

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 22, Pages 631 - 660

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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and never said one word to him or the family. I think physicians better be honest, and tell when they have done all that they can do. And then if there is no help in any mortal means, friends will feel that they were honest. Davis wrote us saturday and I suppose you have received the letter. Blinton did not see George Friday noon for he was here and returned Friday night.

Father says he feels the medicine is having a good effect after taking the third dose of ~~medicine~~ his water started off comfortable and the heat in his nose mouth and stomach ~~are~~ is leaving him gradually, but is free from pain and rests well all night, is in a way as far as we can see to gain, but is reduced so that he will not probably be as well as he used to be ~~very soon~~ if ever. I shall not want to leave him for two or three weeks, if then, I am more situated so he would enjoy staying with us two or three months. He can not help being troubled about the work and mothers wastefulness. It does seem that there is nothing snug about the house. And he feels that every thing that he has earned is going to be thrown out at the single spout. All his cares are hard to throw off, but I hope through the prayers of his children he may be able to overcome his natural propensities and serve the Lord with a full heart.

Write soon and tell me all about the fair ~~before~~
Yours truly Ellen.

P.S.

Tell Dr. Laddie's folks that this medicine is very pleasant and affectual in its operation.

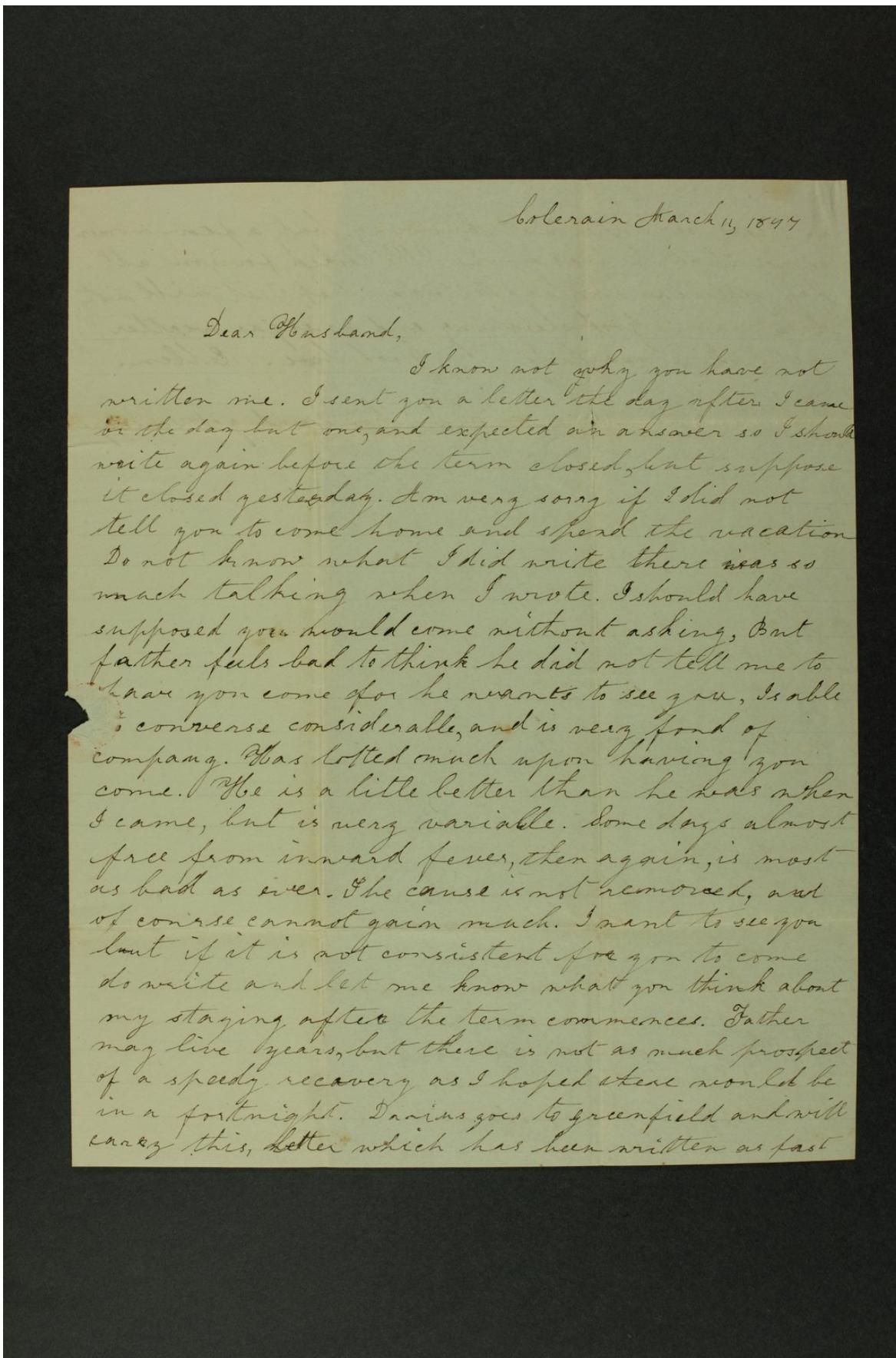
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as I can scribble, not knowing but a few moments
since that he was going. We looked for you all
day yesterday and shall to day hope it will not
be vain. Good sleighing and no sugar weather
yet. D. is waiting. Good bye. Ellen.

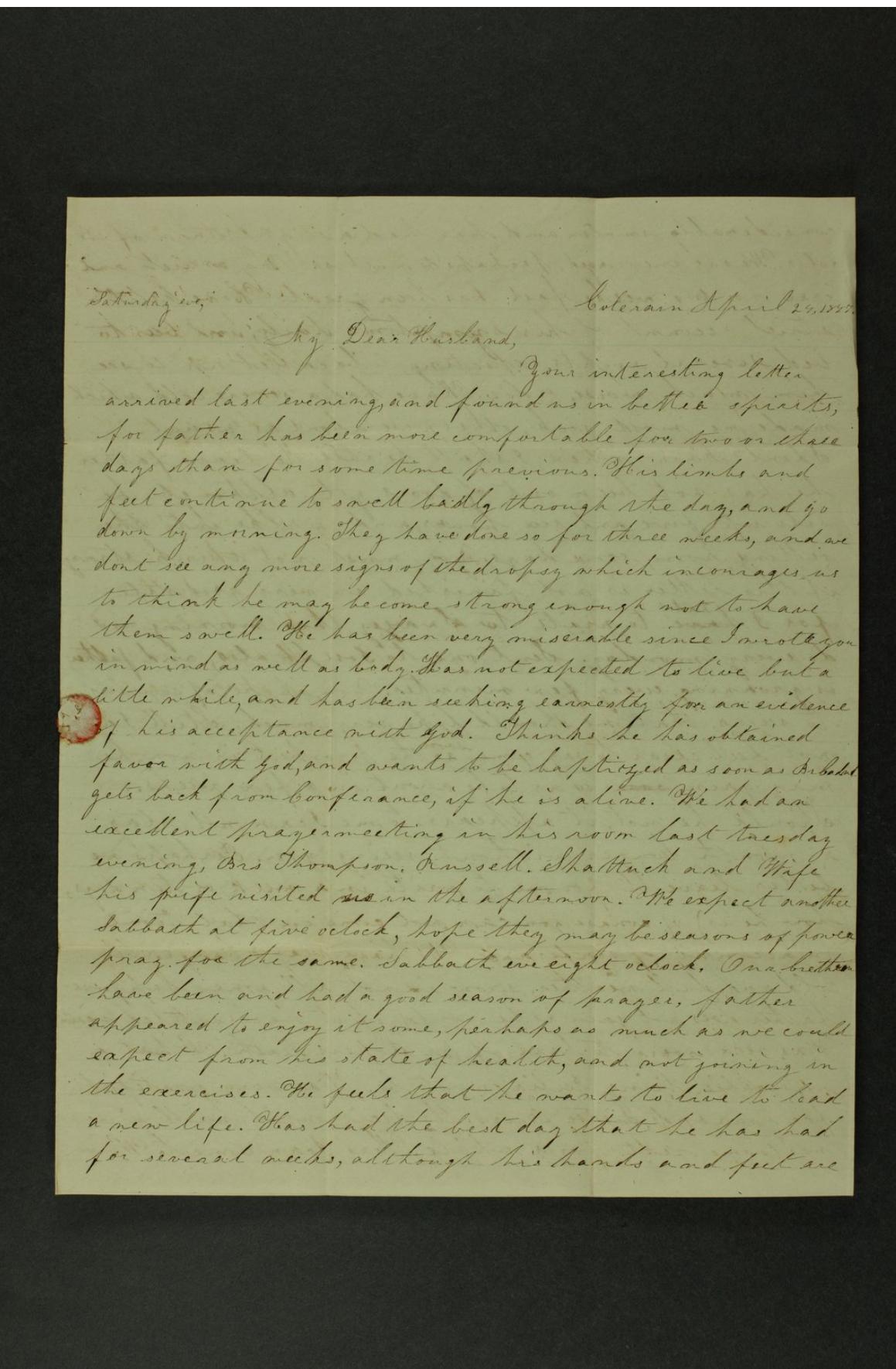
P.S. Come and get some sugar.

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considerably swollen and has had a slight attack of the colic. We are encouraged, perhaps too much so. My anxiety and care for two weeks past has been great. Have kept a strict account of his symptoms daily, and been to bed several nights expecting to be called up to see him much worse, or die. Have had a severe cold which made me most sick, otherwise about as usual.

I don't know when I shall be able to leave father he has not been out of doors yet, although he sits up five and six hours, and walks into the sitting room, some days. You must not think strange if this letter is not finished in very good style for I ^{had} to write to Swazey this morning as I do every Monday. Sent one to Joseph also, and father is groaning every few minutes. You spoke of coming to see us, that we should like very much. Still I do not feel clear to say come, ^{soon} as the prospect is now, he may gain ~~so~~ so as to be about in a few weeks.

Should he not, it appears to me I can not stay a month longer without seeing you. Perhaps we better leave it for one to write in a week or ten days, (how he is) of course you can not come in that time on account of conference. We have very changeable cold and dull weather, snow is not all gone. Suppose father does not gain as he would if it were settled weather. Was very sorry to hear of Dr. Doppers death. What a miserable being India must be. Was very grateful for your and Sister Bonnells decision, it will give me some rest for a while. Has Joam come to W.

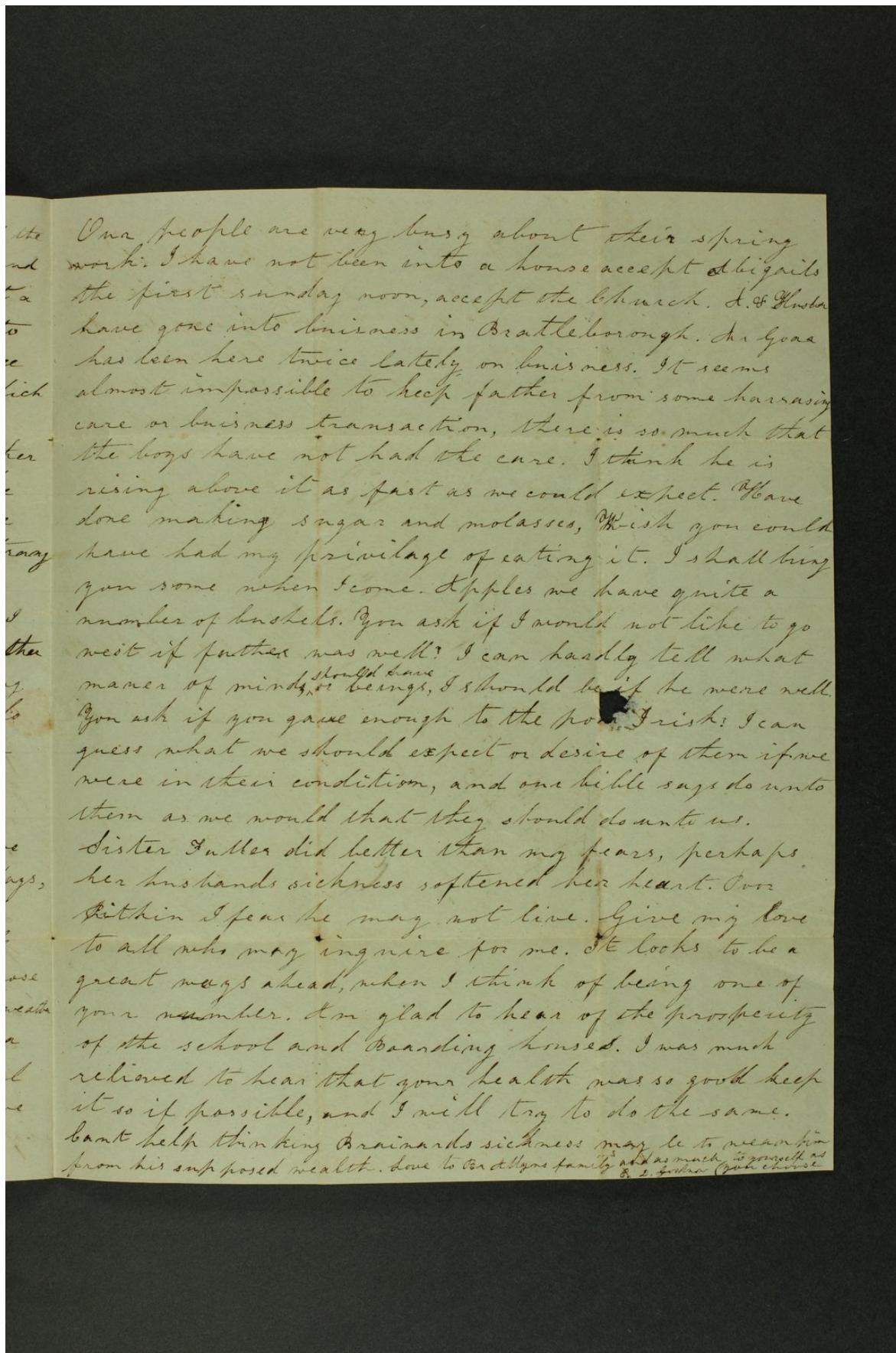
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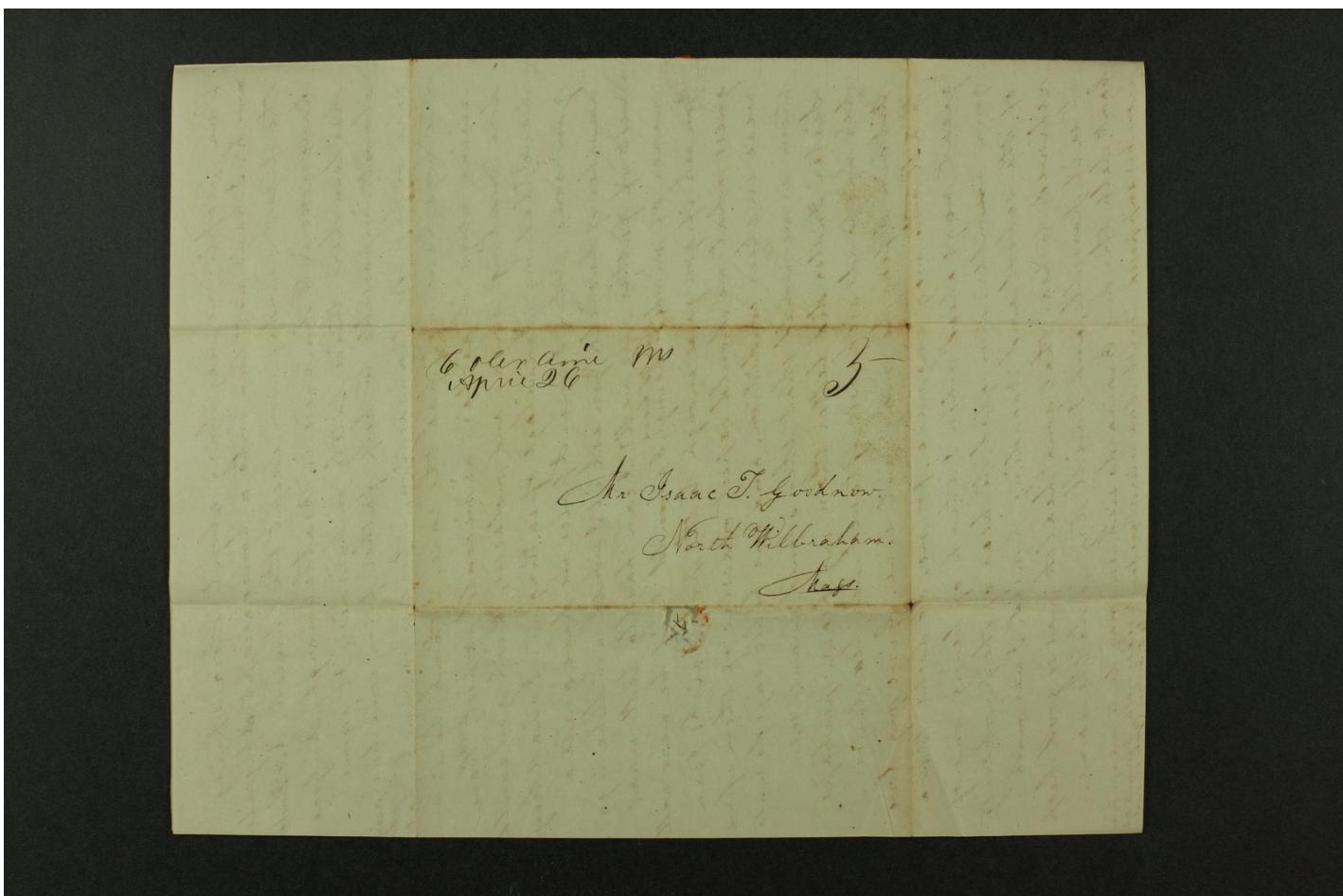
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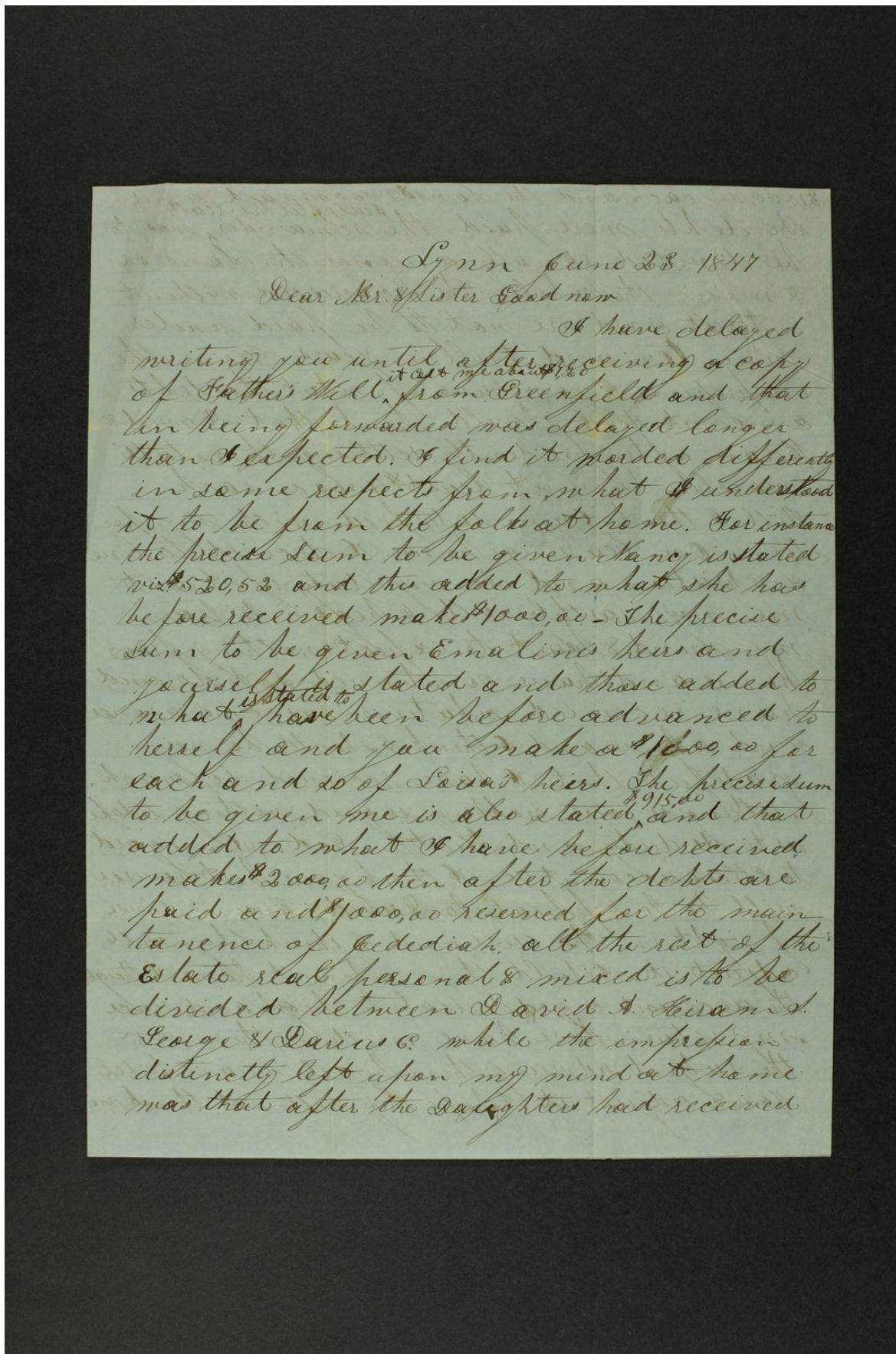


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\$1000, so each and the Sons \$2000^{as each} ~~as each~~ ^{as} after his death
the debts were paid the remainder was to
be divided equally among the Sons or
among themself. The Legacies are without
interest and are not to be paid under
nine, ten and twelve years. From the
impression I now have of what the debts
amount to I should think that David &
Kiram after prudently settling the estate
would have at least \$4000, so each.

Well I think I am satisfied with my por-
tion. On leaving home I decided to live
a Christian and do my duty if it cost
me my earthly all. I began to train
my mind & heart to expect nothing from
home and have continued so to do and
have received whatever has come as one
and above and I think I should be very
grateful that I have received so much.
Nothing so wise, nothing so good, nothing so safe
as to do duty and trust in God. In regard
to Ellen's account &c. I think your best course
will be to appeal to David & Kiram's sense
of right in the case and I think they will
adjust it. I told them when at home I thought
the account a good deal too high and since
my return here have written them on
the subject advising them by all means to see
you & adjust it. I hope they will not think me

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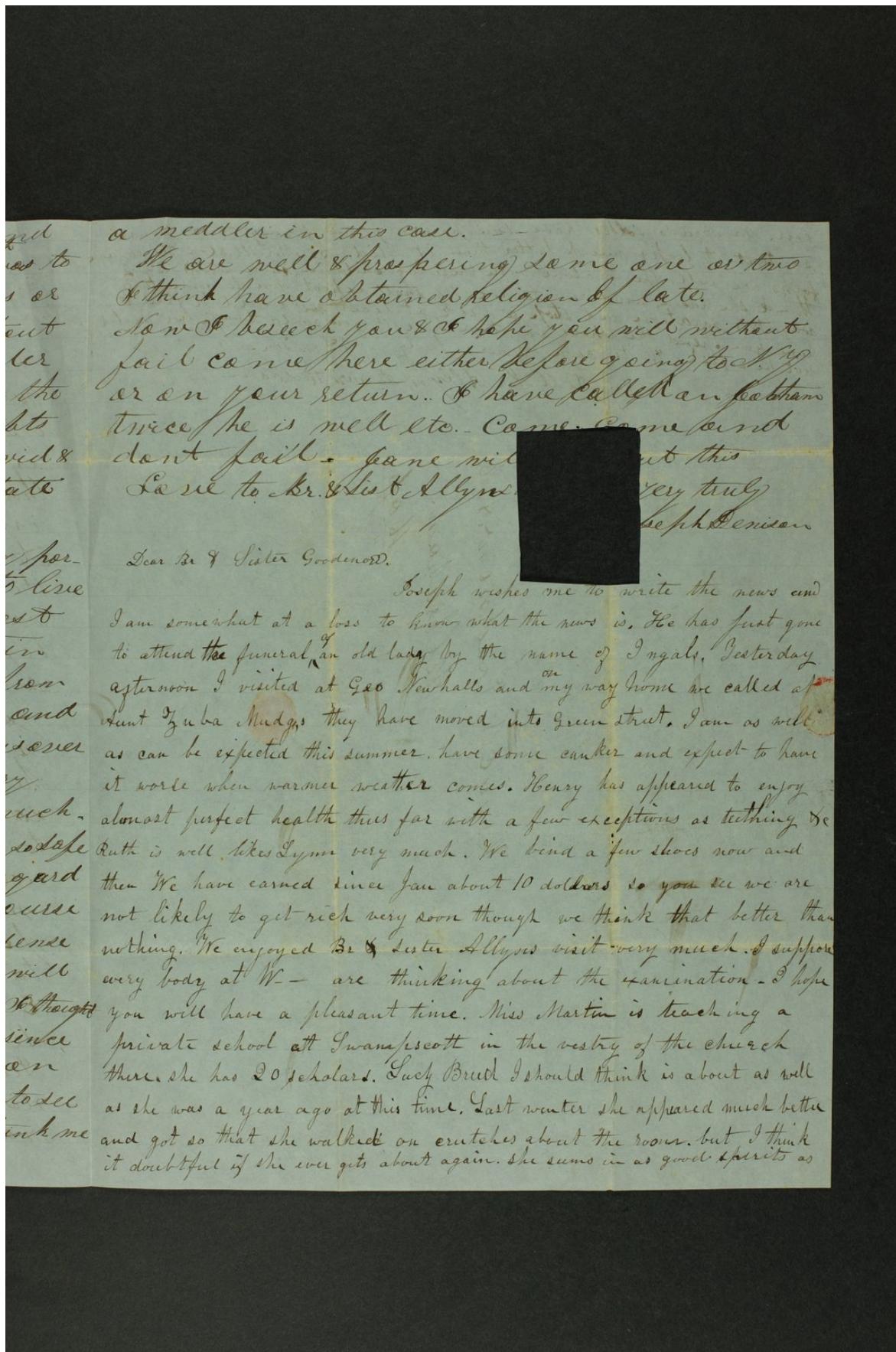
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ever. Mr Brue's folks have been painting and fixing their house so that it looks much better than it did. Bi Merrill & on the comm^{on} folks are well. She is alone with those two children (more now) and I think she has a hard row to hoe. We shall expect you to come this way this vacation and stop a week at least we would be glad to have you spend the whole vacation here if you could though we would not be selfish. Write soon yours truly S J Denison.

Tell Mr Allyn to write soon -

To my
dear friend
have a
safe &
concerning

Isaac J. Goodnow Jr.

Allyn



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St Louis - Missouri July 1st 1847
Mr and Mrs Goodnow

My deary loved friends,

For I really can think of no reason why I should not but address you excepting the apparent lack of interest in me which your continued silence seems to manifest. I have often felt anxious to know why I have never obtained an answer even to one of my letters since I came to this Southern & western County. For a long time I felt sorry and uneasy - but finally concluded my requirements had been too hasty made, considering the large number of friends now in your circle of acquaintances who have a longer and better claim to your attention than myself. Of late the thought has crossed my mind that you may not have seen all my letters - and to assure you again that you are remembered and loved I write once again.

Your many virtuous - agreeable manners - kind attentions and the relation we sustained to each other, are points all calculated to fix your names in my memory so firmly to yield to the influences of time or distance.

In fancy I often seat myself in that pleasant little room where I might almost always find Mrs Goodnow - sometimes sick & suffering - sometimes a little more comfortable - but always patient - always kind to her who had no Mother or Sister near, and who frequently felt sick & occasionally almost dead.

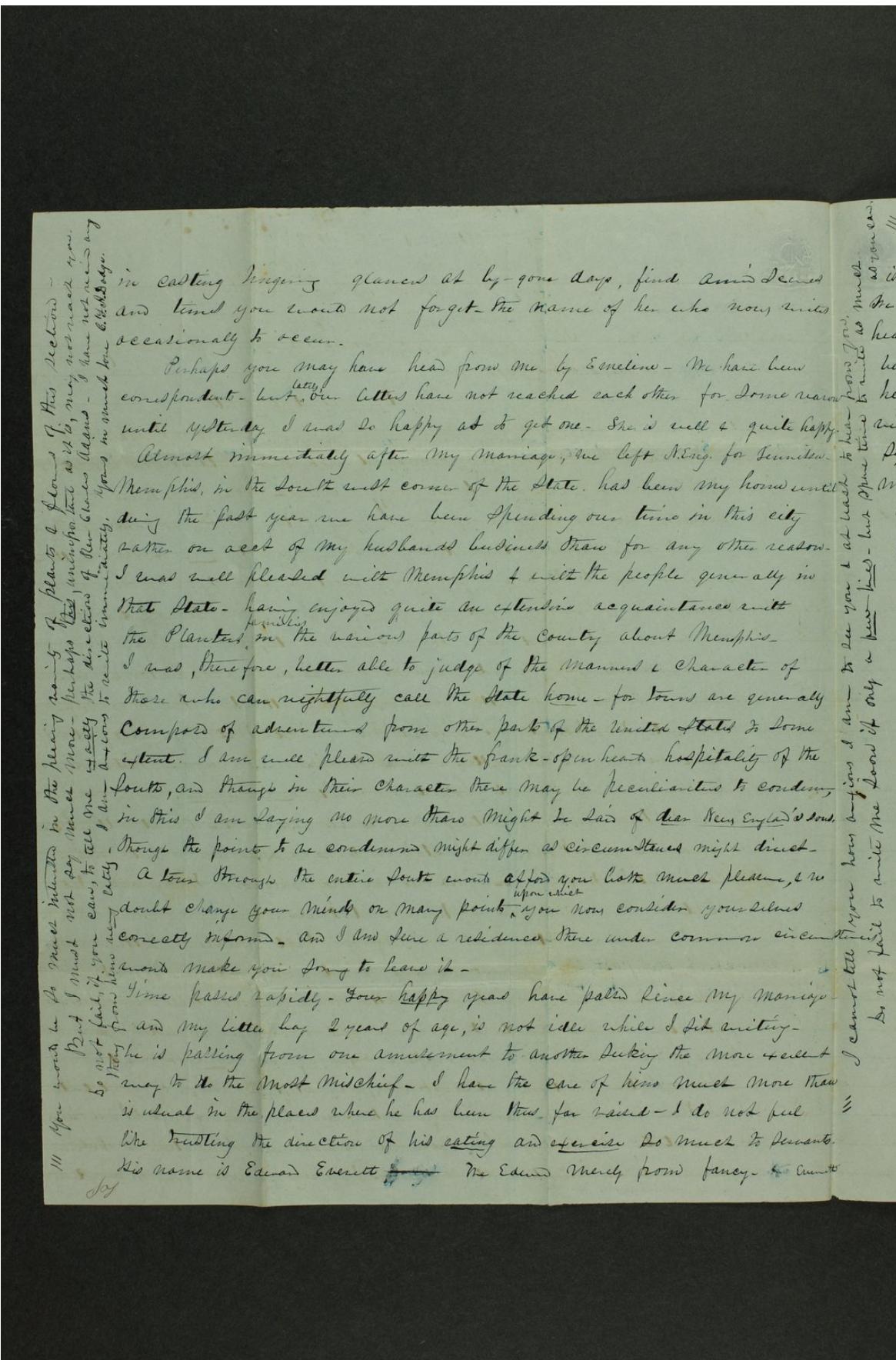
My Sister Goodnow, accept my repeated expressions of gratitude for these & all the many kind acts your benevolent heart so often prompted. Encouraged by their remembrance, I venture to say a few words in relation to myself - thinking perhaps you may still

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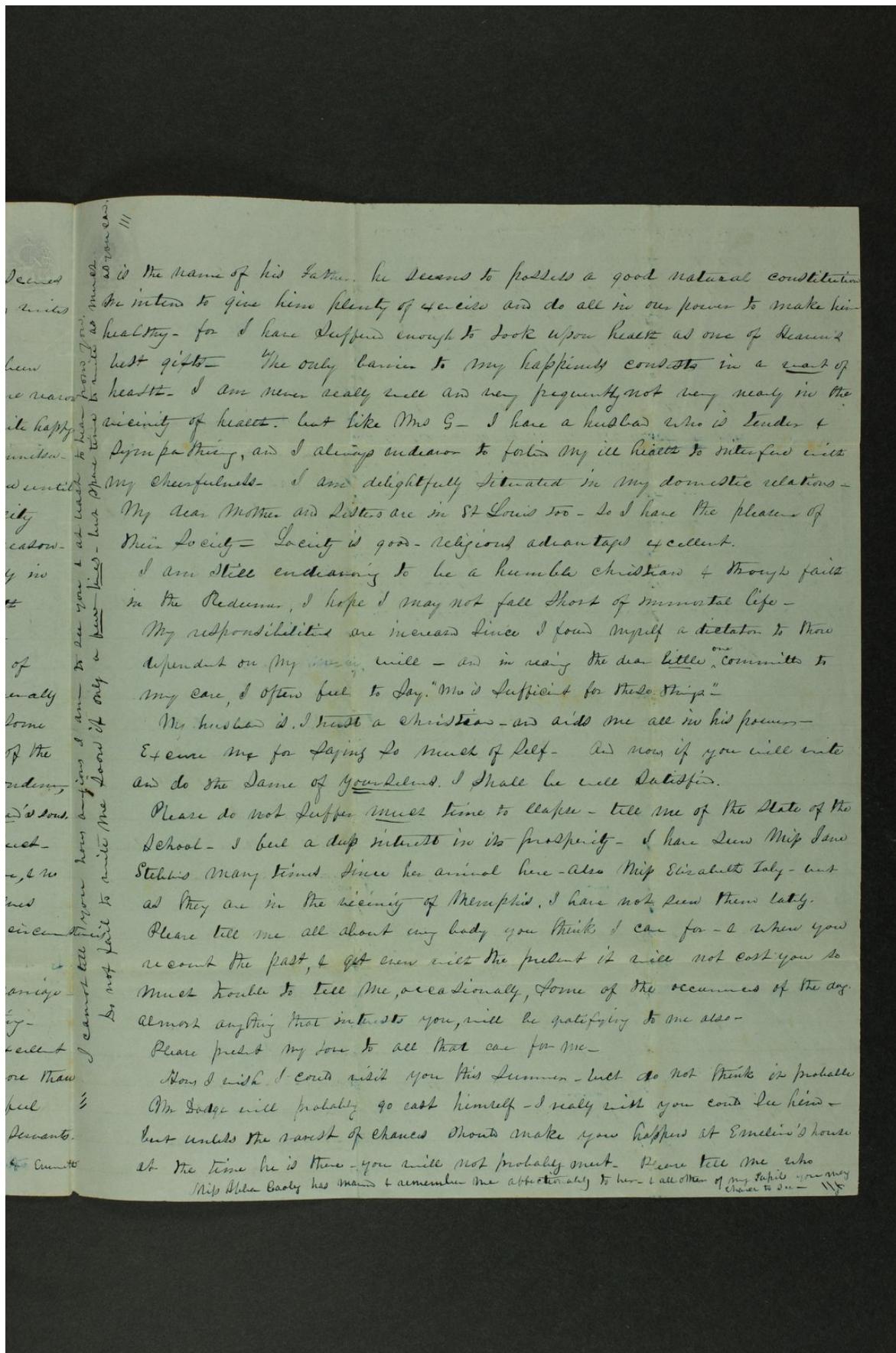


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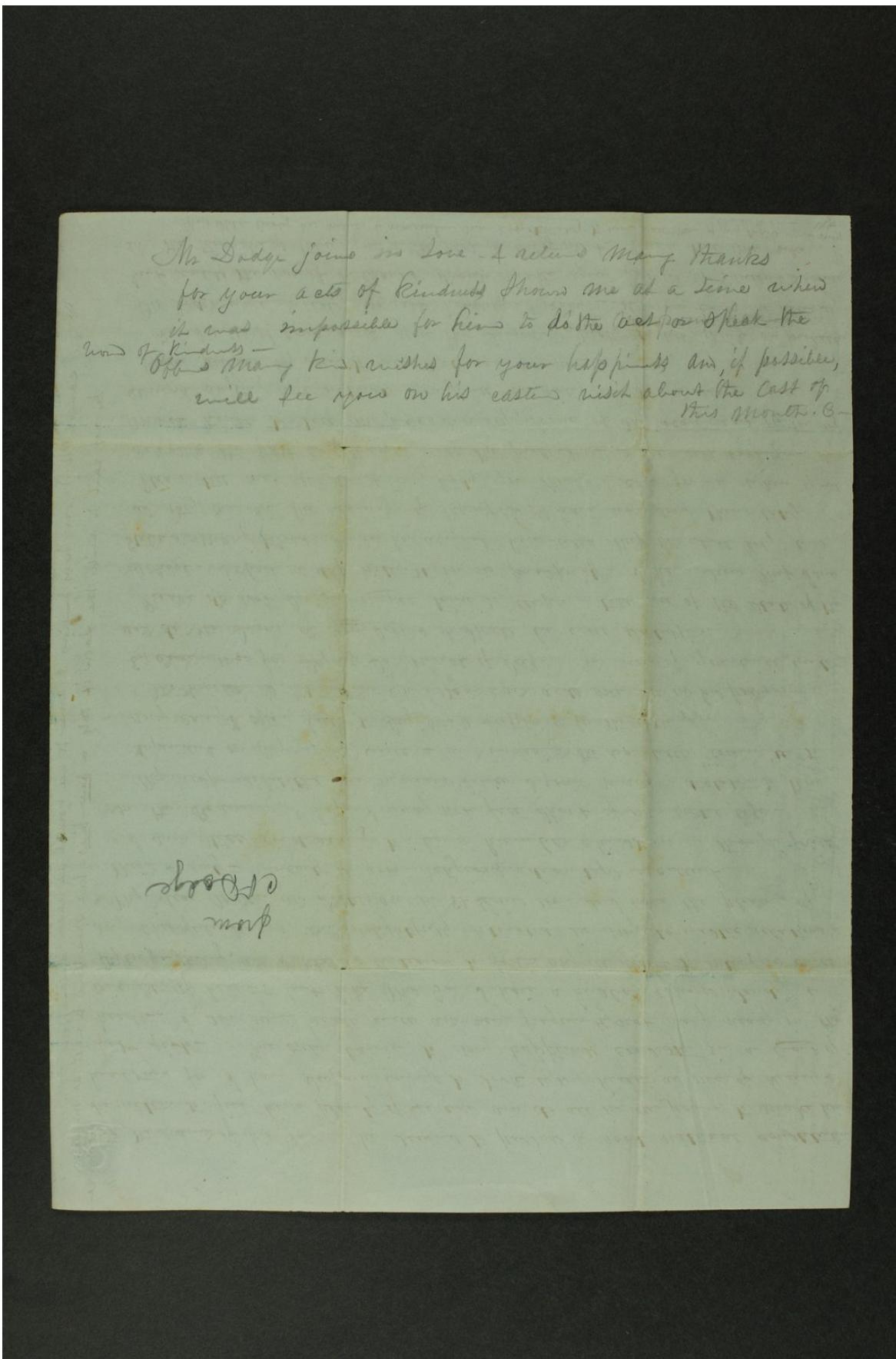


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Norway Aug. 1, 1849—

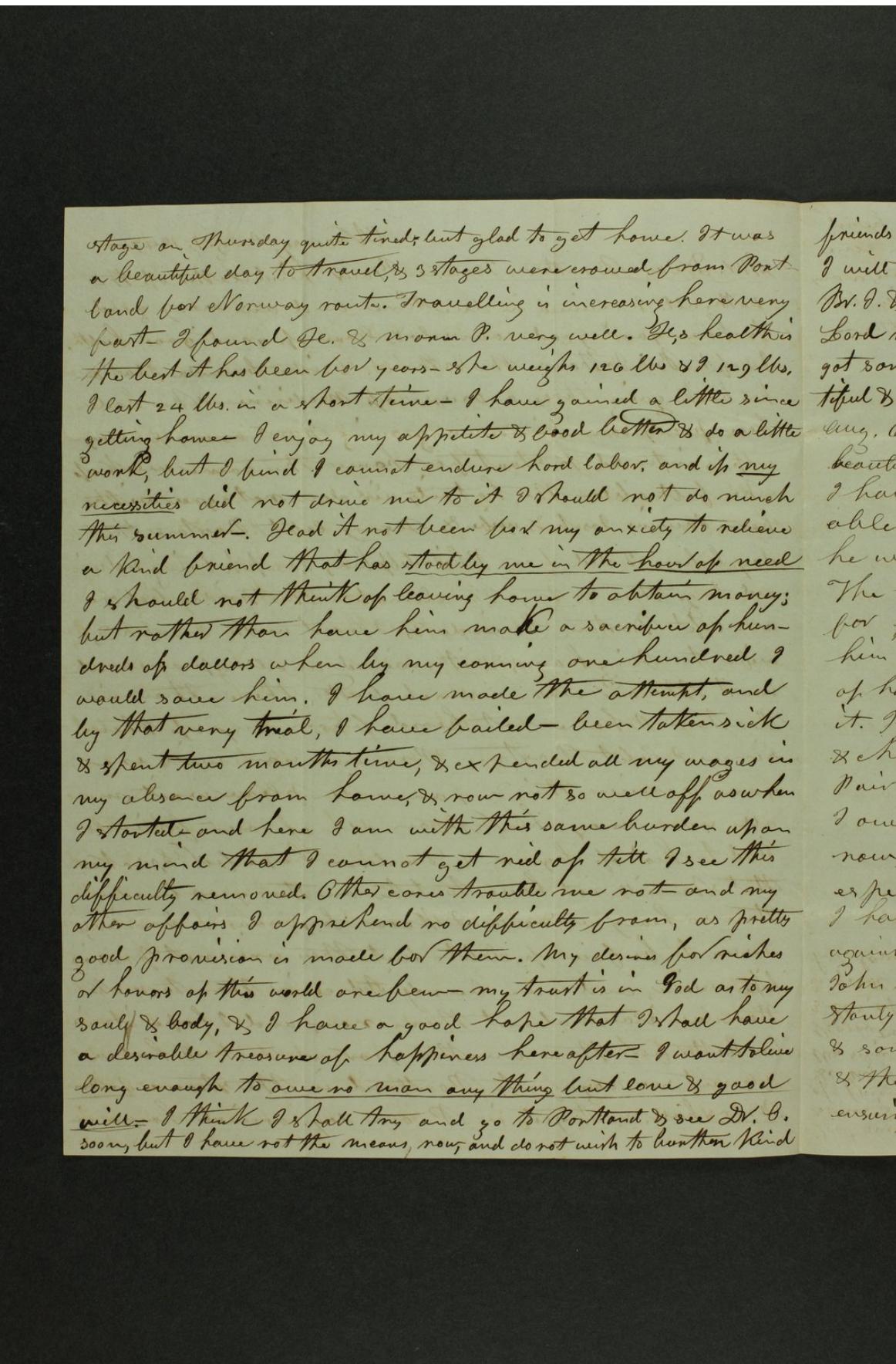
Mr. Dear Brother Isaac Your kind letter of the 20th ult. I received in due time and am very glad to have your good counsel & claim of good health. I left Brt. Gothams the 13th ult. & sister Louinda flat on her back going thro' a course of Medicine & she had been poorly some time & was growing poor as well as myself. I intended to start for home the same week if she felt able the hot dry air does not agree with her. Cousins Joseph & wife & Henry left Boston the day before I did for Philadelphia, Joseph being advised to go there to try the climate—the Friday before we left Boston Louinda & I went with Joseph & wife to Flingham, & it renewed us all up amazingly most the air was so much better there than in Boston—I have not heard from any of them since I left Boston. I presume you will soon receive this, & you will please write me all you may hear from all of our friends. Glad to hear of Lyman & Emeline hope but I suppose that she will not have to take another year burden there so heavy as now I know Lymans & Emelines desire to be free of debt—but they are not pressing like mine, and can be adjusted easier than to make themselves slaves about them now, and I hope it will be better for them another year at least. I had a pleasant sea voyage to Portland in the steamer John Marshall, & stayed in P. one day, arrived home in

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friends any more. Respecting the state of our other affairs I will try to write another day. I have had a good meeting to-day. Bro. J. S. & sister L. were very kind to me while in B-n. Othe Lord reward them a hundred fold, is my prayer. They have got some beautiful grave stones for Deatty - all nature is beau-
tiful & full of God's goodness.—

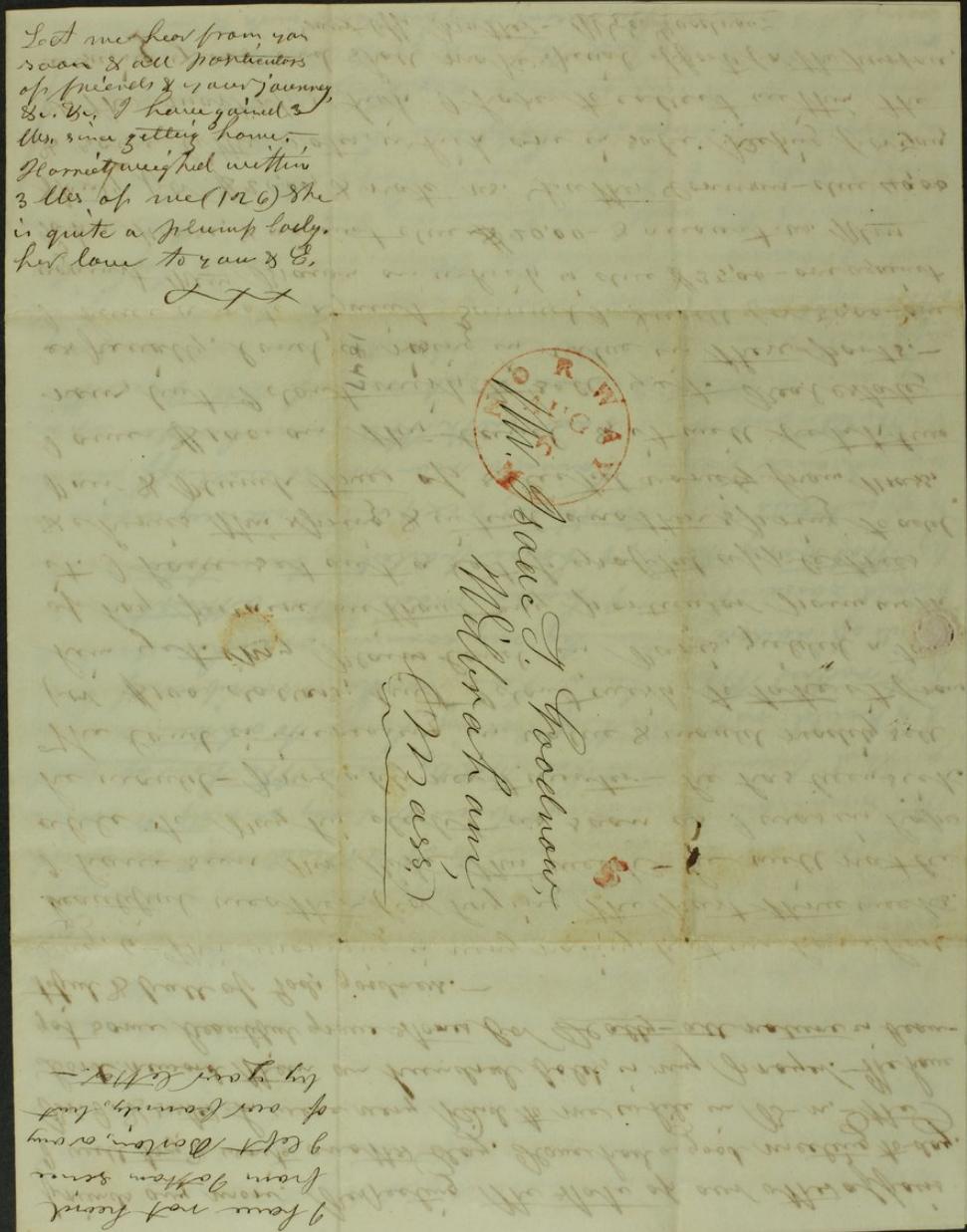
Aug. 6—This morning is very rainy, but we have had
beautiful weather for having the past three weeks.
I have seen Mr. Nick this week & he will not be
able to pay his debt as soon as I was in, hopes
he would—probably next winter—he has been sick.
The land is increasing in value & would readily sell
for \$100 dollars; but I don't wish to take it from
him yet. My Plains land in Paris, yielded a ton
of hay per acre without any particular pains with
it. I have set out a lot of grafted apple trees
& cherries this spring, & intend another spring to add
Pawpaw & Plum trees of selected variety from Mass.
I owe \$100 on this land, & it will be ten two
now, but I don't wish to sell yet. Real estate,
especially, land, is rising in value in these parts.—
I have a note against Samuel J. Dusell for 5000—one
against New Haven co. which is due \$35,00—one against
John Moore, & account due \$20,00—& account vs. Wm
Stout for \$20,00, & note vs. Luther Conover—due 40,00
& some little notes, which one is sub. Keeping for you
& the rest of, which I hope to collect within the
ensuing year, and shall make special efforts for the purpose,
Yours aff. Brother - I. G. Goodnow

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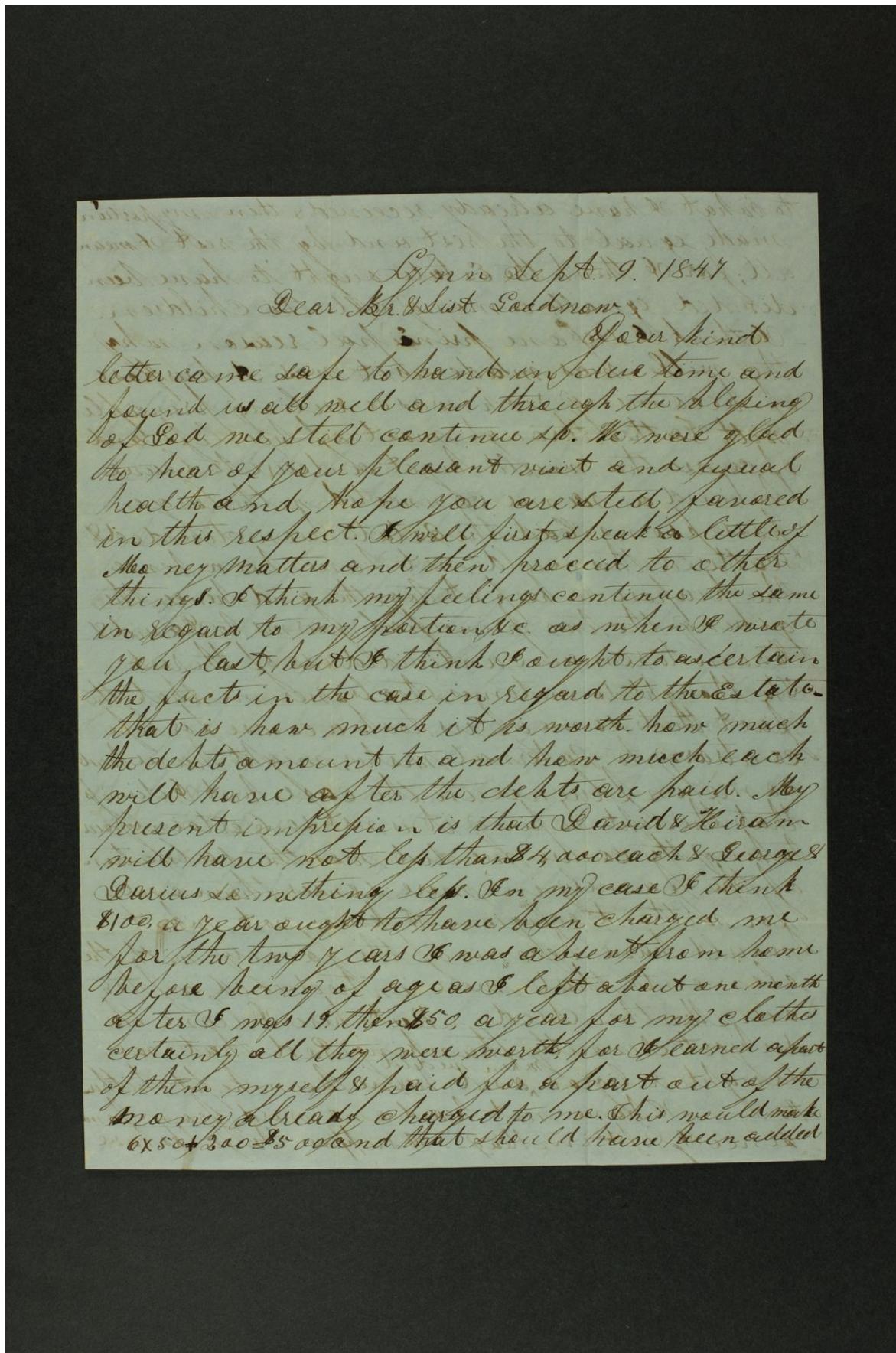


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to what I have already received & then my portion
made equal to the rest, and by the rest I mean
all; for I think the estate ought to have been
divided equally among all the children.

I think ~~it~~ see ^{one} principal reason why
the will was made as it was. A purpose
of becoming rich was a ruling principle
with Father through most of his life and
of course this would beget a desire to leave
behind a name connected with large
possessions. Had the estate been divided &
scattered this could not have been hence,
the purpose to keep it together and hence the
giving of the two principal farms to David &
Heiram to remain undivided & so of the rest.

I thought sometimes steals over me that the
fact that some of us took a course for life
contrary to paternal wishes, might have had
some influence in the case, but I dismiss
that thought hoping it is not so. Certainly
taking the course we did was the salvation
of the family in more senses than one.
for without religion I know not what
would have become of the family with the
elements that were introduced after
our Mother died. But here I leave the
subject devoutly thanking God that we
so right religion, ^{when you die} and have been kept hitherto.

I have not heard one word from ^{an} older brother
since I left in May - I suppose the folks have

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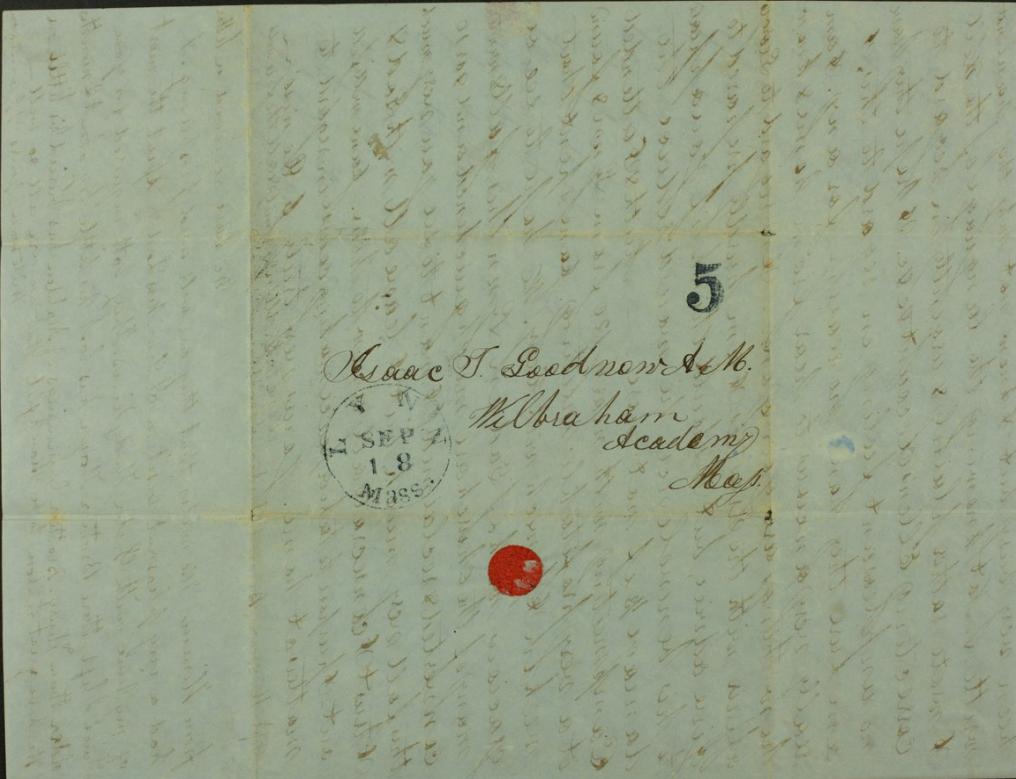
been very busy but I knew not why they have not written. Not knowing the language of the Will I wrote rather plainly & briefly in regard to correcting Ellen's account &c &c. I hope they have no unpleasant feeling in regard to this. I am sure they have no reason for any. I am really very anxious to hear from home & know how things are going on. In regard to George's affair with the Trustees I am hardly prepared to give advice, but I should think if you appeal to his benevolence he would reduce the damage if not more. — Ruth & I attended Campmeeting with nearly 130 from Lynn & found it a very profitable meeting. Jane spent that week in Ipswich with Henry. We hope to see a gracious work of God in Lynn this fall & winter. Many of the church are much quickened and 9 or 10 converted & reclaimed. I want to see you very much this fall very much, but I leave all with God & trust to consecrate all anew to him. Jane will go out & purpose to take a peacemaking course in regard to matters at home. Yours very truly, J. De Rose, —
Sept 16 Dear Bro and Sister Goodnow —
Lose to Dr. Allen & family & all the friends

We have received a letter from Hiram. He writes that they are well and prospering. I had a very pleasant visit in I saw Miss Lord & spent the most of my time with Sister Hodgen. They both inquired for you. Since I left there Brother Thayer has lost his little boy about 2 months older than Henry. Brother Cummings of Malden has buried his little one. We have great reason to be thankful that we are all so well —

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Norway Oct. 24, 1847—

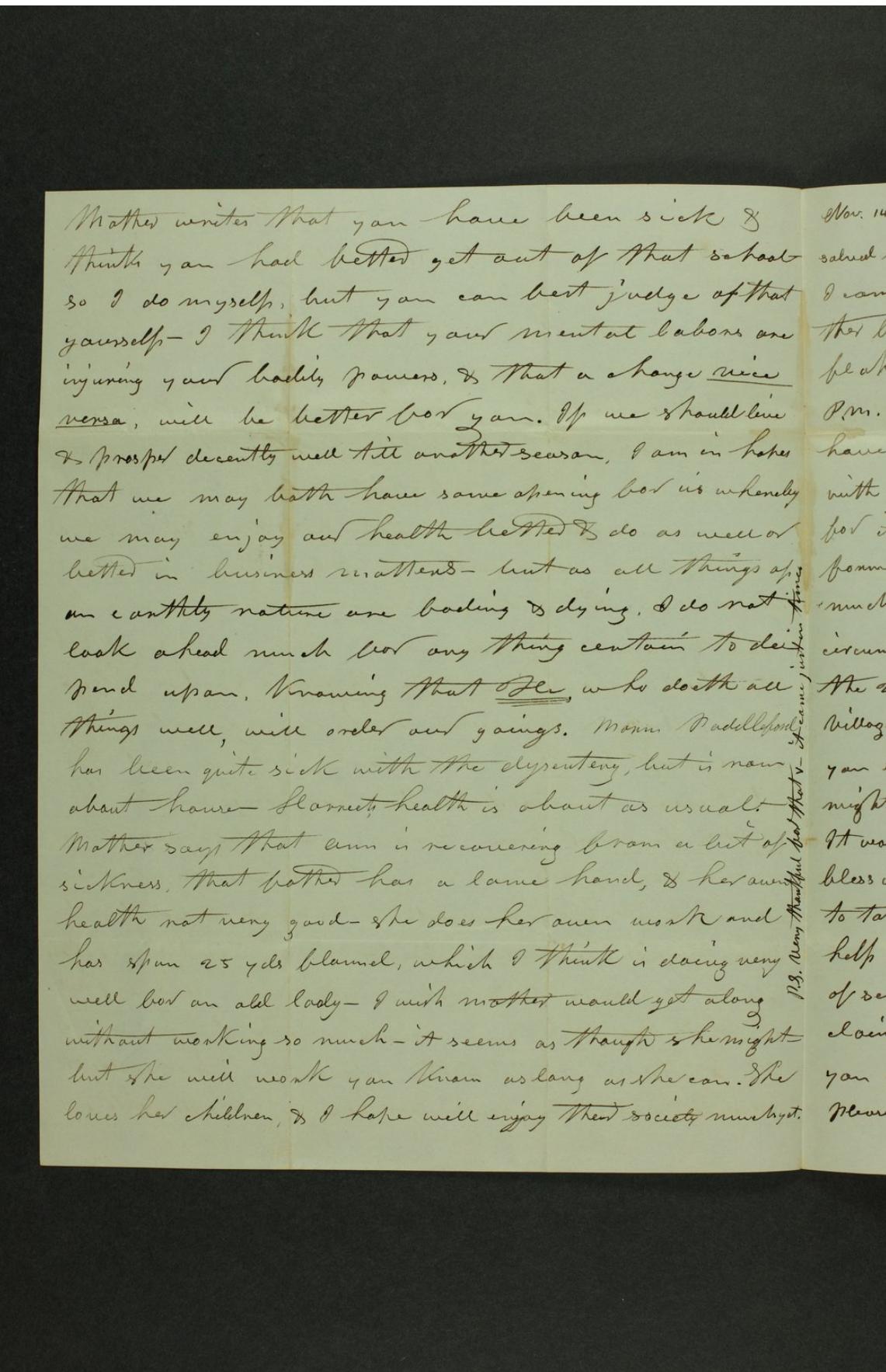
My Dear Brother—I find on looking over letters from our family, that it is now over two months since your last was received, & I think I will begin one in return. Soon after the reception of your letter my health began to improve & the first of September I began to feel as of old—good appetite, free from cough, & a general freeness from debility & pain, so much so, that I commenced work sawing lumber five miles from home & continued there mostly for a month, and I gained in flesh, looks & feeling, & enjoyed Sept. the best I have any month for a good while. I gained 15 lbs in a few weeks and am now about my usual weight for this time of year.—I have used the tube, & been more careful about exposing myself to night & damp air. I am at home now doing something in the stone trade, which a friend supplies all I can sell, which is now quite a help to me, as I can be at home & not work very hard.—The weather is getting cold, & I shall try to keep myself from being exposed much to bad weather. I received a letter from Mother & S. Sunday last week. They informed me of the death of Sister Jane, Sarah Joseph, & Steunys son & daughter.—

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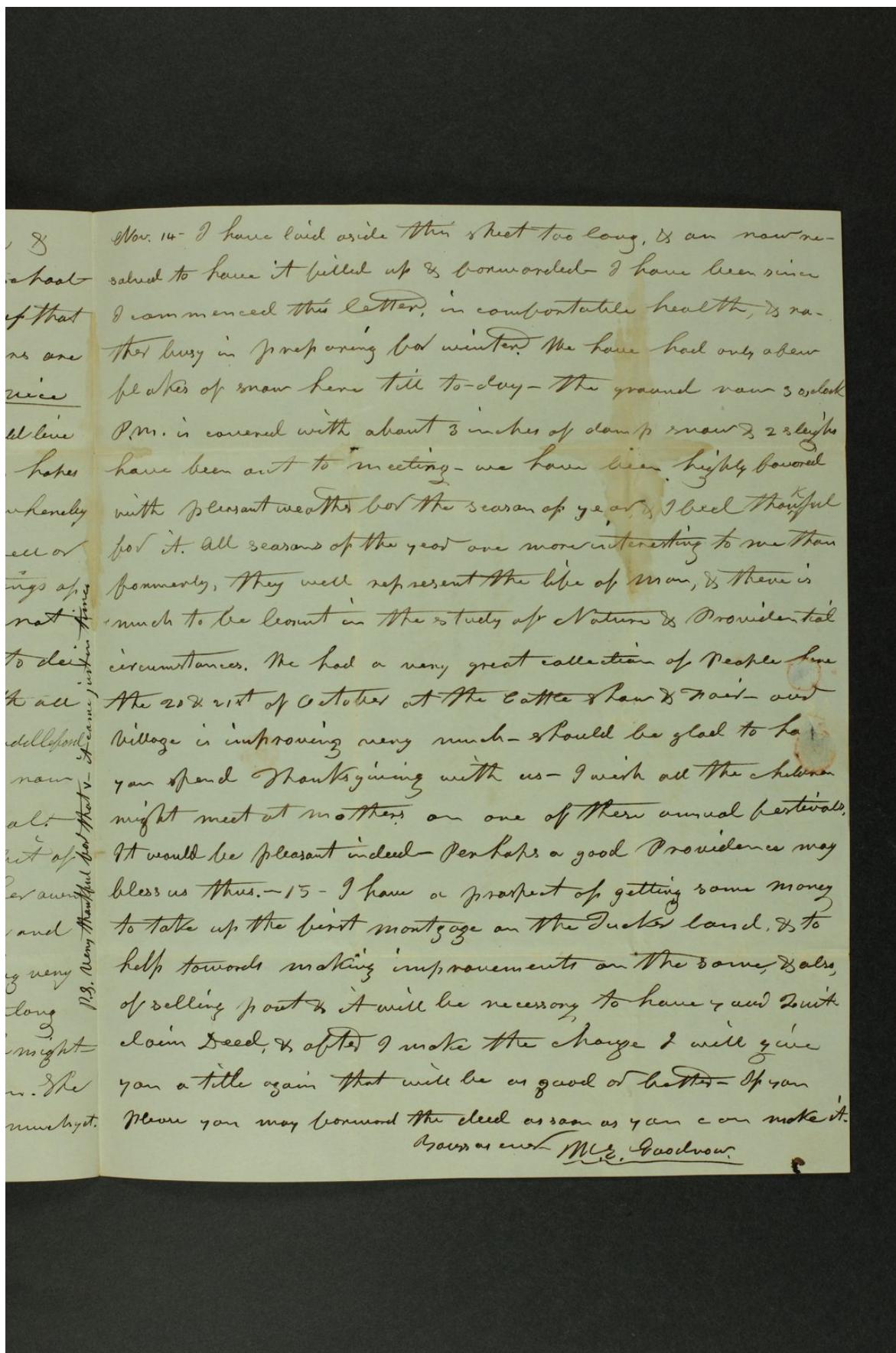


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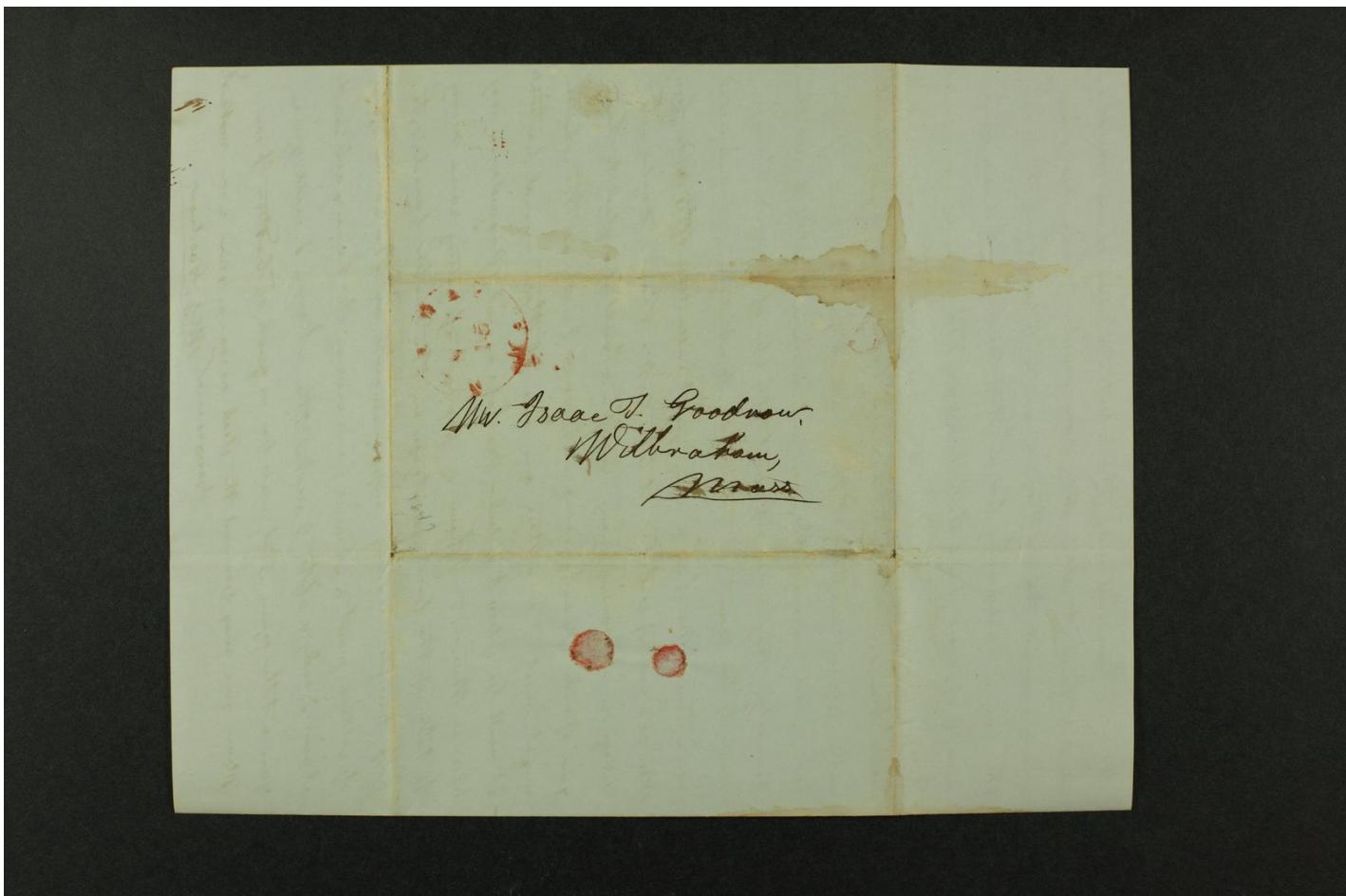
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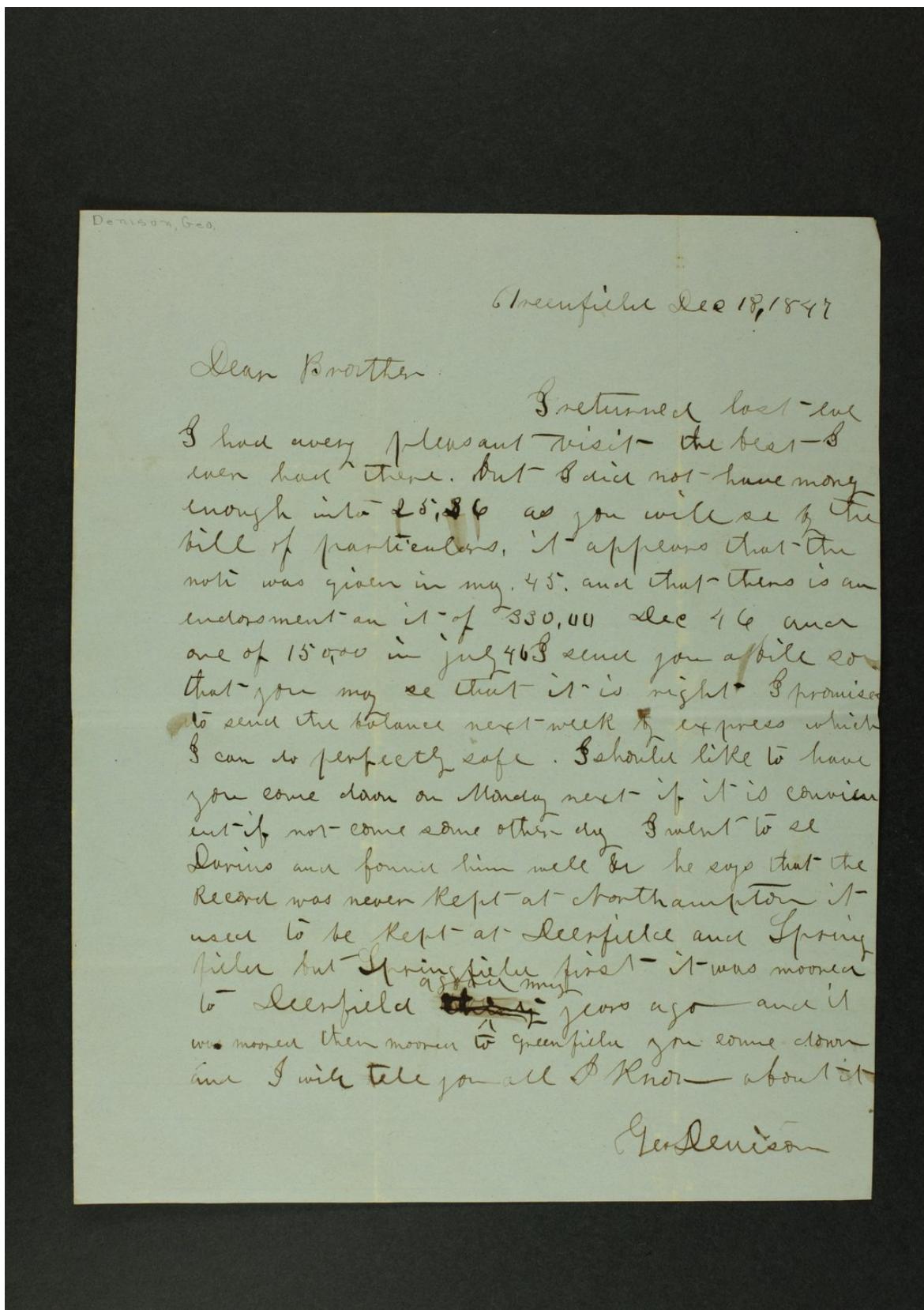


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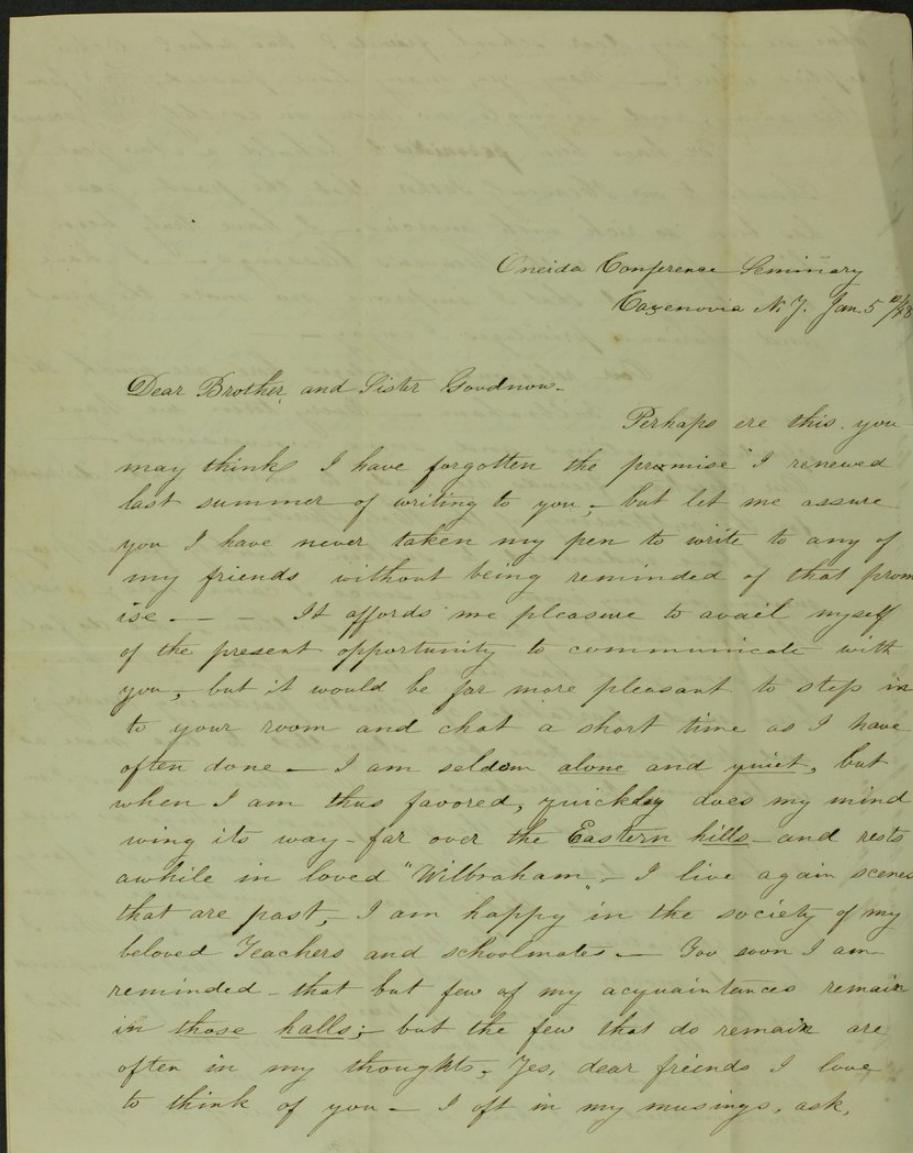


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Oneida Conference Seminary
Cazenovia N.Y. Jan. 5/35

Dear Brother and Sister Goodnow.

Perhaps are this you may think I have forgotten the promise I renewed last summer of writing to you; but let me assure you I have never taken my pen to write to any of my friends without being reminded of that promise. It affords me pleasure to avail myself of the present opportunity to communicate with you, but it would be far more pleasant to step in to your room and chat a short time as I have often done. I am seldom alone and quiet, but when I am thus favored, quickly does my mind wing its way - far over the Eastern hills and resto awhile in loved "Witzerland". I live again scenes that are past, I am happy in the society of my beloved Teachers and schoolmates. How soon I am reminded that but few of my acquaintances remain in those halls; but the few that do remain are often in my thoughts, yes, dear friends I long to think of you - I oft in my musings, ask,