

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 170, Pages 5071 - 5100

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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similar to a lilly. This stalk is roasted in pieces 5 or 6 ft, long something like a hoe ~~cake~~^{5 inches thick,} in the ashes, & is said to be a little like the Sweet potatoe. The real sugar cane is raised very easily & the stalks peddled round the streets at 6cts each & used for eating, 3,
Corn can be raised all times of year nearly, 4
4 crops in all, but the crops must be rotated, 5
The best time for planting is in the spring, 6
To day at dinner we had the best flavored 7
strawberries I have tasted for years, 8
The Mexican make their own sugar-a little 9
brownish-no real white sugar-foreign 10
sugar is excluded. They favor home pro- 11
duction. Free trade finds no quarter here. 12
We visited the Catholic Cemetery surrounded 13
with adobe walls with Arch'd gateway, 14
Most of the monuments were new in many 15
fanciful forms with painted surfaces 16
in curious forms of embellishment, 17
In one corner of the grounds we were 18
really horrified at finding piled up 19
in confusion, old broken coffins with 20
sculls & human bones, where they came 21
from is a mystery not yet explored 22
to us,- probably from some old bury- 23
ing now utilized for the living. 24
We have visited to the south of the city, 25
on two elevations or spurs of mountains 26

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3, forts two occupied by the French in the time of Maximilian, & one by General Taylor at the Battle of Buena Vista with his rear guarded; these men though few in number, stopped 3200 Cavalry sent through the gap in the Mountains on the East, to cut off Taylor's retreat after Santa Anna should have whipped them in front & started them on a lively retreat. At this fort dismounted on the outside we found a large Cannon said to have been used by Taylor on this body Cavalry.
We have found here Dr James Smith an old Veteran of the War who has promised to go with us on the morrow to the Battle ground of Buena Vista, & for our special edification & information sight over the Battle again.
We shall expect much satisfaction from it. After this we shall return to Monterey to study its Battle grounds, & then shall return to San Antonio, to the Fortress of the Alamo, the site of David Crockett Col Bowie, Col Travis's death with 150 men massacred by the Mexicans in the storming of that

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Post in the Texan War of 1836,
But the Capture of the fort cost
the Mexicans 1500 men;
we shall spend a little more time
this way than we expected.
But we are near home & do not
wish to turn back without
visiting it, as it is undoubtedly
my last chance.
Farewell Your ever

I. D. Goodnow

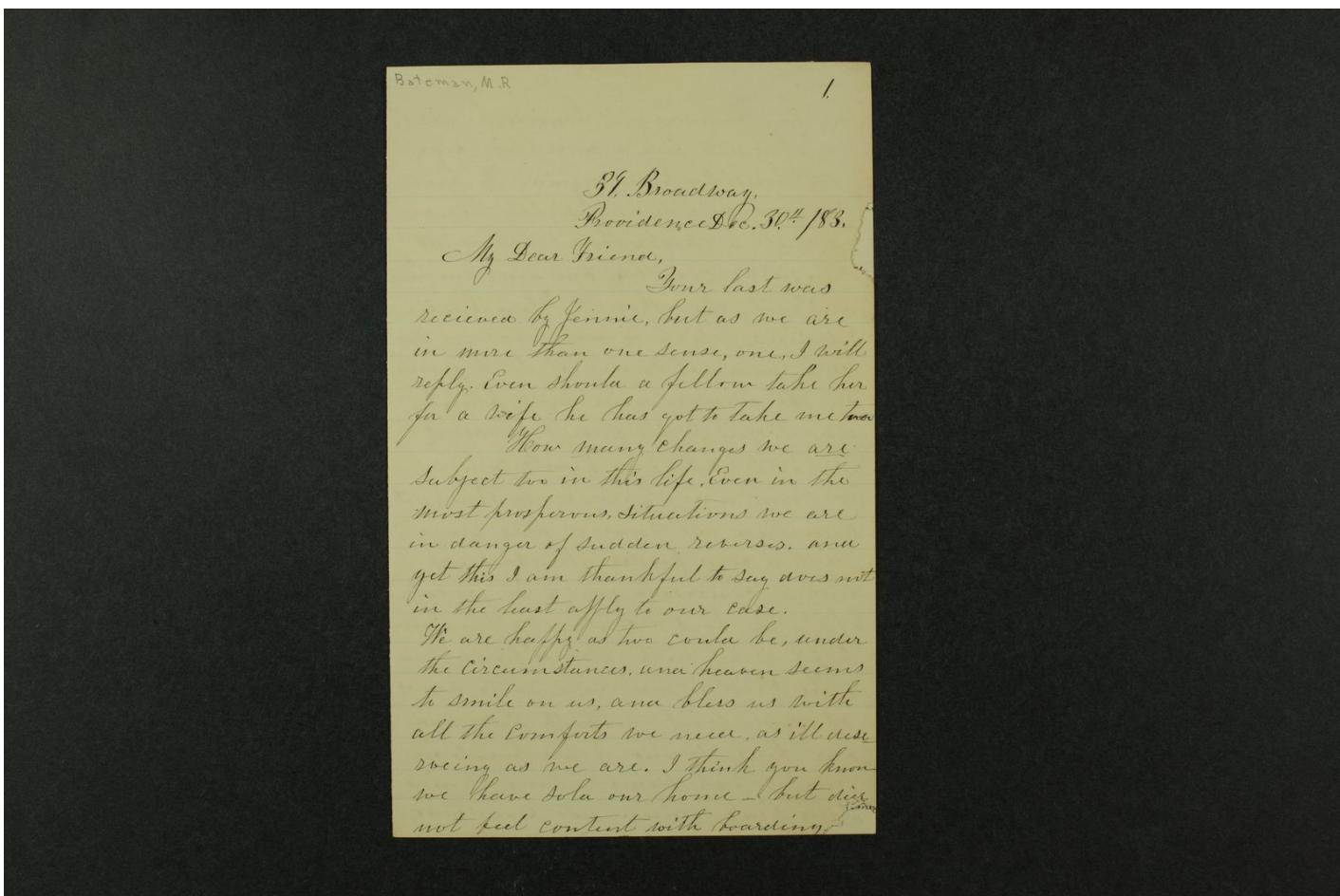
San Antonio, Tex., Dec 17, 1883
Arrived here this morning, O.K.
Met our old friend Gifford formerly
of Parsons, - at Monterey Mexico
with his wife, happy as a clam
at highwater & full of enterprise
as ever. Is editor of paper here
I has a heavy interest in Mexican
mines. I must close but this is
the office with regards to all.

In haste yours ever

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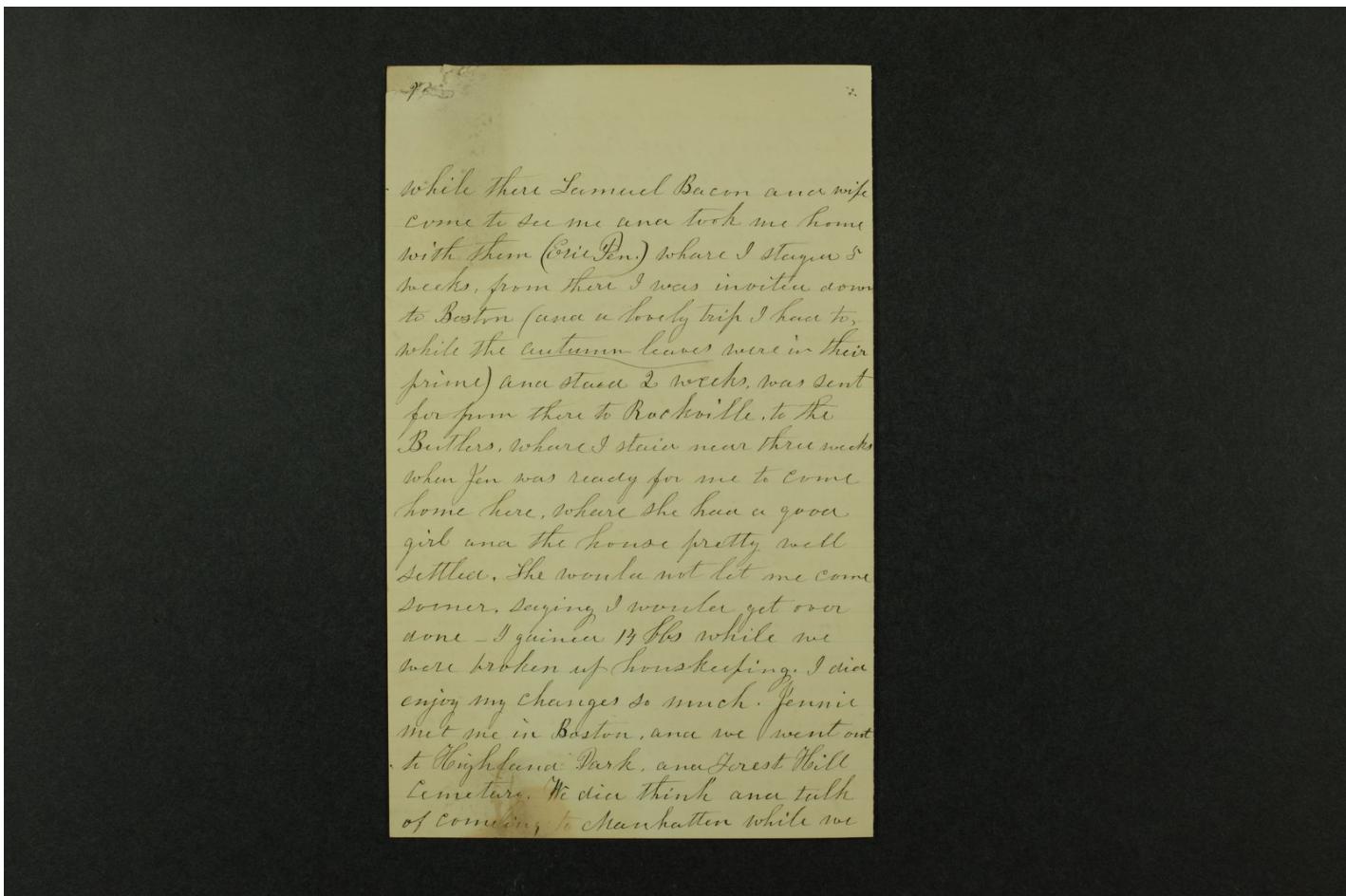
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2.
as our boarders got homesick - we
concluded to hire a nice place, and
go to housekeeping again. We have
taken a very sunny, sightly house
on quite a high point where its
open, and cool, one side we have
a street, the other the San Louis
Gardens, which is very lovely in sum-
mer, and we can just look down
on the flowers and leaf plants,
and listen to the songs of birds
in the trees to our hearts content
without any labor, only think it
and then we have a nice yard
with a good border all around
and a concrete walk in front
of it, the boys are already planning
to fit it up with flowers for cutting.
The street is very wide with rows
of shade trees on both sides, and
our house is one of five points in
front which forms a large opening
our streets coming into broadway
and a great deal of passing, including
two lines of horse cars. Can walk to the
Dapo in 7 or 8 minutes, and to the dry
goods stores in the same length of time.
We have had two gentlemen to board
for a long time, both bachelors, and
neither want to marry, so people do not
seem to trouble about their kindness
or little attentions to us, but should
they we feel perfectly incompetent,
and take no notice of it. We keep a
good girl (and I never live so easy in
my life) one gentleman has a parlor
and sleeping room, and pays \$12, or
and the other has one room and
pays \$8.00, so with an interest, and
rents, we can live very pretty, and do
enjoy life perhaps, as much as could
be expected. At one says, "why do you do
Jennie is very kind to me, she spares
nothing for my happiness, what is hers
is mine, and we agree splendidly.
I spent 6 weeks at Newport last summer

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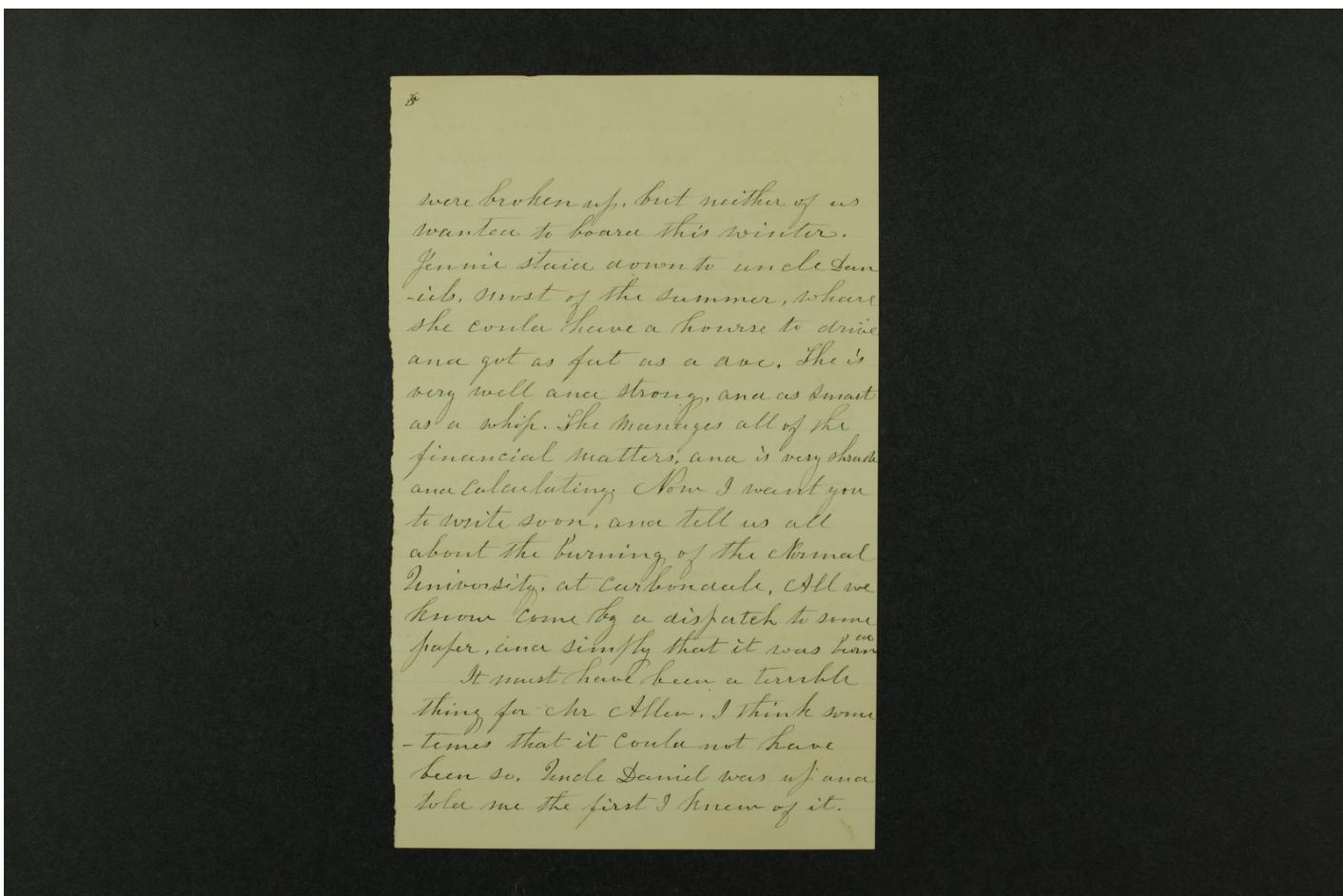
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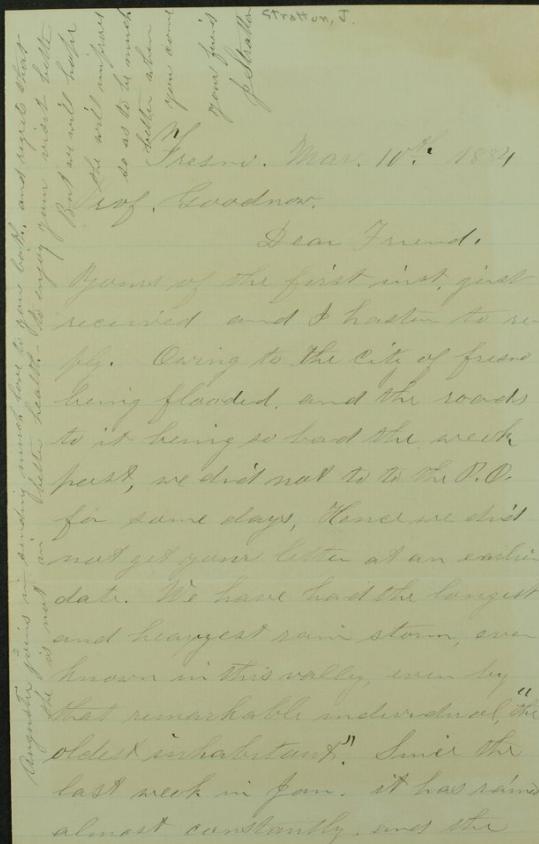
You must have had a nice trip
with Hattie last summer or fall
When are you coming East.
I do hope we shant pass each
other on the road. Jennie was
saying yesterday that she wanted
to take a trip next season. but
I dont want her to come without
me. and we have got this house
on our hands, I do not know
how it will be. Our gentlemen
always take a vacation of two weeks
each in summer, and one at a time
but they get their dinners down-stair
so that saves us some trouble, but we
have either meat or fish for tea.
They are lost in the American & Natl. Bank.
one cashier, the other bookkeeper
Jennie would send love if here
How is Mrs G. my love to her & Hattie,
and a share for yourself

Mr R. Bateman.

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plains north of Fresno, some
four or six miles from our Col-
ony, have been flooded, and
quite a stream is now flowing
through Fresno City, though without
doing much damage, as it was
kept out of the business streets
by dikes. I shall need no water
for irrigation this year, except
on my alfalfa ground at each
cutting, and to irrigate young
trees just planted. The old
orchards and vineyards will
not need any more than year.
The prospects for an abundant
yield of fruit is excellent.—
Never better. — But the travelling
through the State will be bad
especially in the Southern part
for sand works to come.

All through the Southern part
of the state, R.R. bridges have
been swept away, and roads
rendered impassable for miles
together. But by the middle
of April, travelling will be free
all over the state. I answered
your last letter, last month
and do not see why you have
not received it. I am anxious
at the near prospect of seeing you
both again, and hope to imminent
the post again, in many a pleas-
ant chat together. The fact that
we are so soon to enjoy the society
of Bro. & Sis. Goodnow again
seems almost too good to be real.
The only drawback to our happiness
in view of the "good time economy"
is the feeble health of Auguste.

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You ask
me about the
best & the
places to visit
in the State
of Kansas.
I have never
been there and
am very ignorant.
The roads will
not hardly be in a
good condition
to travel in that
section for some
time. And even
if money did
not hinder me
I have
no hope to see
the pastures and
pastures and your
I can get \$3000, 1/3 down and
the balance in one or two years but
that will not pay my debts and leave
money to travel with. Two parties
are talking of purchasing but are
not decided. If I do not sell my
name is to the ground stone.

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The Needles California
Apr 9th, 1874.
Dear Clattie & team.

We arrived at Albuquerque at half past three saturday morning. Stopped at the Denver House and stayed till after dinner. Found Dr Denison and wife away. The proprietor was a Mr Sherman from Springfield Mass. His wife from Stratford Conn. She was so pleased to meet some one who knew her relatives and seemed like her folks, she invited me into her room and gave up the forenoon to visit. They had been there but a short time, and she was some homesick. Dr G. found Dr Comer, and he came after us to go to his house and spend the sabbath. Denison did not come until monday morn at three. So we concluded to stay until Tuesday P.M. at three and spent the day in seeing new sights right brought here. There was little

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that we could see in new mexico
but sage brush and spanish bayonet.
By the way they are making a fine
article of soap out of the root of the
Yucca in old town. Mrs Comer
brought it, and showed us the root that
her wash woman says the natives use
for soap. Says it makes a fine soap.
We had a nice visit at San Joaquin. She went
with us over town, and up to the Sabbath
church in old town, and then took me
through the great garden. The Congregational
minister who speaks Spanish went with
us, and the gardener took special pains
to tell us the names of all the trees that
were in bloom. Plum, Peach, Apricot,
Nectarine, were in full bloom. Vegetables
coming up; all done by irrigation, and
yards of alfalfa green. But a mile from
irrigation, the whole country, and
both old and new towns are nothing
but drifting sand. They sidewalks around
the H. P. Depot with green oval spots
with a fountain or spray of water and
an hour or one and I think a statue in another
the weather has been cool and pleasant.

The first spot of special interest
was the Zuni Indian village
built close to and in the rocks so as to have
ladders to go up and down into their

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horses. The church which is very plain
to be seen, has two bells hung up in open
belfry, and the top is a low cross and you
can distinctly see the bells which the
spanish brought over three hundred
years ago. The tribe is large and very
excessive. Keep horses cattle and sheep
and are industrious. Irrigate and raise
wheat and corn. We passed a number
of very thriving towns of Pueblo Indians
but they are quite scattered as they
have flocks of sheep, and goats, and
horses, and llamas, and have to seek
places for water and feed. From the
cars you wonder how they can live in
such a desert. I met a man in the cars who
has several shovels ^{but} on the range on his
road said he had to dig them for the
rab just as they die in the east.
From three to six yesterday afternoon we
passed El Paso and found it
very different. For hours or more we
were passing through nothing but
one cedar forest, and going along
was fine, as nice as there is in a pine
and snow from one to two feet deep. I
counted by the telegraph boards on the
route, seventeen miles of snow and trees and
got tired and stopped. My eyes get red, Rocky
and smart a little but am standing my
journey first rate. Good bye. Take care of yourself.

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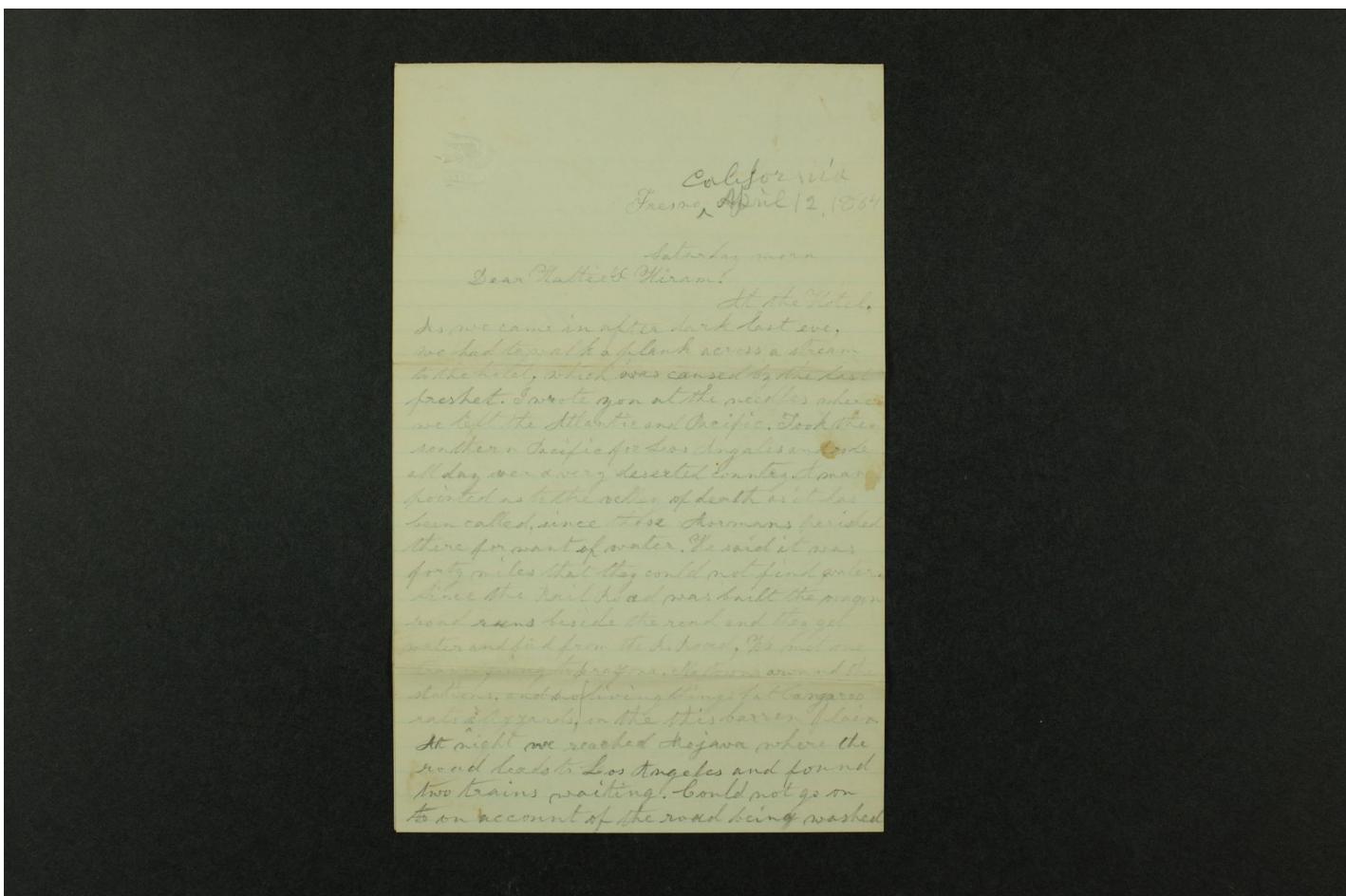
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Ellen has written letters there
I could but I will add a
word. Was glad to receive your
letter & learn that all over every
thing is so well, expect you
will get along first rate & en-
joy yourself. Does a certain
person keep himself about? I
guess he will not for he would
much. All's well heart and
well. We long off to day to rest.
I do it, & look around your
aunt recd by me this morn. She is sleep-
ing now, 11. All sweetly. Have to watch
her a little, I guess, she will improve
in health. The stimulus of new sights
is a wonderful tonic for her.
I sent P. C. yesterday for Uncle Sol
omon. Your next direct to the care
of Joseph Davis, San Luis Obispo,
California. A week later, direct
care of James Stratton, Fresno,
California. Enclose any stray let-
ters that Miss Palisbury fails to
forward. Fine weather every
day yet. This letter must answer
for you & Uncle ~~Hiram~~ in too. Tell him
to write. Affectionately yours Uncle
I. T. Goodnow.

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out again, where they had just built it since the first presht. A young man who we fell in company with on the way from Albuqerque to the Needles went on, and one staging one day and night there where we had a good rest and quiet time to us and told us our only way was to change cars immediately and go to San Francisco, and take boat to Los Angeles. On inquiry we found that the last was worse than the first. I told Mr G. that we had to go right through this place, and we had better stop and make sure of one visit. I had written but a few lines before the Methodist Preacher Mr Chabler came with his boggie for us. A man on the cars told him we stopped at the Hotel. You remember he used to preach at Junction City. Dr Stratton heard by the milk man that we were here and came in and called on us. Will come for us Monday morning. I am enjoying my visit here as they are acquainted with so many in Harrisburg. It came here on account of her health. She asthma and is well now. I have a chance to send this to the office and will write more next time. Love to all and me to yourselves and Bertha As ever yours

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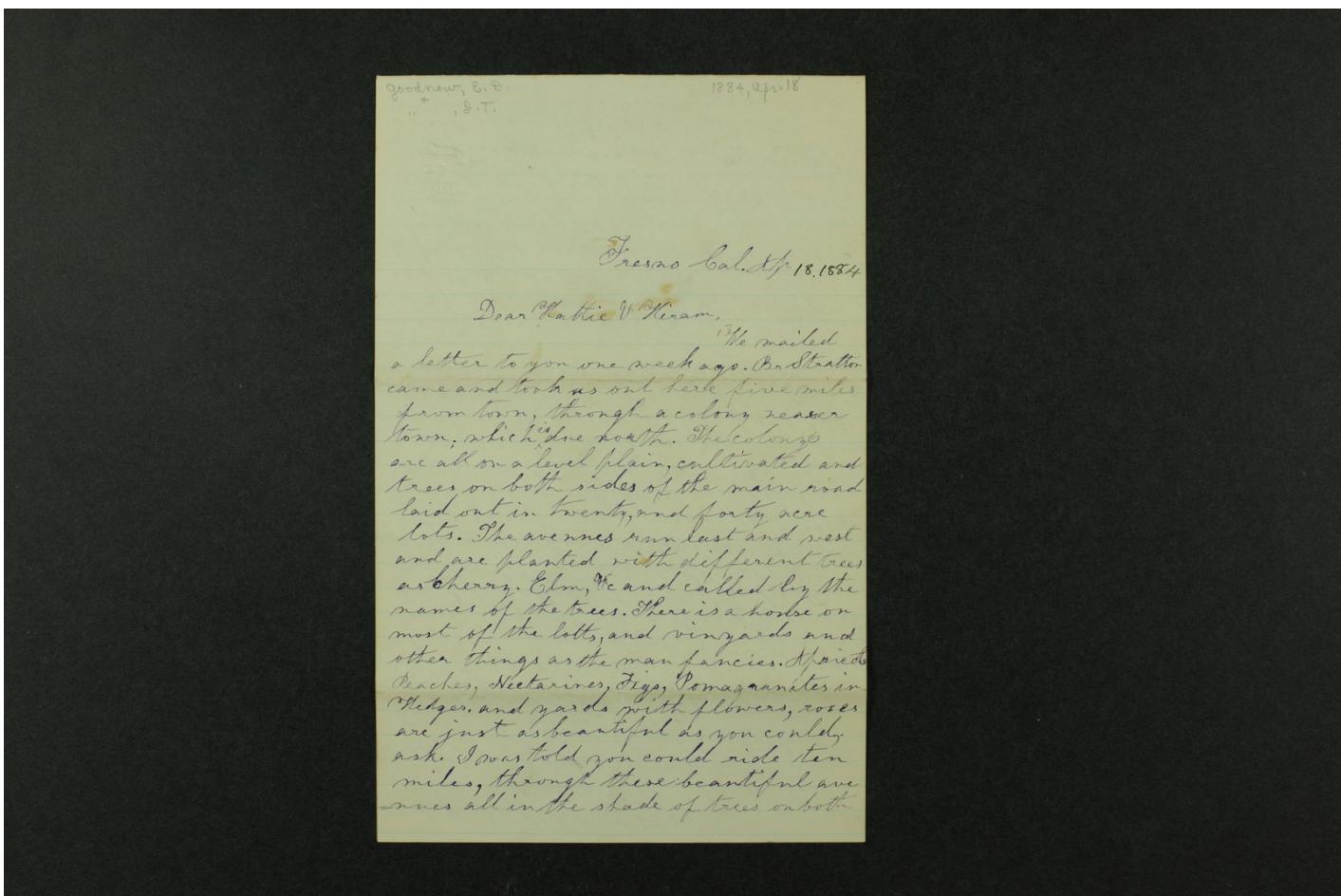
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Dear Hattie & Biram ^{intend day}
I have been remarkably
well till yesterday &
took a bad cold in my
throat. It was quite sore
in the night & this P.M. I
can talk but little better.
How your aunt when she &
was so hoarse, I found how
very interesting Company &
talked a good deal & every
thing was very damp from the
rains. Our trip has been re-
markably enjoyable, per-
haps never more so. I shall
have to rest awhile now & I
think I will come out all
right. Write next letter
With affection I. G.

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sides. Mr Stratton has as nice a place as any, but not as fine a house but a very good one and plenty of room. He is not as well as usual, but his wife is better. It rained and was cloudy and cold enough for a fire for two days. So we shut up and visited at home. Since then I have rode three days, twice with Mrs S. and once with Mr S. to call on Mrs Foster's brother Mr Greeley. It was a little off the main avenue, and ^{was} advised to S. not to go as the mud was so bad that a man was stuck, ⁱⁿ this waggon was. So we went for the mail. His health is good and am enjoying my visit very much. Mr Goodnow has had one of his old fashioned colds, and sore throat, and kept more quiet than usual. He is about as well as usual now and we start Monday for San Francisco. Stop a few days there and at Oakland and then take a boat for San Lones Obispo. Of course the water has changed every plan, and now we go down the by the Ocean hoping to get your letters and hear from home. Hoping you are all well. Bertha smart as a cricket, and will stay with you until we come. Give my love to all my friends, with a large share for yourselves.

Yours E. D. G.

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Ellen wishes me to finish out
I take to the mail. It is fine
weather now & my cold has
pretty much departed to parts
unknown, & I don't care where if
it will never come back!
I send by ~~this~~ mail a commun-
ication for the Republic. Have
not as yet heard any thing
from the former one I sent
from Albuquerque. Shall prob-
ably send the next from San
Luis Obispo, Cal. to which place
I wish You to immediately re-
ply. Have just rec'd a letter
from W. P. Hyde, inviting us to
visit him at Santa Clara.
Prof. Norton formerly of the
Emporia Normal School
is near there & I wish to see him.
Am in hope Dr. Strotton will
go with us to San Francisco.
to act as Cicerone.

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1611 Schenck

We shall probably take the
Boat at Sonoma & cross over to
San Luis Obispo before we go
to Los Angeles. It is a little diffi-
cult to stereotype our route.
We stand ready to be govern-
ed by circumstances. It
looks now as though we should
miss the Yosemite Valley as they
do not run stages there now
any thing else before June.
This will be quite a disappoint-
ment, But then we con-
tinue to have every thing we
wishes. You'll find it
wonderfully. But I must close.

Affectionately
I.S. Goodnow.

Uncle Hermon, if you need to do any
thing with those Pows, I think it would
be well to consult Prof. Shelton about
his freedom.

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Dear Blattie & Hiram.
We left San Fran.
Tuesday morn at six o'clock for the
boat. Boat came in the neighbor hood
of eleven, and was one that had to
stop at every port to leave freight.
So we did not connect with the cars
and did not get here until Thursday,
and was at Dr Powers' untill evening.
So we had a visit with them, and the
Longs family who are very near them.
Found them all well, and appeared
contented and happy. Tell the girls we
are boarding in the house that Ella and
Dr. Ells occupied before they built.
With Mr. Swain, like them much, as
they are eastern people, they make
it very pleasant. Dr. Lambacher's sister
Mrs. Huston lives next door, and
has just called, invited us to visit
them. Dr. G. has gone to call on an acqnor-

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stance here, and learn the best way to call on Mrs. Hooper. I have not been out. Shall be very busy seeing the sights. We had a very pleasant visit at San Luis Obispo both at Mr. Davis & Alice's. They have nice children, and quite a pretty home, but I believe there is too much of the Spanish and Mexican element there to suit me. Do not observe the Sabbath ~~so~~ ^{at all} so much insight in anything. Even the Sisters' school, and the old church look as though they were doomed to go by soon. Town is filling slowly with new modern houses, and stores, large new hotel going up. Drinking beer and wine are prohibited largely in all the towns of the Pacific coast. The first person I have seen lying on the ground was a woman near a Spanish drink shop no doubt dead drunk. It was on a street near East Los Angeles. We have oranges on the table all the time, and have had strawberries several times. I was not sick on the down trip, but Mr. G. lost several meals, but is all right now. Mr. Davis, E. & I. sent

much love to you. We go this afternoon to Ontario, a new irrigating colony at the headwaters of the Colorado. Shall have to give the best of the trip by word of mouth. Much love to you all and friends. E. G.

30 miles from Los Angeles.
Friday eve, May 16. 1884.

Ontario, California.

We have just taken supper here in the new Hotel at the Cesar Colony, & we shall rest to night & tomorrow we expect to look over the settlement & give it a pretty thorough examination. It is a beautiful tract of land - apparently level as the house floor but slightly sloping considerably from the mountain 7 miles north down to the R. R. track, just enough to give the right flow of the mountain stream to irrigate the land. Los Angeles is a lively town with all the new civilization intermingling but the new thoroughly in the ascendancy, ^{the} ~~old~~ number of colored!

We find that Kansas is pretty well represented of New Eng., you know the Americans are a

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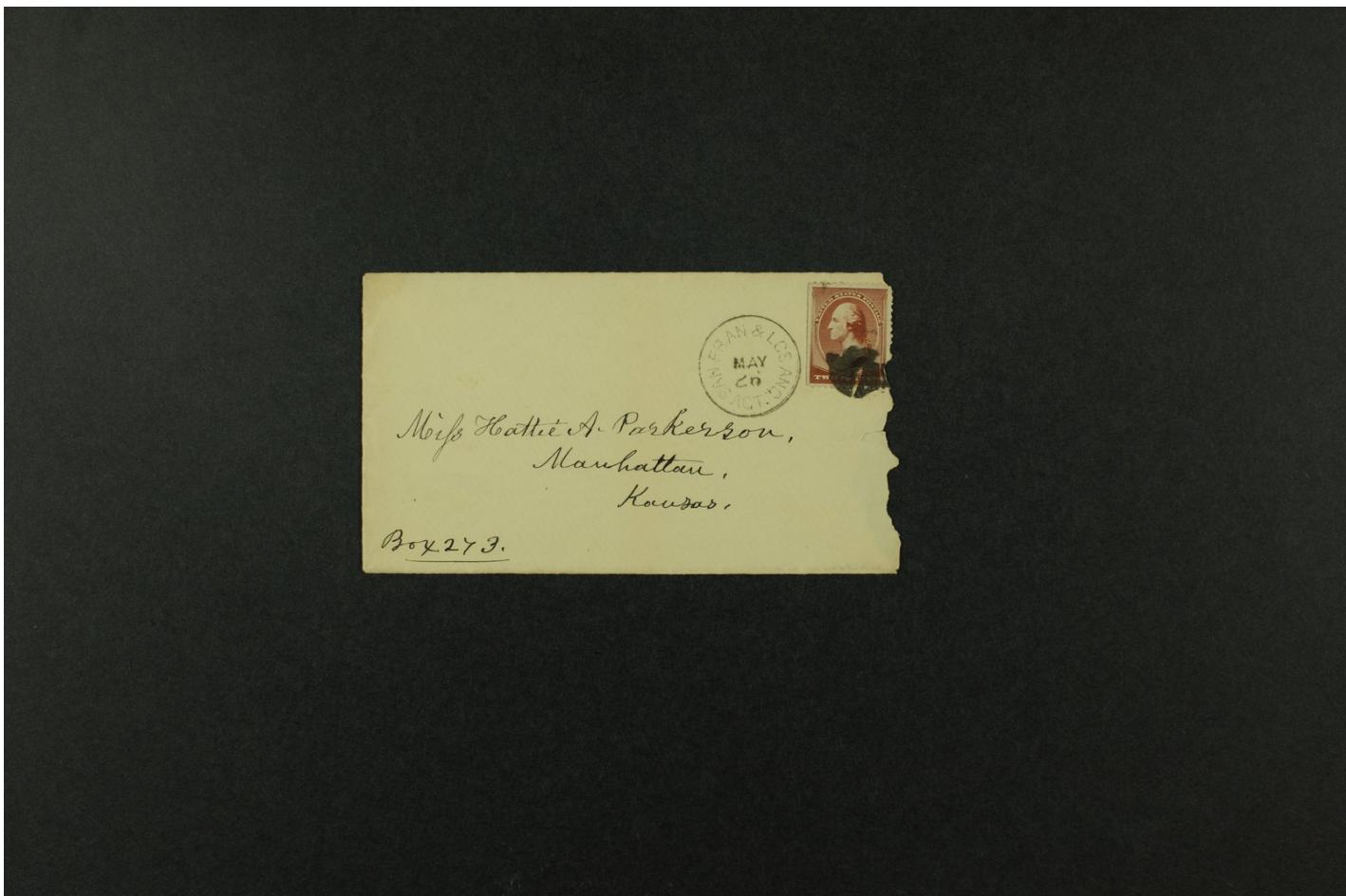
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migratory people.
I do not yet know whether we
shall be obliged to return to the
Court, June 2d or not. I have
written my lawyer in Topeka
& expect an answer here soon.
We shall have to leave here, I
expect next week. I would be
glad of more time here but per-
sum we cannot have it.
I am pretty well over my
seasickness. I guess I will
never again try an ocean sea
voyage, no taste for it. & it does
me no good. This is a great coun-
try cut out on a large scale.
The Almighty dollar has got
most of its people here, & the balance
comes to prolong or save life.
I think I will write Mr. Miller to
night to write you if he needs
any thing before I get home.
He may need to start out.
Regards to all.
Affectionately yours, I. J. Goodnow.

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Monday P.M.

Mojave, California, May 26, 1884,

My Dear Nannie,

We have been here since Saturday eve 10 o'clock. We leave tomorrow morning for the Needles. We have a good time to rest & read & write. We have a good landlord & landlady who make us quite at home. It is a town of some 3 hotels, a store, Saloon, & perhaps 10 houses in all, with a great building for storing Borax & supplies for the Bernardino Borax Manufacturing Company. It is in the desert, & every thing has to be sent here to live on. Beef from the North; fruit & flour & vegetables from Los Angeles. We wrote you on the 7th at San Luis Obispo, requesting you to reply at Los Angeles. We had a letter from Mr. Whitney but as yet nothing from you. We disliked to leave till we heard from you but came on Saturday, arriving at ten & 1/2 o'clock P.M., & put up till today morning when we proceed to the Needles, & thence on to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. It is said to be 6000 ft. deep. I expect will excite my bump of wonder more than any thing else seen. Your aunt has enjoyed her trip remarkably well, & has gone pretty well to the

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limits of her strength. She is sleeping & resting well here preparatory to taking the homeward stretch. I should stay longer but your aunt has seen about enough & we will return by easy stretches, out of 9 days in Los Angeles it was cloudy, & very drizzling days. Barely comfortable, - rather damp there. Don't believe it is the place for invalids. No wonder Young Campbell was no better there. Mr. Long's daughters seem to be picking up some. It is hard for him to do nothing as it would be for me. We had nice visits with Mr Davis, Springfield, Alida, Ella Power & Mr Long. If it had been really warm would have been glad to spend a week on Monterey Beach. But we have found no hot weather anywhere. In your last you say nothing of Bertha but suppose she is with you yet. Glad Etta is so well & that the Johnson girl fills the bill so well. She may make something yet. How does Mr Reynolds feel to be the father of a dozen of boys? I reckon it will keep him scratching. Write us next mail if you can at 161 Tyler Street, Topeka, Kansas. I trust Uncle Hiram is well & happy that all the animals big & little are doing well. Regards to all, & Best of friend in particular. Affectionately yours much
I. S. Goodnow.

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