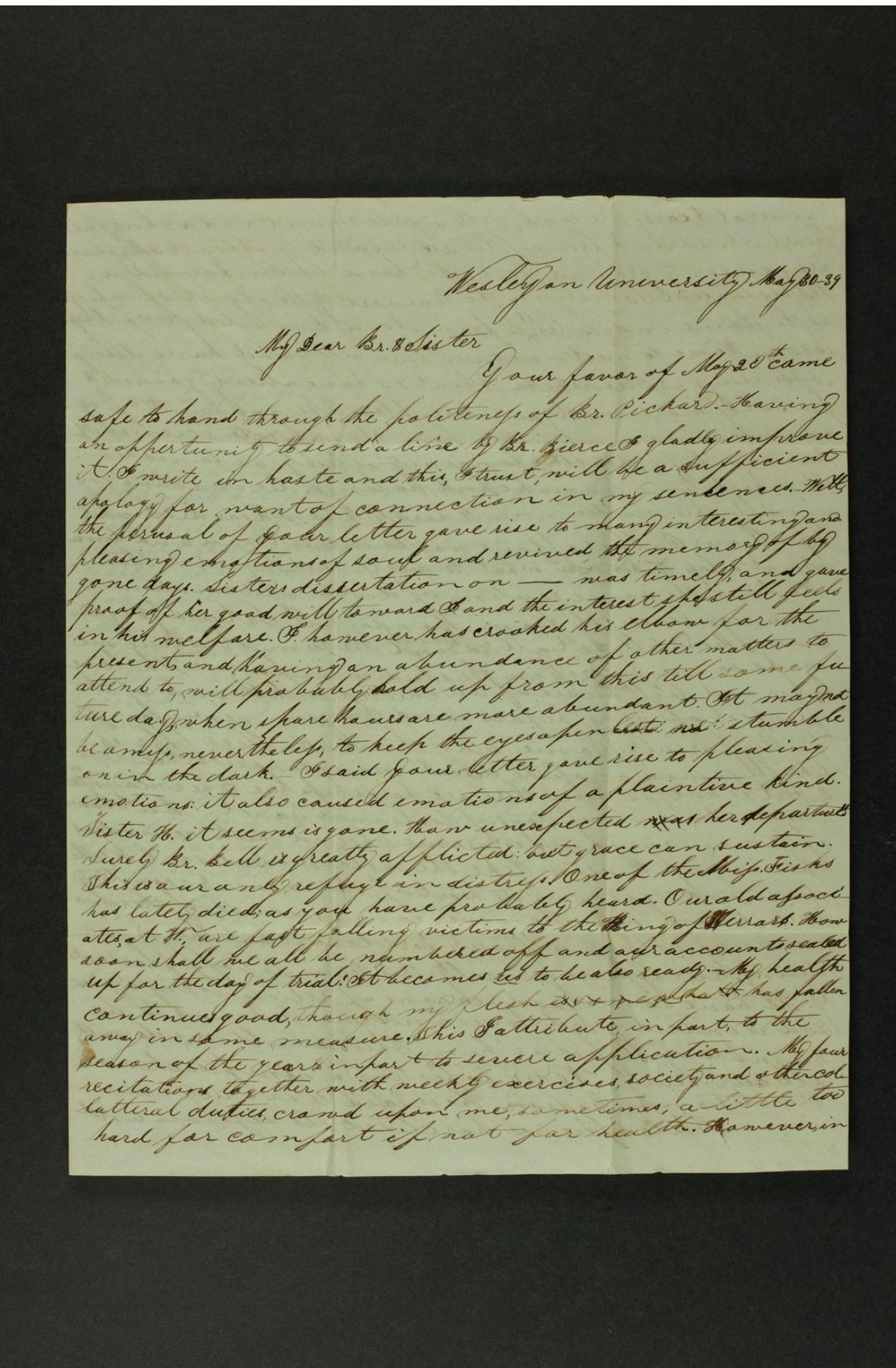


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general & carry the load with a free mind and a cheerful heart. The sacred principles advocated by Alcott & Graham are gaining ground here. We have lately formed a Physiological Society in the University the object of which as the name indicates, is to promote a knowledge of Physiology. We are to meet once in two weeks and have discussions, essays, orations &c &c. About 25 have already joined & probably more will join hereafter. The amount of ignorance in community upon the subjects sciences of human life, health & longevity is truly astonishing. It is high time to awake and no longer lie inactive in regard to this matter. -- -- I hardly know dear Bro. S. what of all our College affairs would interest you and hence have at a loss to determine what to write with regard to them. We have the same routine of duties and continue on a regular drill from Monday till Saturday again from Monday till Saturday through the term. It is true we make some progress in the studies we pursue. While we labor and toil ^{hard} we are often cheered with the view of the prospect opening before us and thus gain new vigor for further pursuit. Some may think a College life is like the journey across the desert monotonous & cheerless but this is not so. True, there are hardships here to be encountered and we have many days of tedious travel. but how often in our journey are we cheered with new ideas opening up to view like the welcome oasis or like the diamond rejoicing the heart of the miner & regarding his tail. I am more than ever convinced that there is no true greatness without hard labor. but this is man's doing. Our affairs generally this term, has not been pleasant. We have some good seasons of religious enjoyment. God is indeed good to us and we are bound to be humble and praise him. This should meet with all our heart. We are expecting a new preacher on this station Dr. Theodore. He is said to be a very smart man. The Conference has closed its session and

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Dear Dr. D. I want to see you very much and gain
in friendly converse by your cheerful preside. Would
that I could see you here and be your pilot while you
took a view of our College curiosities and the beautiful
sceneries that spread itself around us. May I not expect
to meet you even in Middlebourn? It would give me
esquisite pleasure. Do lay your plans to come ere my
staying time is ended. I have not yet heard
from Casaline. Her long delay makes me almost impatient. but I suppose she is very busy. We have not
received a letter from home. If our friends knew
how much a letter cheers us here, isolated as we
are, I am sure they would write often. A winged
messenger sent for here receives a most hearty welcome
as you may depend. — Our examination com-
mences the fourth of Oct, about 5 weeks from this.
I think I shall pay you a visit on my way home. Should
like to have a stop go home with you and tarry a season.
I pine it will be long of staying in C now my ^{dear} sister
is away. I am reminded that those hasty lines must
be drawn to a close. Let me say, in a few enjoyment in
spiritual things is not increasing as I could wish but
I have peace in believing & count all your my a blessing this
and the coming life. May God bless us. And now I must
bid you farewell requesting you to write without
further the close of the term. Your fr.

C. J. Goodnow Joseph Denison
E. J. Goodnow

Chum is well and sends his respects.

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