

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 28, Pages 811 - 840

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

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 307637

Item Identifier: 307637

www.kansasmemory.org/item/307637

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

On a written correspondence. My
friends all complain very much, it
is a great task for one to write a
little journal of & write a letter
one should not dislike it so
much. I have been taking care of
long for the last week. so
I have been trying to take care of
myself, and the weather is poor
bad influenza and like all
other diseases and finally
I insist upon going out for the
Ind the first of October to give up to explore the case of George Washington,
and stay in the house. And I hope that you are better than
I am happy to say that I am very well summer. As you
are, is now quite well. Last evening think that the medicine George gave
you was speaking of you & you did you any good? I do
desperately wish to go and Rufus Chandler quite often. he is
the man that I should be most well and always seems in good
shape to do myself out summer. George had a letter from
I think you should visit him his brother William Abbot Weston he
had invited for New York is pleasant spoke of coming on to New York &
or there or any other seasons. George said anything that he should

Kansas Memory



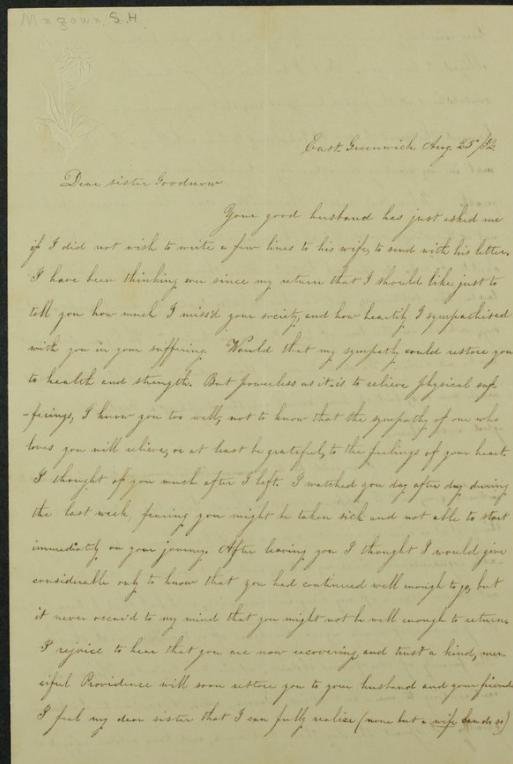
Isaac Goodnow correspondence

I wish that my friend were. it seems
to me that there can be nothing to
prevent his coming. I think he would
enjoy a visit here from March past
and you have a good deal to
see, and some very fine music
to hear. George has a pair of
horses and I expect a great many
fine birds this Spring. We are
thinking of spending the summer
at Albany Hamilton, or some place
near New York. You George can
drive into the city. I have written
you my usual letter, but I hope
that you will not be vexed at
from answering it. Next time I will
will write longer and try to
the letter. George will be in New
England to you, yourself and
yourself. Affectionately yours
I. G.

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

how exceedingly trying it must be to you to have your husband obliged to leave you. But I know too that you have the consolation of the gospel to support you, that long years ago you learned the great lesson of beholding God in all things. I met in my reading the other day a beautiful sentence which pleased me greatly. "When God smites the smitten man should receive the blow not as the stone would, but as the man would; or rather as the truest child of God. Is the cup bitter? Men should have the sensibility to taste the bitterness, but he should also taste the sweet drops in the cup which are the love of his Father in heaven." Religion does not make us strict. We do taste in all their intensity the bitter drops that are in our cups but oh how sweet are the drops of a Father's love mingled with them.

I would try to communicate to some interesting news to interest you but I suppose your husband has already told you every thing that is new or agreeable among us. I have found some very agreeable acquaintances since my return, and regret especially that they had not known sooner of my being in Greenwich, as I feel that I have lost the pleasure of many agreeable hours of intercourse with them. The family of Mr. James Adams, at the first works. They are all interesting to me but Miss Brown, Mrs. Adams' sister I admire greatly. I spent the day there last week, and have seldom enjoyed a

day more. I would you here to enjoy it with me. She also lent me some books to read, the beauties of which I want you to admire with me. I find my joys in Greenwich are not half complete without you to share them. This has been a very pleasant resting place for my mind & spirit. I trust that in the desire I felt to return, even before the close of the vacation. But without brother and sister Goodnow it would not have been what I find it is to me.

Mr. Brewster preached for us yesterday morning, and I assure you he gave us a rich treat. As far as public qualifications are concerned we cannot calculate on going between him and his predecessor. It does my heart good to contemplate our noble band of预achers and to see the institution so flourishing. No sticks to bot much, and more have been added since then.

I shall expect to see you and Miss Bird. Livingston on her return, if you are not able to return sooner. Amanda seems to miss you as we all do. She and Alice send their love. What God my forever keep and bless you, my dear sister, and returning you again safely unto us, is the prayer of

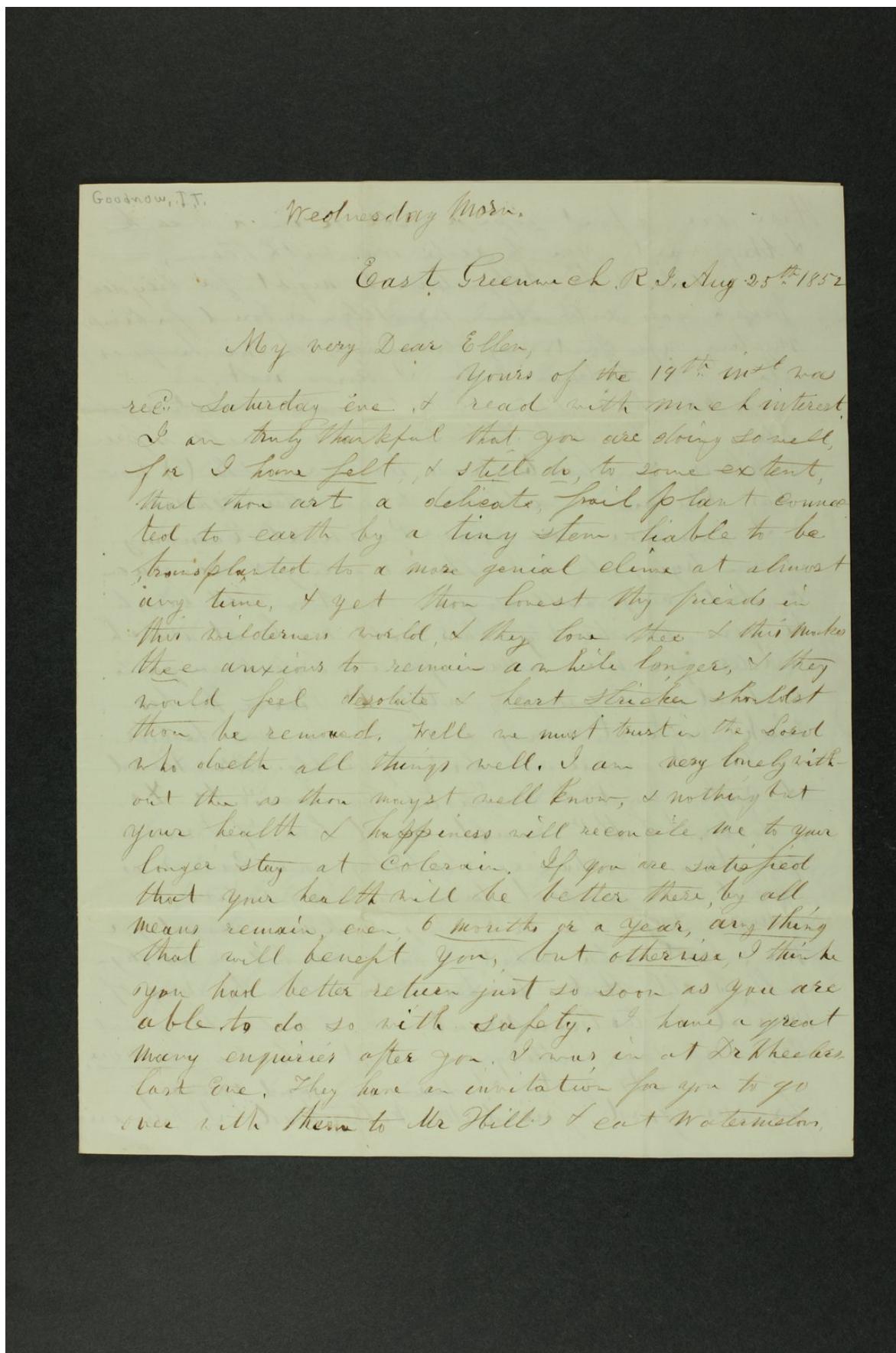
Your affectionate friend
I. H. Mayhew.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

These are about ripe & will be in a week
& they want you to ride over with them,

Allen & Mr Allyn leave to night for Leyden,
Joseph goes with them Mr Allyn is bound for Camp
Meeting up that way somewhere, whether he goes
the whole distance to L I know not.

We have 175 students & the school is going
along finely. Miss Fairley is doing well as pre-
ceptor & Elizabeth as teacher. She (is) now
has Rhetoric in addition to her other classes.

I have one new class, Political Economy.
I am trying to take things easily, & have suc-
ceeded very well so far. But it will have to
be gone considerably - this will make it much
harder for me. Many of our students are quite
inclined to Dysentery. Miss R Pierce has been
sick with it nearly a week, is now better.

Br Queeneau is doing grandly. Br Howard
& wife went to see "Lester Goodnow." Dr. Xe,
"Lots & Lots" would send box if I would
give them a chance. Saturday your Piano was
opened for the first time since my return, &
Mary Ann Smith & Miss Beckam played for
me; that with what I have thumbed on it my-
self is all that has been done here by way of
musical entertainment. I shall be glad
to see you sitting on that stool ~~or a more~~.

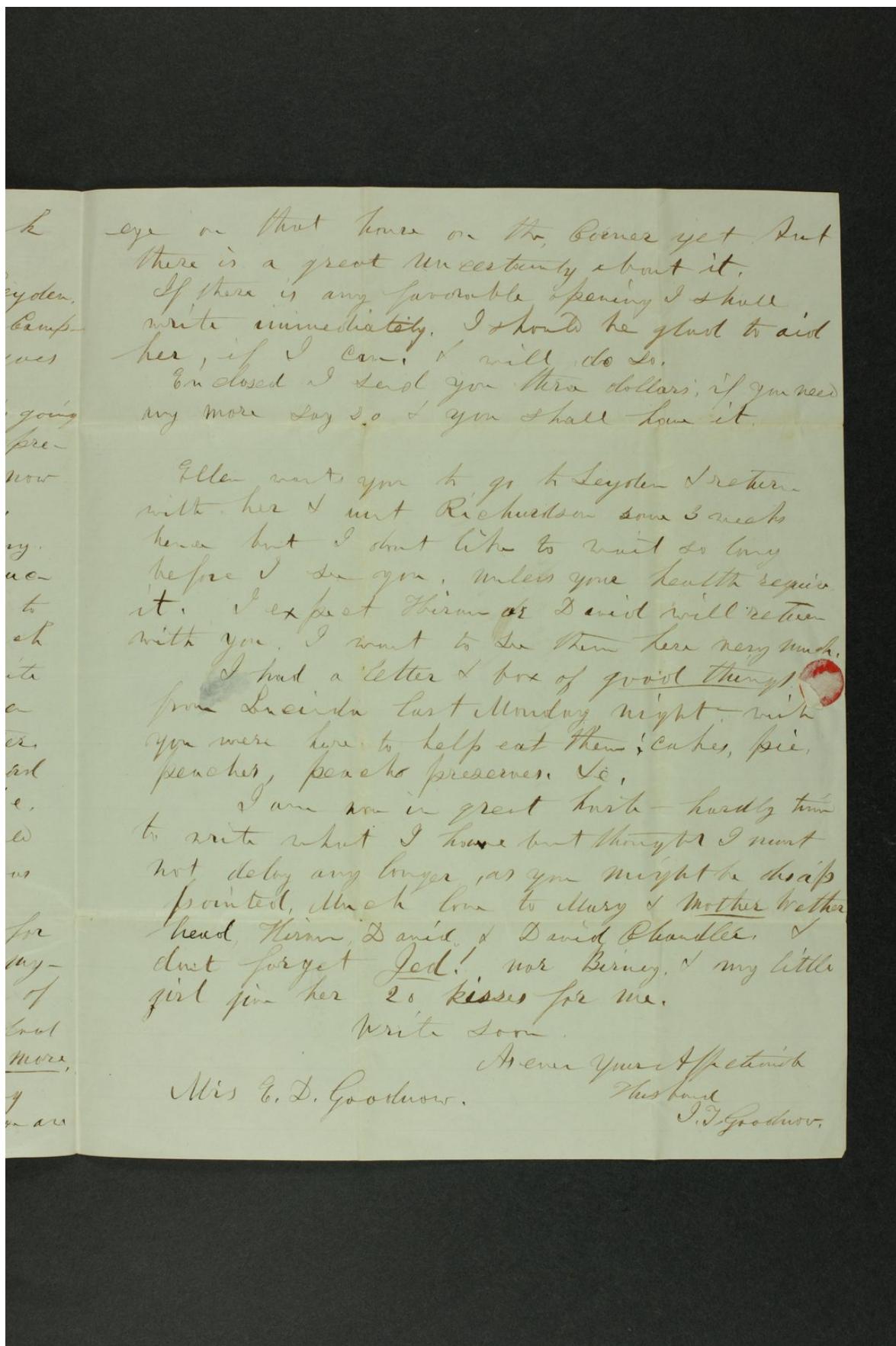
As yet I see no good opening
for our good friend Mrs Wetherhead. I hear no

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

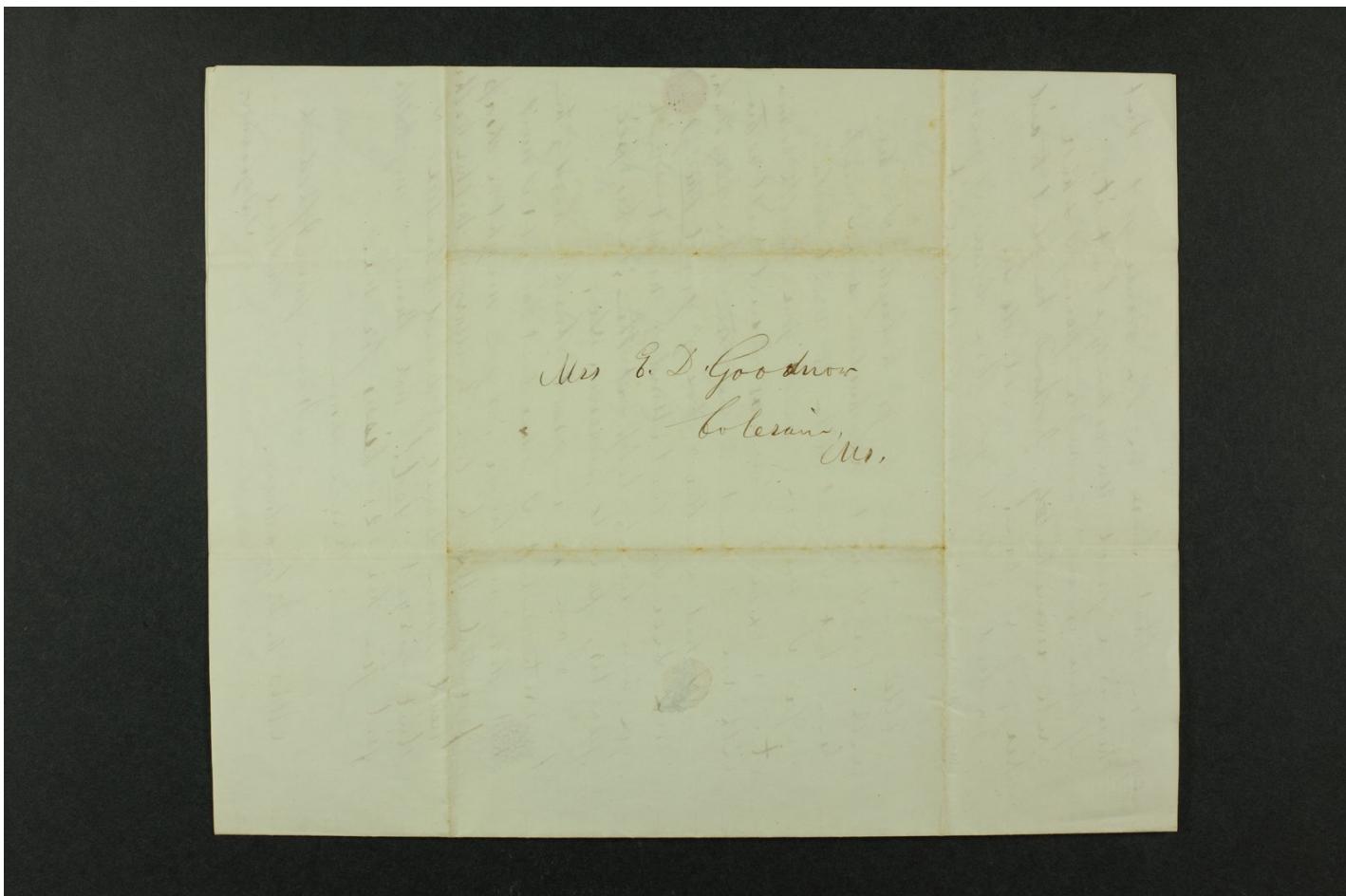
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

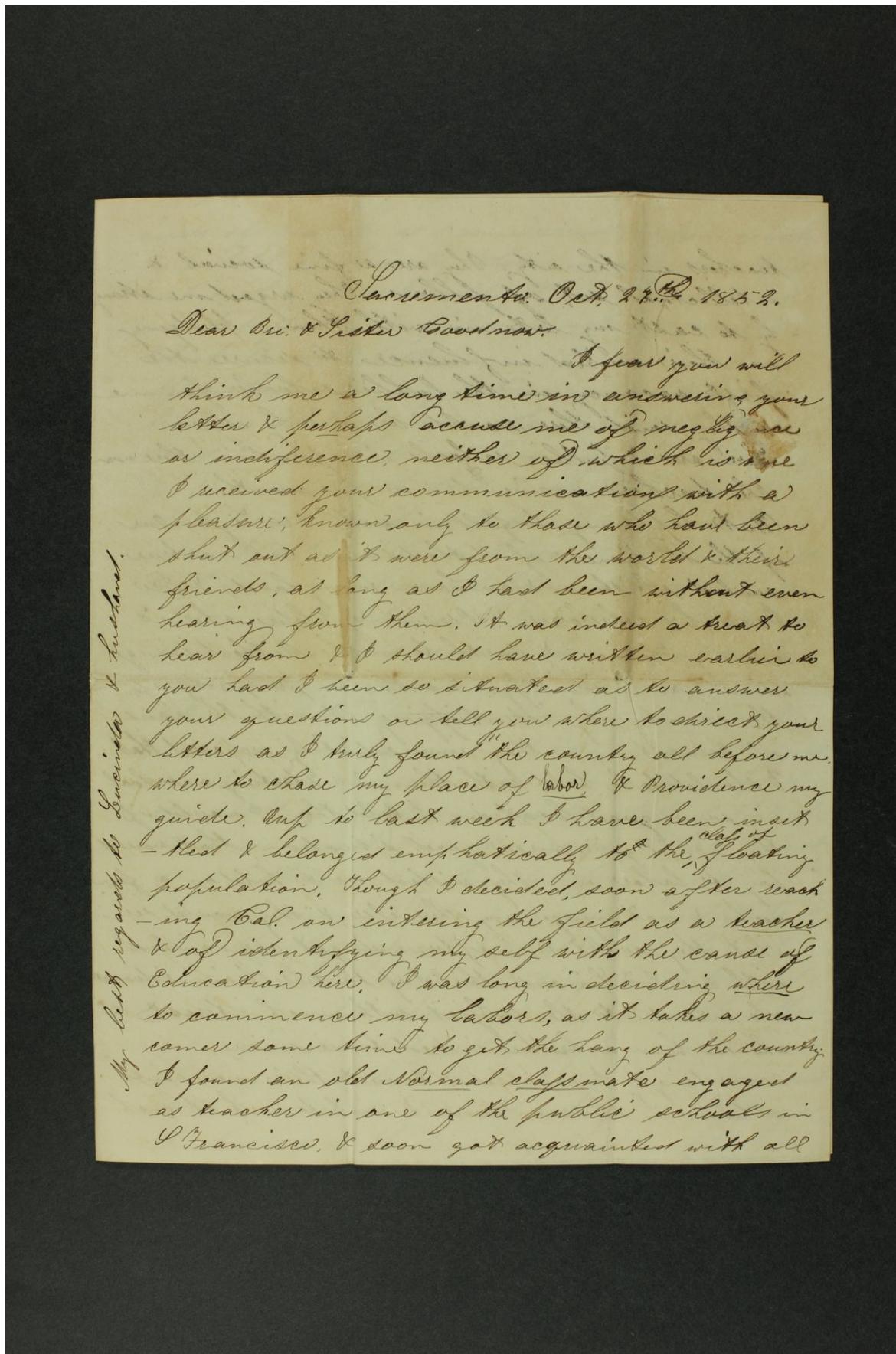


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

teachers in the city. They are a fine social & intellectual set of fellows. They urged me strongly to cast my lot in with them, - pledging me their united influence to secure the first vacancy in the public schools for me & they said there would be one by Nov.

There are 7 public schools in operation there now the teachers receive \$150. or per month.

But happening to fall in with Bro. Taylor one of the P.P. pioneers of Methodism in Cal. - a true soulless Christian & an honor to my land, & Bro. Owen, his collaborer & Presiding Elder, who is moving Heaven & Earth to make Methodism go ahead & at the same time identify it with the prosperity of the country, by identifying it with the cause of Education - they immediately proposed that I should take hold with them in starting a school in some good location. I told them I would if they would give me a good situation that would pay to labor in. They wished me to hold on a few weeks & not engage any where else, & they would see what they could do. I afterwards got acquainted with Bro. J. D. Birney, the Ed of the Christian Advocate who entered into the subject with much interest & who has been a brother indeed to me since.

accordingly I concluded to wait their movements awhile. in the mean time I went to work at such

hired
in a
& at
not
& too
After
told
so as
3 w
which
best to
Bro C
- ciat
to
- mar
state
have
me
show
Dem
be a
The
soon
mos
over
glas
start
desir
the

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

I X
me strong
slaying
the
for me
~
there now
is one
true
& Bre
is
in go
of
cause
et that
school
let up
& would
a few
let see
indeed
Advocat
est &
ements
& such

first off business as I came across, up from a waiter
in a hotel, up to a day laborer in a harvest field
& at such wages as I could get. I was determined
not to lay idle, & if I could not get one place
I took the next best.

After about losing my patience in waiting, they
told me that they were about to start 2 or 3
academies & I should have my choice in the
3 if I would take hold & stick by them, to
which I agreed, and went to work again with
better spirit at Santa Clara. Last Friday night
Bro Owen came there & told me that at the assem
bly of preachers at S. Francisco, they had decided
to send me to Sacramento to build up a Semi
nary there. He said it was the best location in the
state - that the brethren there were anxious to
have me come on immediately & would assist
me to their utmost - that it was the centre &
strong hold of Methodism in the state & that the
Seminary must & would succeed. & that I must
be on the ground by Sun. to report myself.

The next morning (Sat) I decided to undertake it
took the stage for S Francisco & by the next
morning was here in the city, having traveled
over 200 miles. When I got here I found the brethren
glad to see me, but nothing had been done towards
starting the school the next day as Bro Owen had
desired me to do. I could not get a meeting of
the trustees of the Seminary together till Wed.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

In the mean time I commenced operations on my own hook, & canvased the city for pupils. I went into business in true Cal. style I assure you. It reminded me of my Greenwich Campaign only I felt I had a little more to stimulate me. Wednesday night I got the Trustees together & reported progress. They appeared very much pleased with the course I had adopted & the success I had met with. They said that all they wanted known was, "that I had got some back bone to me & a good deal yearned," & in the 2^d place "that I was qualified to teach the school if we could get one started". They said they found I was just the man they wanted on the 1st head, & they would now proceed to examine me on the 2^d. The result was that they appeared quite pleased with their teacher & appointed me principal of Sacramento Seminary for one year, with power to conduct it as I saw fit or should deem most judicious - placing themselves to assist me to the utmost of their abilities in filling it with students. Now Bro. Goodnow I will ~~not~~ state as near as I can how things stand, & in the next place make you an offer. But as I am hurried to death (almost) just now I must do it in a hasty & perhaps incoherent manner; but I will be as explicit as I can. The mail closes in the morning for the East & I delayed writing to the last moment, that I might be the better acquainted & with the state of affairs. I think I can now give you a tolerable correct account of the school.

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Direct your letter to Isaac Royal & Rogers
Mr. Rogers is our minister & a loyal good fellow, but as his name
is mentioned with him, it seems he did him to have him hold of his name.

Brother Rogers has sold off his
books, papers, & so on, & is now
in no way very comfortable, though very well &
The Seminary, as you will see by the circular
that I enclose in the letter, was incorporated
over a year ago, & Prof Rogers appointed to
take charge of it, but not proving just the man
for the place, he resigned as per an account
of his health. Though this of course is between you
& me, Rogers is a fair man, but not calculated
to succeed as a teacher. The Trustees have purchased
a beautiful large lot in the city for the
Academy building & pledge themselves to build
in the Spring. In the mean time they give
me the use of a school house well fitted
up, free of rent, & I have all to can make
the lowest terms of tuition are \$5.00 per month
& from that up to \$12.00 per month for the
English branches. As soon as they can, they are
to build a large brick Seminary calculated to
accommodate 250 pupils & furnish it with
suitable apparatus & let me have it all free
of charge if I will teach the children &
receive the pay which I shall not object to if
any. Now if that is not a good offer, I don't
know what it is. & if I don't try to "cut and my
size" here - then set me down for a jack.
Tell you what it is, I am bound to spread myself
for the work. I never felt so much in my

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

element, as I do here. If I don't cut my name as large as life on the rising generation, then tell me so. But what is best of all have got a host of strong backers, who feel an interest in having the experiment succeed. It is emphatically a Methodist city. We have just built a splendid church here, the best in the State costing about \$20000, or the ladies last a fare about 3 weeks ago & raised about \$2000 or towards paying for it. This is the way they do things here & as soon as the church is completed they will tackle the Seminary & it must go. They could do any thing by the halves. A great part of the people here have got their families with them, or will bring them out in the Spring. Children are plenty here & they want them educated. & they want them educated at a Methodist institution or we do if they don't, and as there are no free schools, if we start a good academy here, we shall get them. They want I should have my wife come out in the Spring & take hotel with me, which I intend doing. Now Bro Goodnow my proposal is this.

If you would like to have my wife come out & teach that you might extend your usefulness you can not find a better or a wider field outside in Cal. than here. so every one tell me & as I believe. There is ample room for you & I both in it too, & I should not only be willing, but I

should
out
labor
& han
we c
I wa
& hi
that
by
-er.
lastly
can
Cal
out
ful
-sur
here
see
som
this
how
out
perf
here
thing
of de
Now
come

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

me as
in hell
a last
in having
ill or
splender-
ing about
weeks
ing for
as
the
thing by
gat
out in
want
at a
cont.
start
in the
of doing
is.
out &
fulness
~ fields
& do I
but
I

should be exceeding glad to have you come
out & take hold with me, I know we can both
labor usefully & profitably together.

I have been with you enough to know that
we can labor together without disagreeing.
I want some one with me & need some one
& know of no one that I could get, besides you
that would suit me. Unless you come I shall
try it alone, but I think we could do better togeth-
er. Come now! Pack up your studs & take your
lady & mine & come along. You will never be
caused to regret it. You will be delighted with
Cal. I believe it is the best country that lays
out of doors - I know there is not a more delight-
ful climate in the world. I never want to re-
turn to N.B. to live if I can get Augusta out
here I shall feel that I am at home. I want to
see some of my old friends & may visit them
some time, but if Augusta comes out as I
think she will in the Spring I shall make this my
home for the present. If you & Mr. Allyn were
out here with your families I believe I should be
perfectly contented. Mr. Allyn ought to be out
here - it's just the place for him. He'd make
things move to some purpose. But I have no hopes
of seeing him here at present.

Now what do you say to my proposal? will you
come & give us a lift. I can lift it myself

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

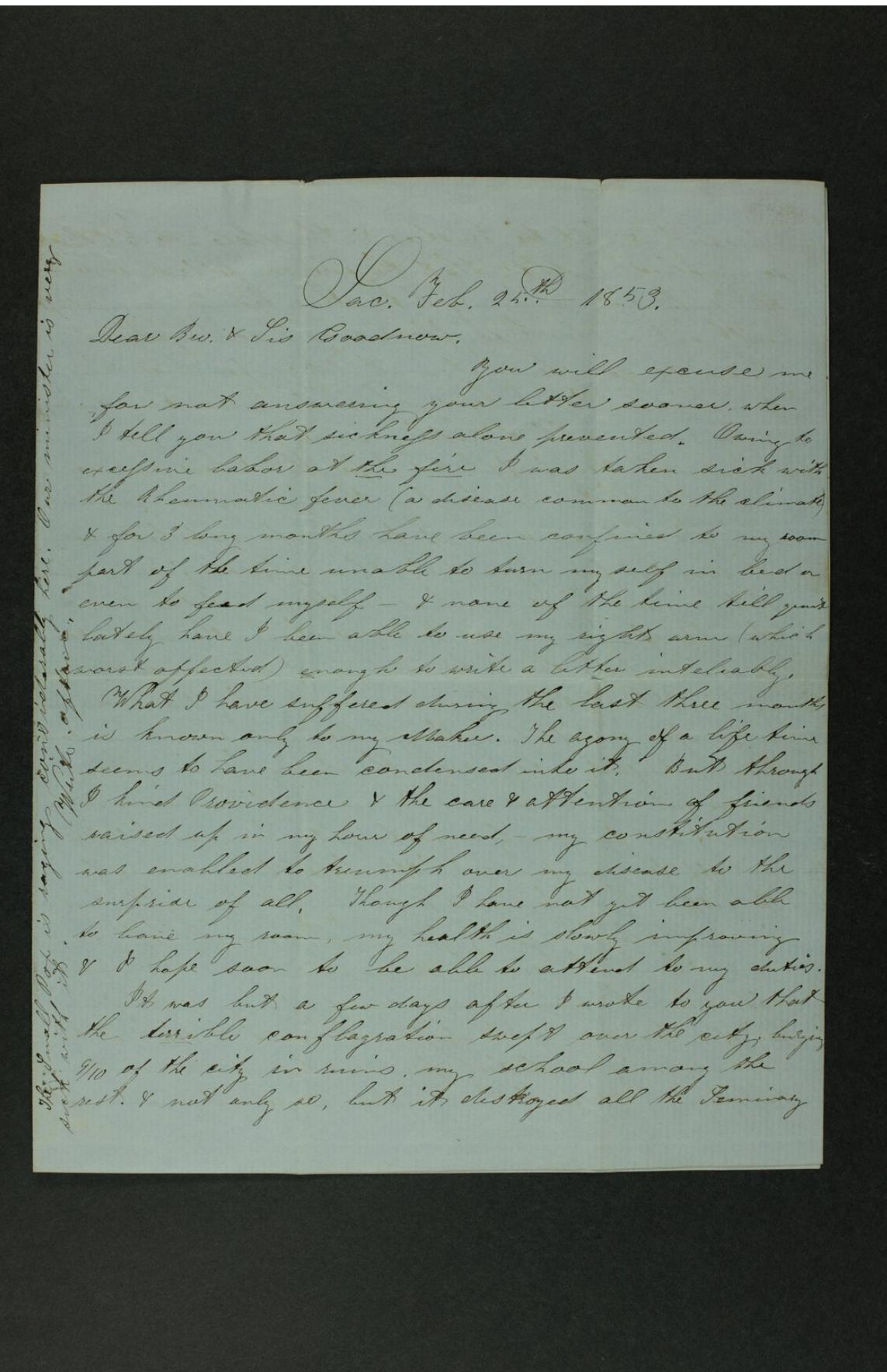
but if you were here, we could let a larger load. Come take our basket & come along. Bro Merritt one of the trustees of the academy is going home this winter after his family & offers to take charge of Augusta and she is a fine man & I think he shall make arrangements to have her come with him if you do not come. But I know she had rather come with you. If you come send all your things round by the train & come across. It pays well to bring all kinds of furniture as it is very high here. Buy all you want & send it as it is 3 or 4 times as high here. Clothing is not of as much consequence, as the price here is more reasonable - If you come, I wish you would purchase a good set of Chemical & Philosophical apparatus & ship it on so as to be here by the time you do. The trustees say they will pay for it. & it will assist us greatly in building up the institution. They have not the funds to send on for it now but one of them told me they would be ready to pay for it as soon as I could get it here & you can make something on it. If I can make the arrangements I want Augusta should come there & study drawing & painting & music till the comes. I shall not be able probably to do a great deal here till Spring as the rainy season is just setting in but I mean to have things ready to open the campaign in earnest in the Spring. Please write immediately. & often & I will do the same. write by return of mail what you think of it & what you will do. Of course you will show this scroll to no one as I have written it in great haste & I presume it is full of blunders. Augusta is at Brighton I expect. I have not received any letters by 2 or 3 of the last mails. Love to all J. Goodnow

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

prospect & left the trustees, & the whole M.-E. Church so involved in debts, that they were compelled to sell the splendid Seminary lots, thus leaving me adrift with out a plank to float on. I soon got into business for the winter at \$100.00 per month & found, when (as I before observed) I was struck down & have been able to nothing since.

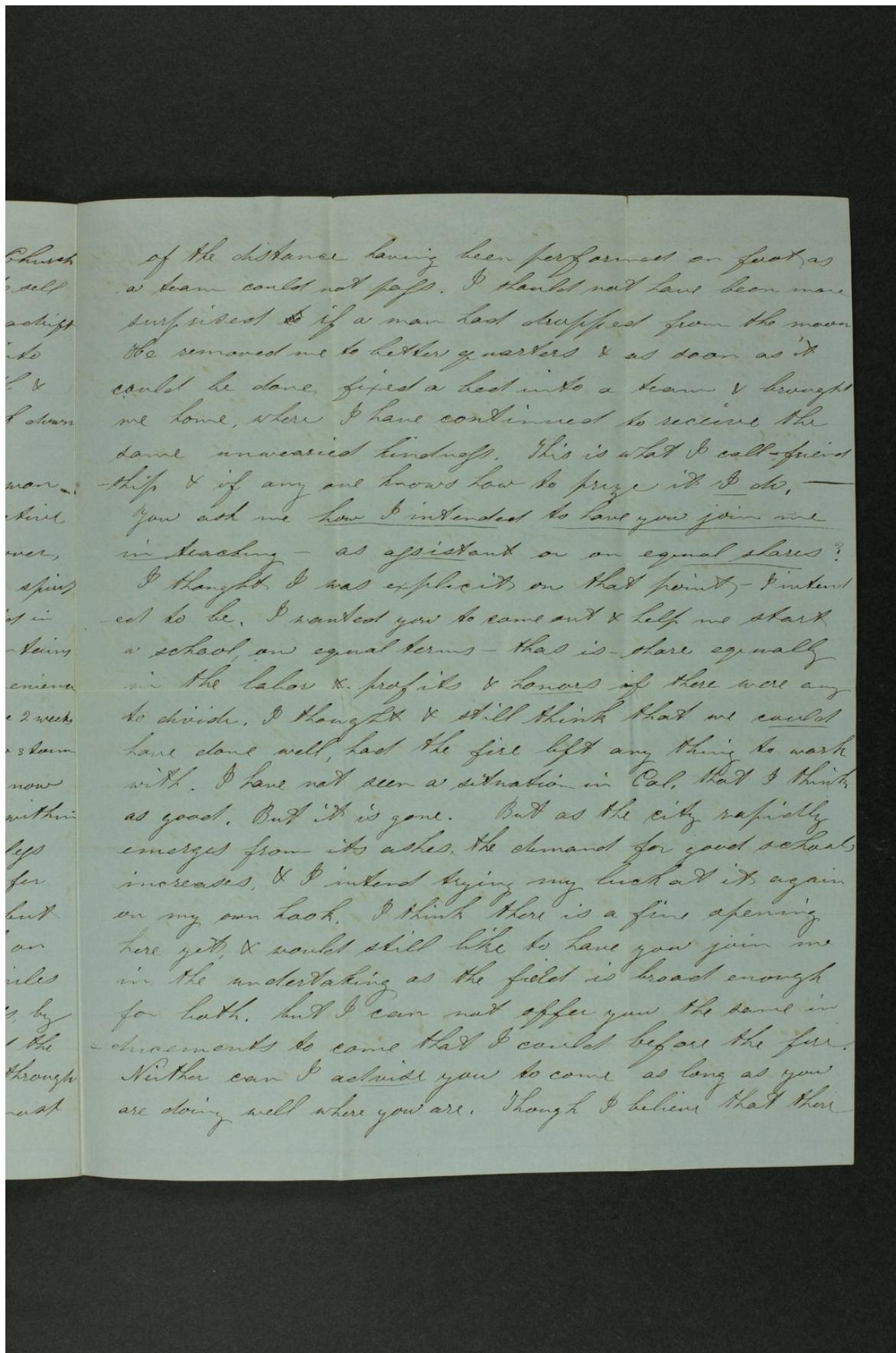
But still though afflicted I feel that I have been wonderfully blessed. For though in the midst of comparative strangers, God raised me up friends, who watched over, & provided for my wants with a self-sacrificing spirit that has never failed - such as I little expected to find in the wilds of Cal. I was taken sick in the mountains 45 miles from here, where deprived of every convenience of life, I had little chance to recover. I lay there some 2 weeks in an open shell of a house, through the most severe snow storm I ever witnessed - interspersed with deluging rains. The snow lay two feet deep on a level, & no mail had come within miles of me for nearly a fortnight. Then I was helpless - cut off from my friends, & little hopes of any change for the better. When who should enter my hut one night but Friend Wheeler, a young gent. I got acquainted with him the N. American. He was at work 150 miles off. when he providentially heard of my sickness, by way of a teamster - he dropped his work & started the next morning & started for Nevada mountains through the storm. It took him 5 days to reach me, much

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

is no place like this same Cal. for a person to settle in - with its boundless resources of wealth prolific soil - delightful scenery & unrivaled climate yet there is so much risk attending after all that I have ceased to advise any one to come. They must act for themselves. So many get discouraged & home sick, that I do not like to take the responsibility of advising one way or the other. I feel safe in saying, that no one should come with the idea of returning in one or two years - & what is worse leave his wife at home if a young man will bring a good wife and here with the design of settling for a few years - are prudent & prudering - There is no good reason why they may not soon scrape together enough to make them comfortable for life. (if they have their health) Thousands are rapidly growing rich & hundreds are losing all they had.

In answer to your questions on the climate. I think it unfavorable to consumptive people & more especially to bronchial affections. Dr. & the Hospital at S.F. said that owing the daily changes from hot to cold that the climate was very bad for those disorders & for rheumatic difficulties, as I have found to my sorrow. He said a great many were troubled along the sea coast & the low valleys with ulceration of the bronchial tubes. Still others think differently. The Climate is generally favorable to health & Bro. G. may find it beneficial. I should like to see him but can not induce. As Augusta will probably be with me in Apr. you need not look of us east till they get the R road through. I presume that you & half my friends will be this way before that event happens.

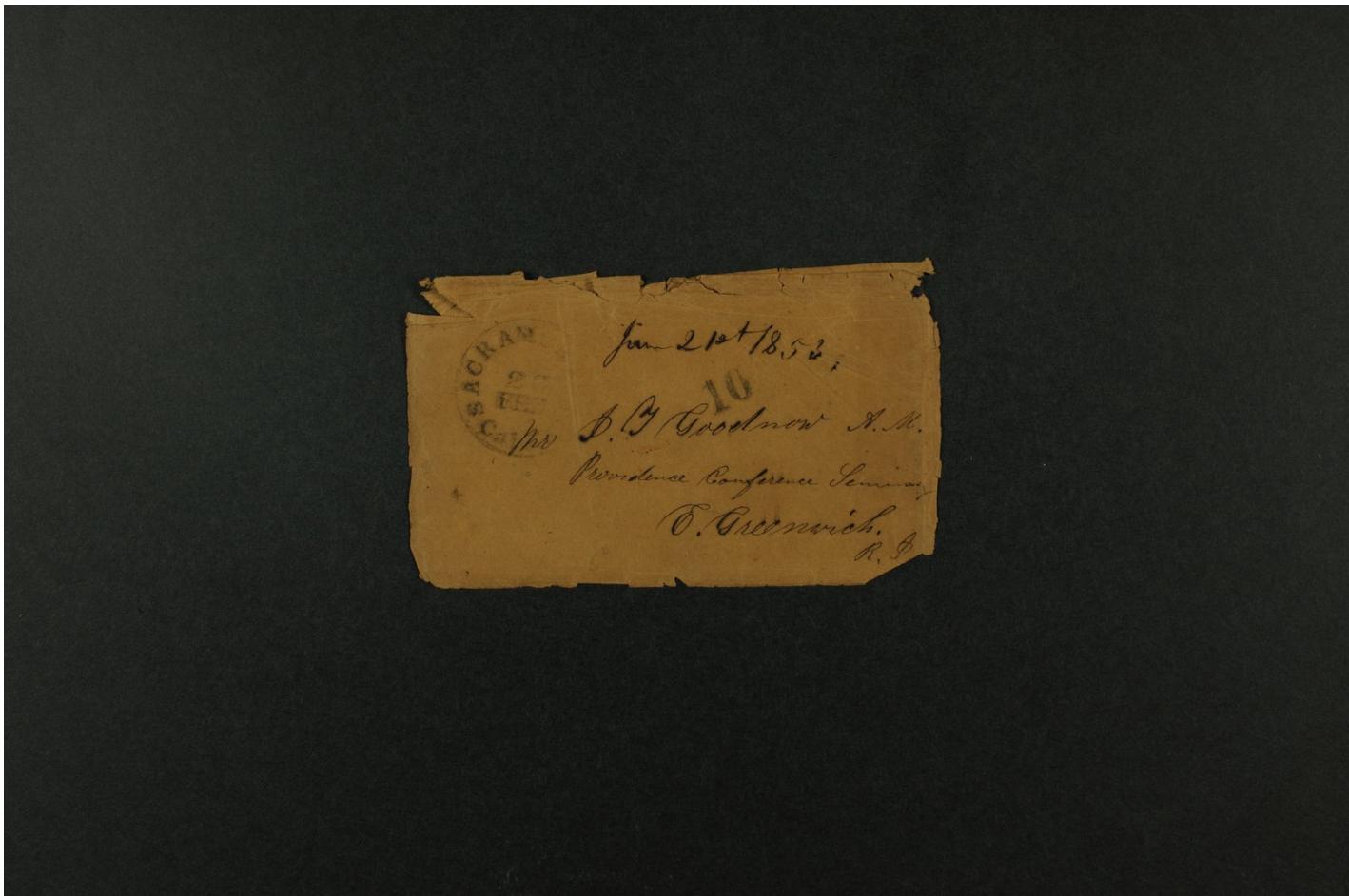
You will please remember that this is not for publication. I will write again by next mail & let you into the mysteries of the mineral kingdom of Cal. &c. Please remember me to Bro & Sister Allion. & the other old teachers. You will see that I find some difficulty using my pen yet.

Your Old friend Shattuck

Kansas Memory



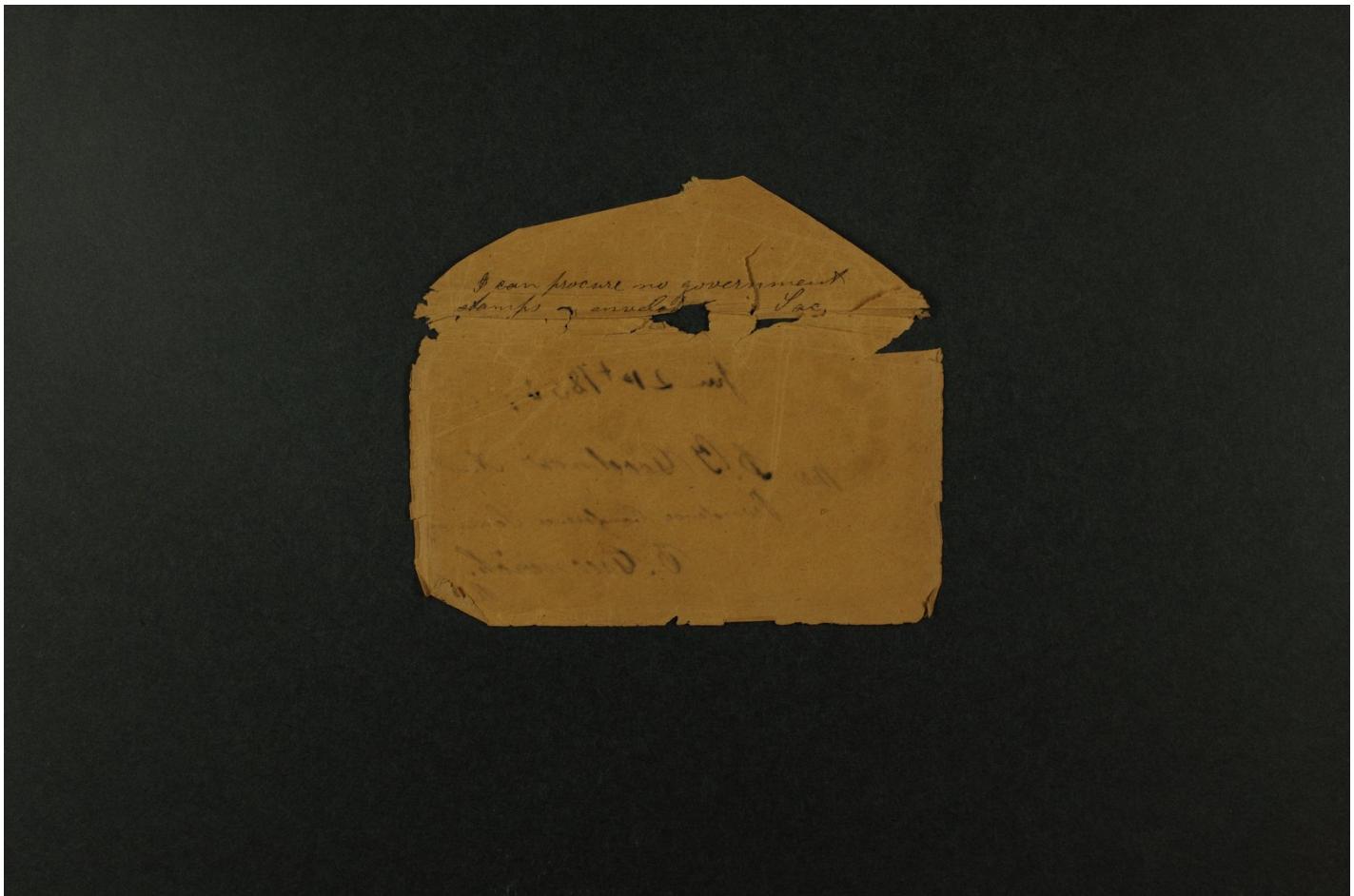
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



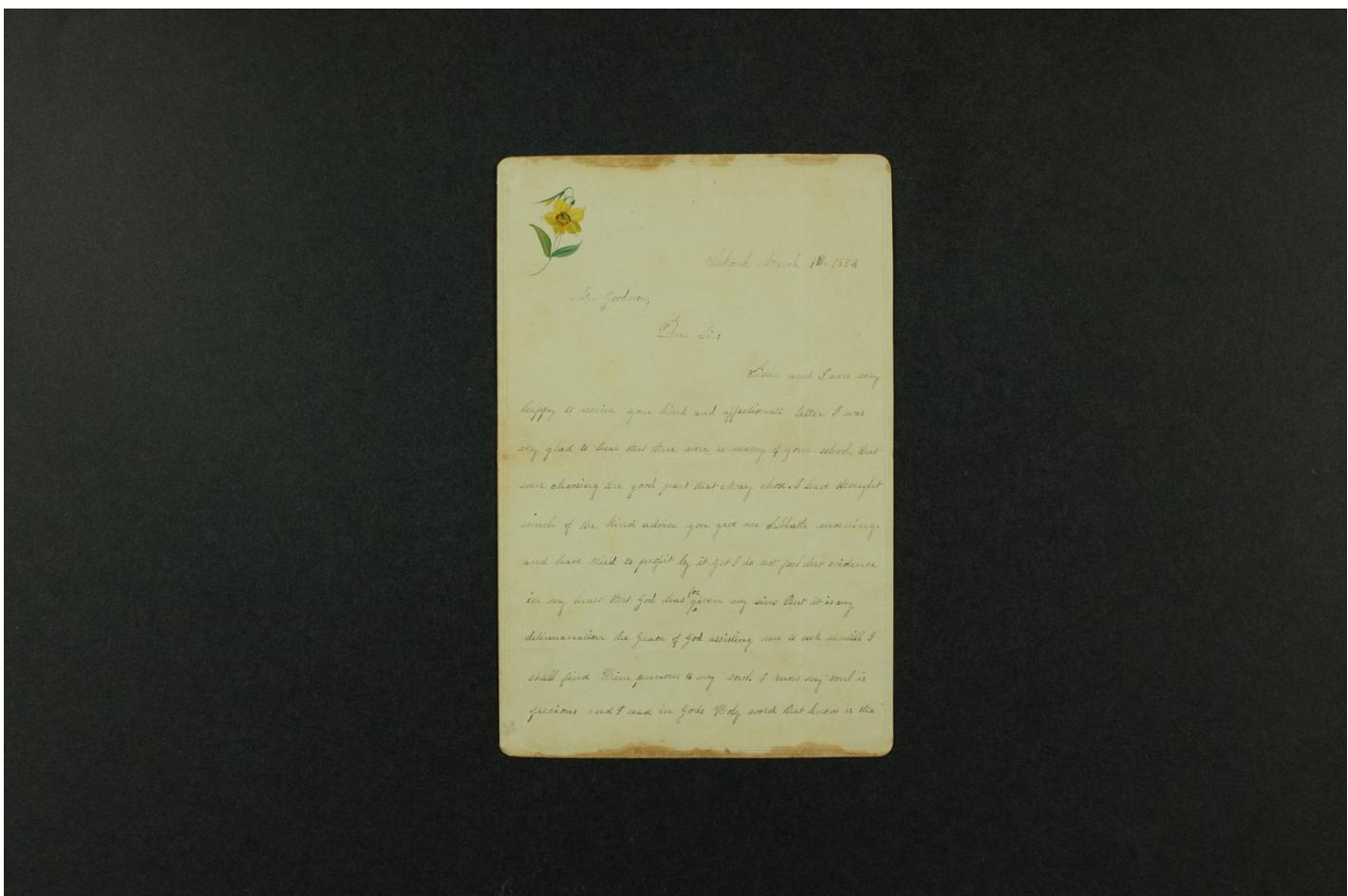
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



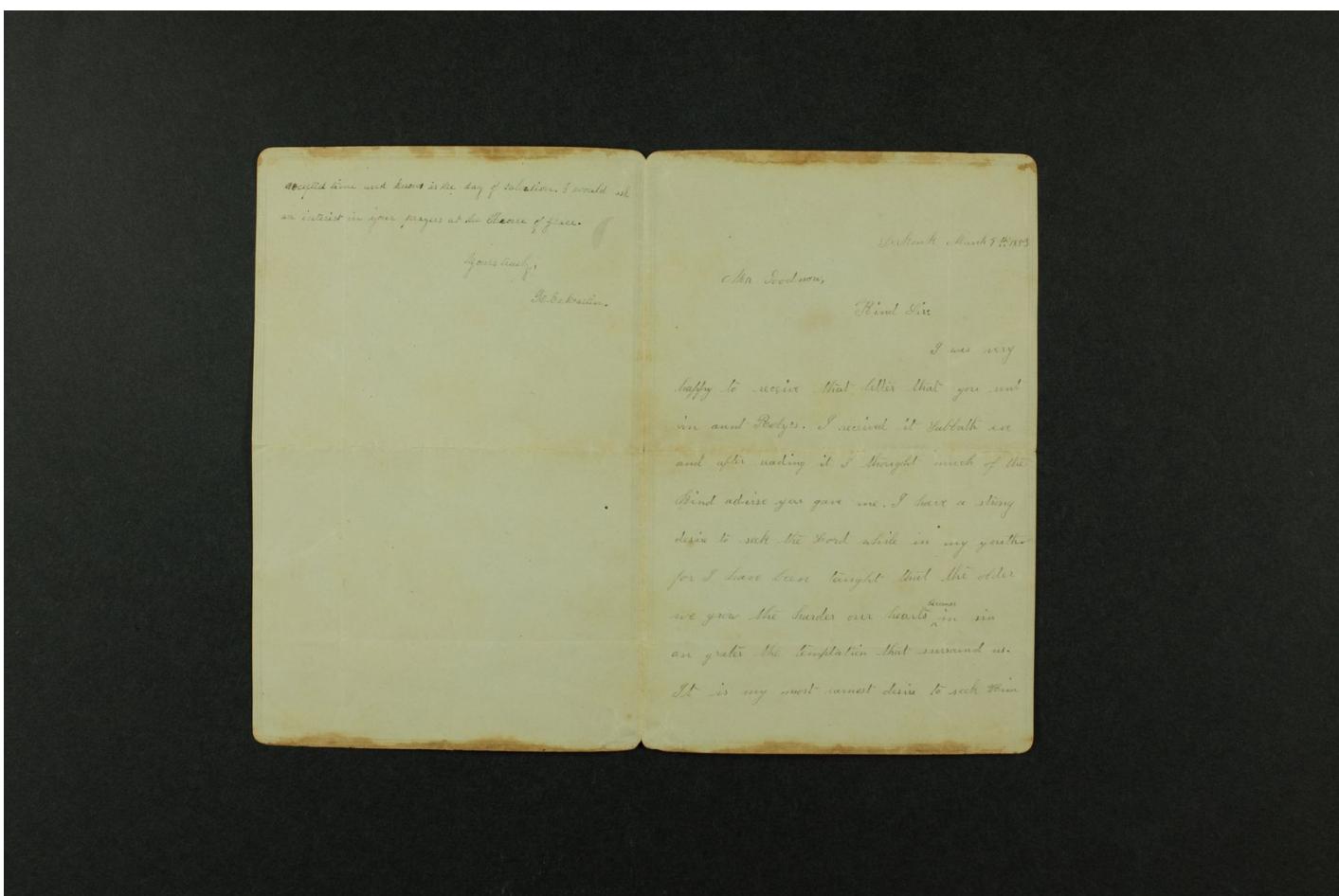
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



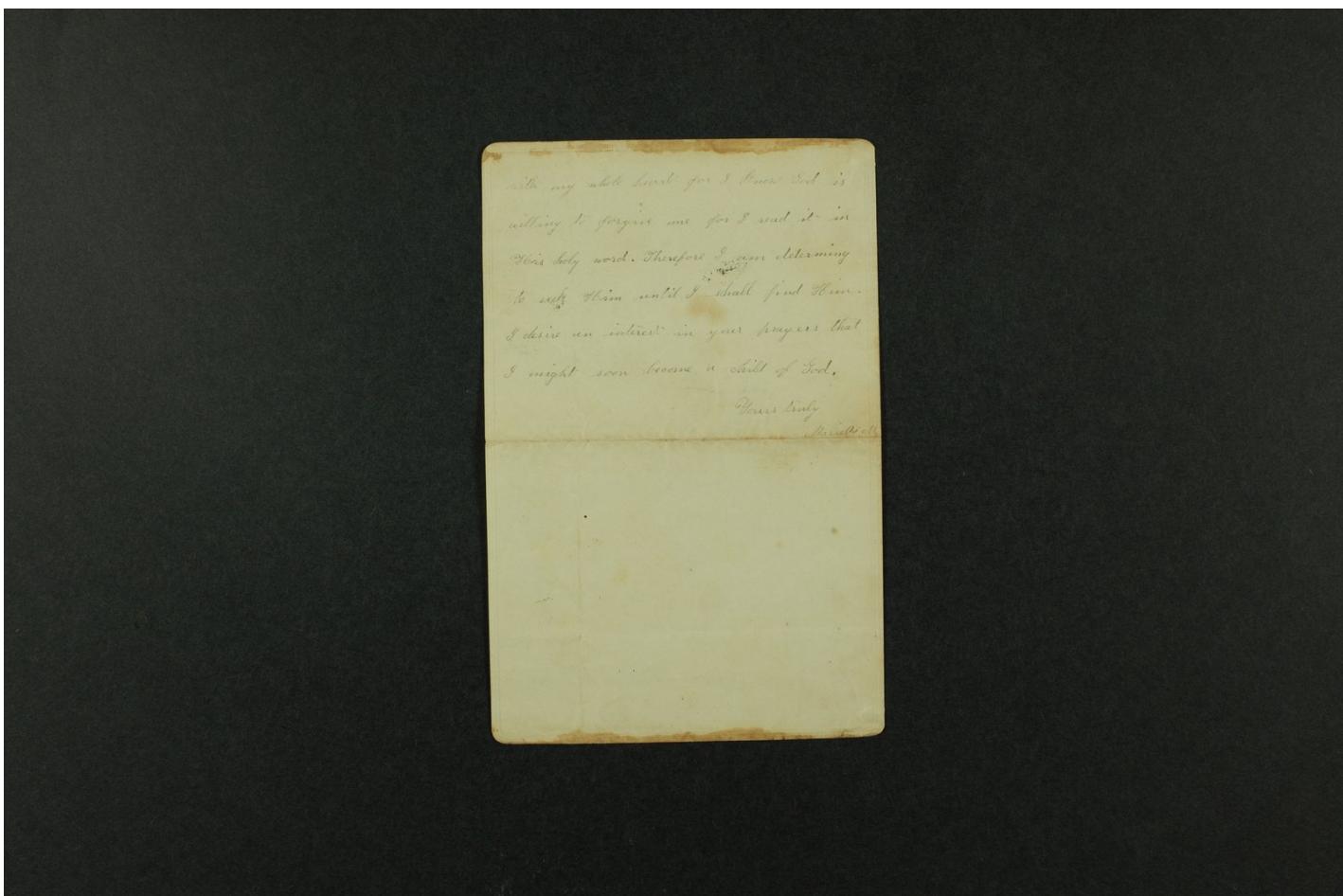
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



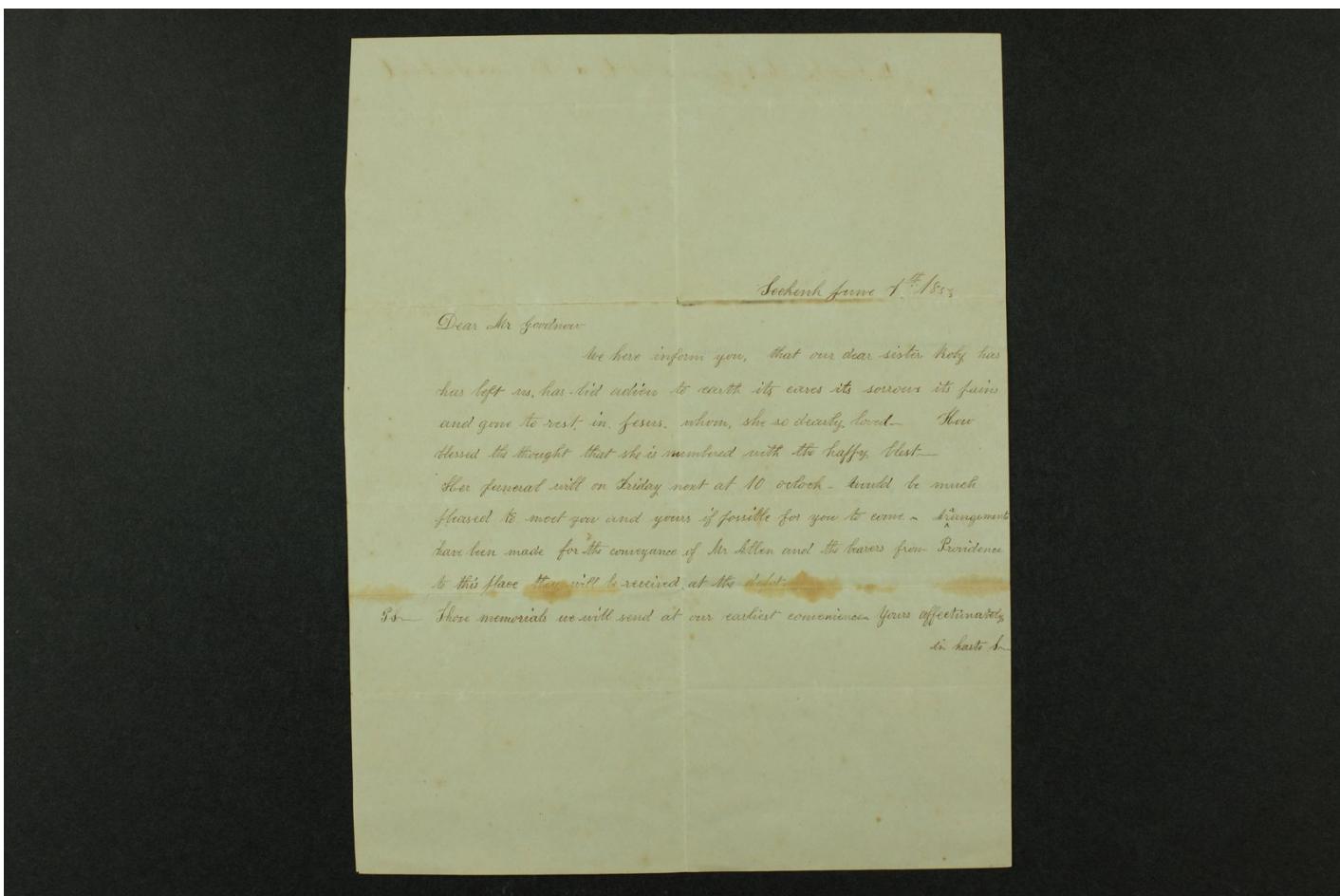
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



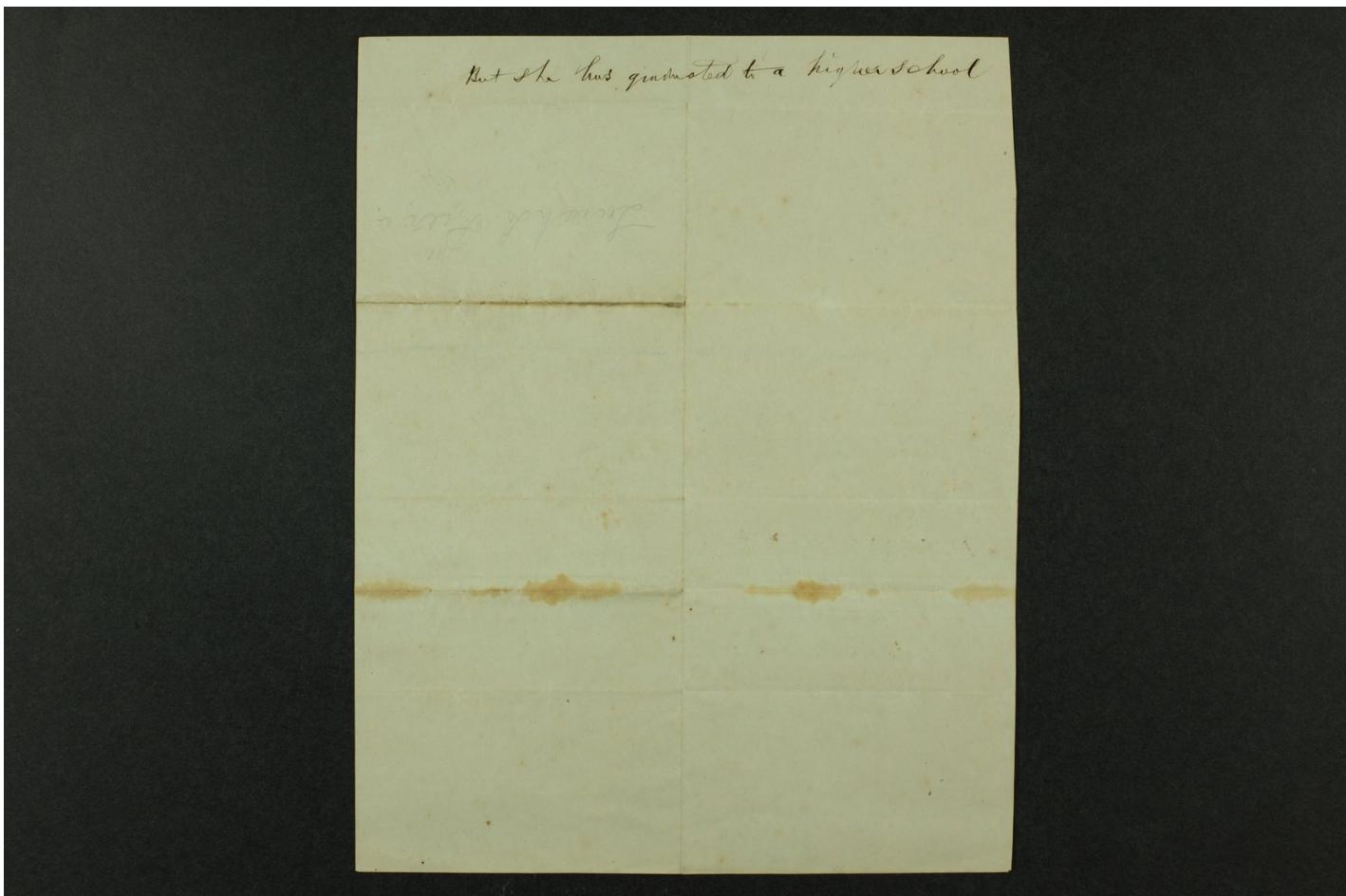
Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

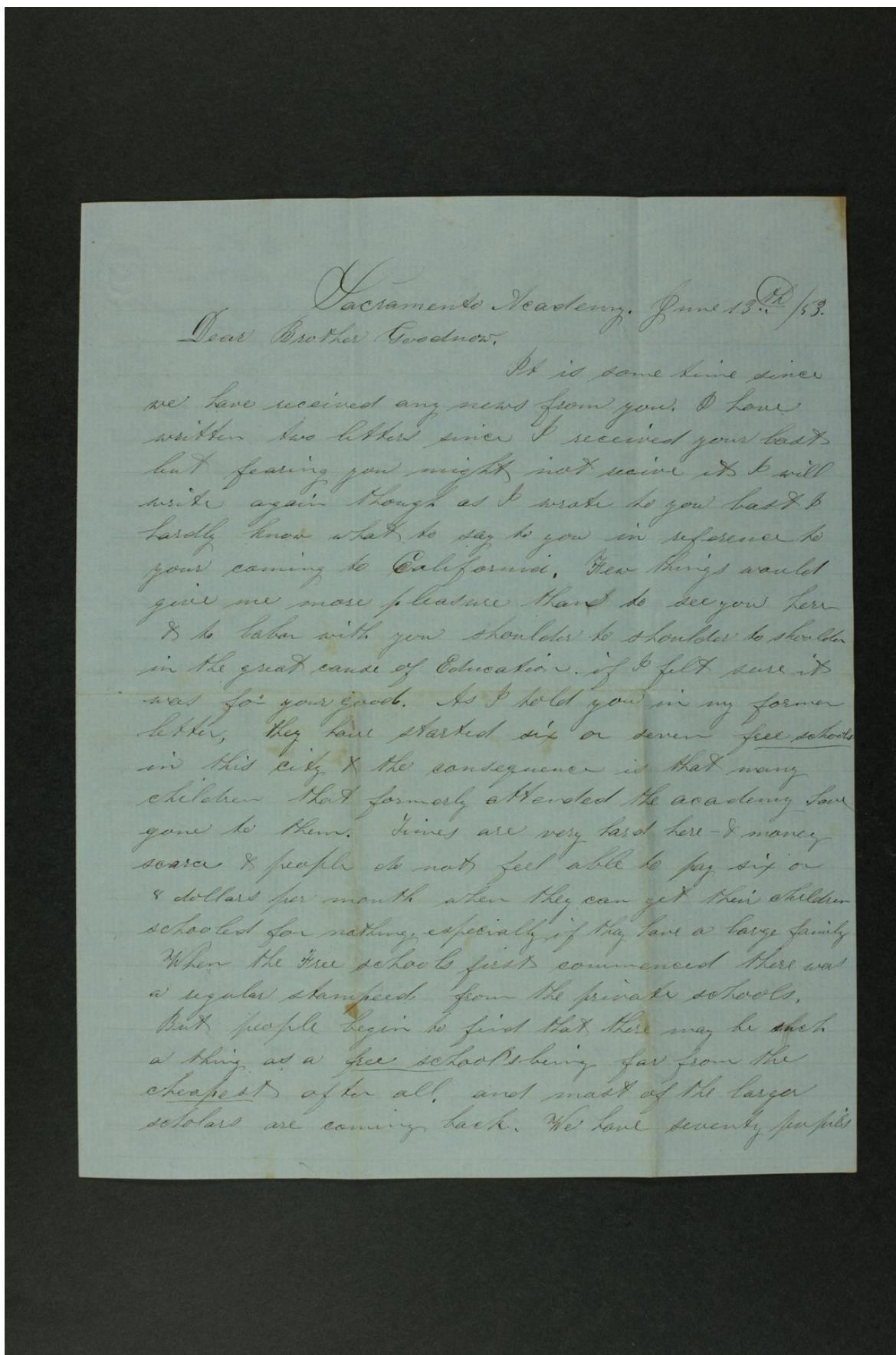


Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence



Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

with a fair prospect of more. We think that the prospects are good for a full school this fall. But every thing is uncertain in this state. Should they grade the schools in this city another year, I may possibly take charge of the high school in my Academy, unless you should come out & take hold with me. I still think that more could be made in a private enterprise than any other way, but I must have some one to take hold with me. I can not take charge of the whole alone & teach all the classes besides & I find it difficult to procure teachers who are good for any thing - who will take any interest I can get teachers enough - but none that the scholars are willing to recite to & I find it more trouble to settle the disputes & difficulties between the masters & scholars, than to teach them alone -

But that is out of the question - all feel the necessity of my having assistants - but none are willing that I should trust their children to them.

Bw Hinckley (formerly a student of yours at T.O.C - h who is with me now, is the best teacher I have found & gives the best satisfaction. He is a capital fellow & a good teacher - Miss Pratt is my Preceptor & is the best one I have found since Mrs Stratton left the school room. (who by the by I expect has graduated as a teacher & will teach no more except ~~in~~ in a private way) The Preceptor I had before her succeeded in driving

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

nearly all the girls out of her department, But,
Miss Pratt is in a fair way to regain them.
We are to have a great Exhibition by the students
the 30th of this month - Tickets for admission
50 - We anticipate a fine time.
Marshal Turley's son from Boston is one of my
best students, & is with his father _____
All things considered I am glad you didn't
not send the apparatus as I fear I should
have found it difficult to pay for it at the
time required, the times are so hard just now
It is probably all for the best as it is.
I am collecting a cabinet of Cal. minerals
and shall soon be ready to exchange with some
of you folks at the East.
I hope my minerals are on the way out, here
I feel very grateful to you & Bro. Allin for
your kindness in being at so much trouble
to procure me that Apparatus.
Should you wish to come and here & take hold
with me I will give you as good a chance as
I can. I will sell out half the Institution to
you or after deducting a reasonable amount
for rent will divide the profits with you.
I can find none here who I am willing to go in
partnership with, but I am sure that we could
do much better than one. If I could get one
to take hold with me who would keep up his