

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 38, Pages 1111 - 1140

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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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Nov. 2^d, 1855 - (on board Steamer)
Admiral above Cambridge, Mo. river
295 miles above St. Louis.

My Dear Wife - Our steamer is now trying to get over a sand bar the water in the river being very low. I think I wrote you from Albany Wednesday Oct. 24 - We left Albany at 11 am. the rain pouring down in torrents - soon after leaving Albany snow began to fall, which continued most of the way to Suspension Bridge where we arrived about 11 at night - here we changed Cars & left for Detroit on the Great Canada R.R. Road travelling all night & arriving there about 10 am. of Thursday. The cars were so loaded here we could not get on the same decently & therefore lay over till the evening train left at 9 1/2 o'clock & again travelled all night arriving at Lake Station, Michigan, about 10 am. this place being miles from Detroit - our Locomotive gave out before getting here, which prevented our connecting with the regular train & we were obliged therefore to lay by another half day & to travel nights again - well, we had a good time to rest & had good fare at our Depot hotel, feeling thankful for our safe arrival here the Engine & some of the cars which we should have taken at ~~the~~ Detroit having been smashed into a heap & piled high up beyond your imagination by running into the freight train near Michigan City - I never saw such a sight before. A number were wounded but no one killed as I could learn; the Engineers jumped off of the train as I understand & on arriving at Lake Station, saw another smash of Engine & Cars occa



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occasioned by the misplacement of a switch, making
 three accidents within 20 miles & in the time of
 24 hrs. on one great travelled road thus have I seen the
 results of careless, irresponsible men, & the loss of thou-
 sands of dollars of property, & the maiming of indi-
 viduals for life. I think often to ask why I escape so
 well instead of others? it is for some wise purpose in
 the order of Providence I trust, & hope to be
 of some important service to my fellows of the
 human race. Well, I hope to ever praise God "as long
 as life or breath remains," for his goodness to my
 unworthy self. We travelled Friday night & arrived at St.
 Louis Saturday P.M. at 2 o'clock & immediately enga-
 ged a passage on board of the steamer Admiral, on
 which we have good fare & some 150 persons, all
 trying to enjoy themselves one way or another as
 suits their taste. My Kansas party numbered some
 20 from Massachusetts & we find many more on
 their way to Kansas from other states. There is
 a great emigration westward some from Kentucky &
 Virginia. There is one slaveholder on board from Virgin-
 ia with some 15 slaves, black, mulatto & white as I
 am I vouch. This party is bound for St. Joseph, Mo.
 as I learn from the slaveholder himself. Lucinda's little
 ones have stood the journey quite well, & L. herself as well as
 could be expected. I have been quite well considering all things.
 as have all of my party. Br. Parkerson & family had a visit
 with Ann & found Lyman Whitney & Emeline there to meet
 them having arrived one hour before. Father Whitney is

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Isaac Goodnow correspondence

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very feeble, & is not expected to live the winter out. If he does not Lyman intends to sell out & take Mother & family to Kansas. I find a number of old people emigrating west, and I do not wonder at it when I think of the change they make. I enclose a slip, which you will please hand Br. Goodwin, & one also to friend Winsley. In going from Worcester to Springfield I found James Deering of Paris in the box on his way to Connecticut. He will probably call & see you, & on my way from Suspension Bridge I found J. S. Keith, Esq. who was going to Illinois to visit some friends. I made an arrangement with him about the Whitman business that the Enquire was so anxious about. The Lord willing I hope to see all these little vexatious matters out of the way the ensuing year. As I before wrote you I sold five shares of my city stock to Tapley Coolidge, & Elliot Woodward wants some, but I shall wait till I arrive at Manhattan before I sell any more. I presume you will understand that Mr. Coolidge's first note is due on demand & will be paid when sent to him which you will forward the first good opportunity & appropriate the cash as I directed - viz; To take up the Hutchinson note without paying cost & balance towards insurance Policy or to Alvah Hensley till I make provision for more. The books which are in the glass case in my office, I would like to have removed into the house as soon as you receive this - they can be put up in the closet between the back & front chambers. I think they will be safer from fire there.



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Sunday 4th This day is misty & rainy & I have read mostly this Am.
& this P.m. am writing you & others. Last Sunday Am. I heard
an excellent sermon at Dr. Rice 2d Presbyterian Church at St.
Louis, & in the evening at a Methodist Church which was very
full & the preacher spoke over one hour. It is the custom at
St. Louis not to have preaching in the P.m. but in the
evening instead of the P.m. The Am. discourse was prepara-
tory to the celebration of the Lord's Supper. I have not the
privilege of the same to-day, but rejoice for or with
those that have. We got on to a sand bar yesterday & were
9 hours getting off, & travelled only about six miles & we are
now on another some 4 miles below Lexington & 366 miles
above St. Louis. After arriving at Kansas City shall try & for-
ward this by first mail hoping it will soon reach you, & also
hoping to hear from you at Lawrence City. I feel as well
now as I can expect, my confinement & want of exercise tend-
ing to make me stupid & sleepy. I must have exercise
in the open air to enjoy myself first rate.

Dec. 6th We arrived at Kansas City last evening & leave this
P.m. with an ox team for Lawrence, all in pretty good
spirits, & having a charming day. I hope to hear from you
when I arrive at Lawrence. We were on the river 7 days.
Write me every 2 weeks. Did you have any snow or rain in
Konway, the week after I came away? It fell from 4 to 6
inches in New York, Canada & Illinois. -

Yours as ever

Wm. X X

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Spoumon, K.T. Nov. 22, 55

My Dear Wife - My last letter was dated & mailed at Kansas City I believe, & I will now say that I left there on Tuesday the 6th inst. on foot having obtained an ox team to take the women, children & baggage - we put up at a slaveholder, in Westport, who said nine tenths of the people of Kansas were sick & the other tenth were dead, & the inhabitants were leaving the Territory as fast as they could - this news did not trouble me, as I could need at all. Well, he had good possessions of buildings, lands, stock & slaves, & we were treated very well for ever an ever & offered good liquor into the bargain, as this is one of the customs in high fashion in Missouri. We left Westport Wednesday morning in good spirits, having a charming day, as was also, Monday & Tuesday - we travelled in the Indian territory some 4 miles & our women lodged in an Indian Cabin & the men in the wagon & on the ground - I lay on the ground in the open air by a good fire, & fared better than some poor mountaineers that I have seen on the way, to whose necessities I have administered my wife. Thursday brot us all safely to Lawrence this was a splendid day the sun almost beaming my left ear. On Friday I got a conveyance of a horse team, for over 40 & went along to their destination, remaining in Lawrence to purchase some



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to forward over ~~trunks~~ & a by another team. We had fine weather till Thursday when it rained all day & I laid by & did not travel. On Friday I rode in a hard rain & hail storm & got well covered with ice, but I kept quite dry however & got into a comfortable harbor having travelled 24 miles & seeing two Indian houses & a mill in the distance. On Saturday I arrived at Brother Goan's who I found rather slim & Ellen quite well for her. Br. Porterson, & the other families took the journey quite well considering all things. Lucinda has some cough & I have made her some cough syrup which I presume will cure her in due time. I found a letter from you at the Lawrence P.O. which was sent by you in August & I found one here with one from Mr. Hatheway which brother G. took care of when I was absent. I found my adventures arrived regularly at the Lawrence P.O. & believe I have now received all the letters which you have heretofore sent me. I enclose a note to Br. Goodwin which you will please hand him; also, a line to Robert Hayes. I have received a few lines from Whisley & he will probably receive an answer by the mail that takes this. I also send some Kansas Papers to P. Evans, J. H. Merrill & Whisley & Plaine & Denison. Jacob Broadbent wished to take the Herald of Freedom six months & I have ordered it sent & paid \$1.00 for it & you may say to him to pay you the same. I suppose he will receive a receipt for the same from the pub. I wish you to save all the Herald of Freedom papers you receive, as I wish them preserved. There is a great number of emigrants expected here next spring.

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Isaac Goodnow correspondence

all my letters & papers hereafter I wish directed
to "Shannon, Mill Cat Creek, K.T.," as we are to have a
mail the first of January to come once a week regu-
larly. We shall soon have a weekly mail I hope, & shall
then feel more like enjoying the news as it comes
new. -

Monday 26 - this is a charming day - & I have just time to say
that I attended quarterly meeting yesterday & assisted at
the funeral of a young wife - I had a good meeting -
& I now feel very well indeed I have not time to
say much more, as I expect a man to take this
to the Post Office soon. I shall have my life Insu-
rance premiums paid by a friend at Foxburg who has
purchased some of my city shares. - More soon. -

Yours as ever
M. G. G.

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Drake, George R.

Sumner Nov 26 1855

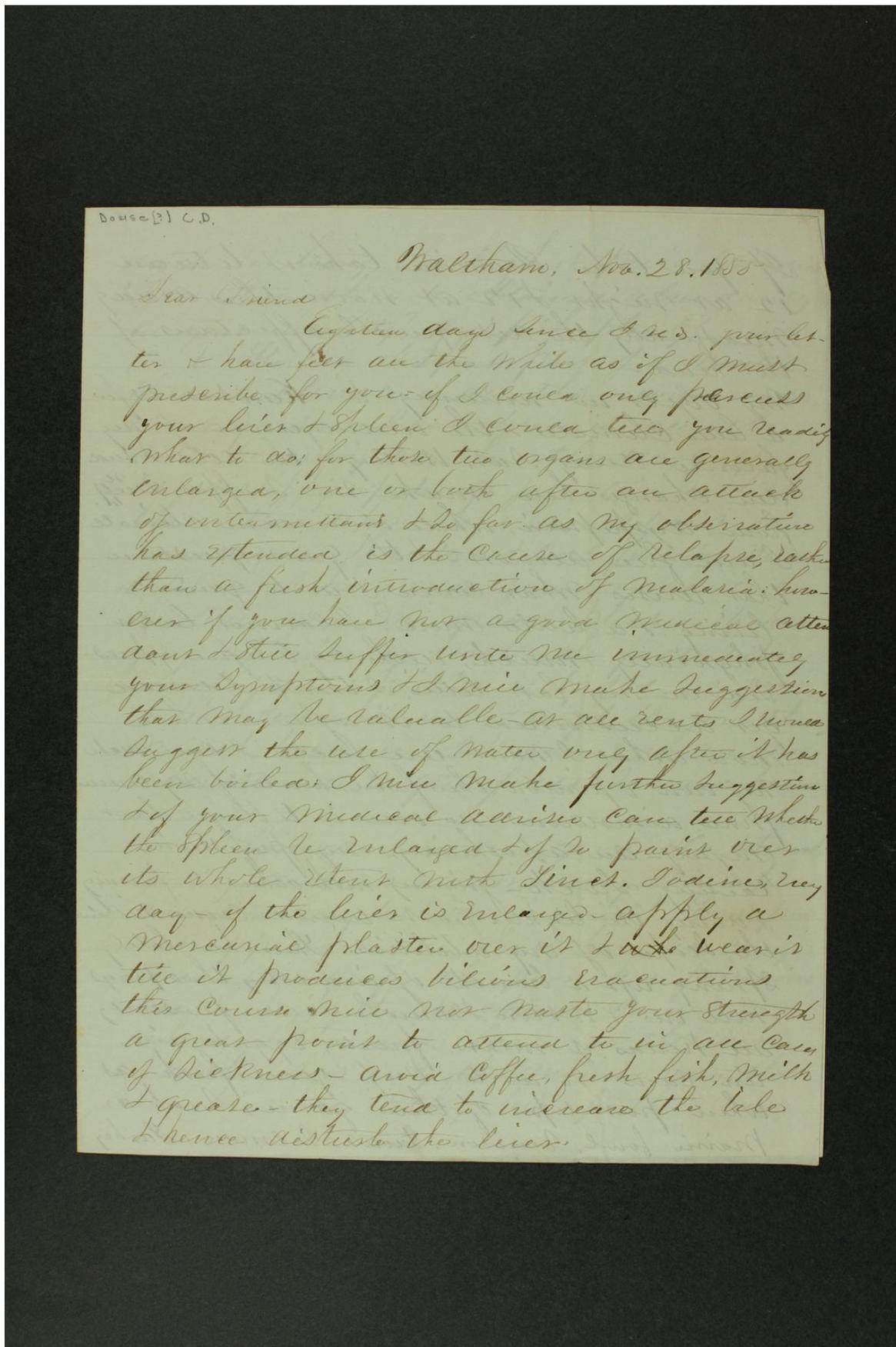
Mr Goodnow Sir,

I have been to see Mr Elias G Dummer
and there is no property in his hands
at all he is a town pauper.
It is of no use to put him in jail
and I thought I would write you and ask
if you wished it to be done. If so I ~~will~~
would rather you would let a
Sheriff do it as they are prepared
to do such business.

yours Truly

George R Drake
Constable of Sumner

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Douse [?] C.D.

Waltham, Nov. 28, 1855

Dear Friend

Ever since I recd. your letter I have felt all the while as if I must prescribe for you - if I could only prescribe your liver & spleen I could tell you readily what to do; for these two organs are generally enlarged, one or both after an attack of intermittents & so far as my observation has extended is the cause of relapse rather than a fresh introduction of malarial fever if you have not a good medical attendant I will suffer until you immediately give symptoms I will make suggestions that may be valuable - as all vents I would suggest the use of water only after it has been boiled; I will make further suggestions if your medical adviser can tell whether the spleen be enlarged & if so paint over its whole extent with Iodine every day - if the liver is enlarged apply a mercurial plaster over it & ~~in~~ wear it till it produces bilious evacuations this course will not waste your strength a great point to attend to in all cases of sickness - avoid coffee, fresh fish, milk & grease - they tend to increase the bile & hence disturb the liver.



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If you take Quinine take it between
12 at night & 12 at noon - thus avoiding
measurably the disagreeable affectuons of
the head -

My object in removing to Kansas, is for
a better climate & the indulgence of my
favorite study Nat. History - the cold & sea
air changes here make me suffer ^{very} from
dyspepsia, while in a warm climate
I am free almost - & the great question
that arises what could I do to gain a
living & a little more? I cannot labor
physically much, altho. as I before expres-
sed in my last letter, I think I could
get accustomed to it after a while
Now what I must ere facts. I can make
my own opinion therefore, hence if my con-
dition disastrous no one is to blame but
myself - an apothecary, my profession,
Raising stock - joining with others in farming
having the lighter part - would come within
the scope of my abilities. There has lately
sprung up a branch of industry that pays
well in Boston & elsewhere - viz. preserving
all kinds of meats, fruits, eggs &c. in
tin cans so as to keep years fresh as
when put up - of these game, such as
Maine fowl, Venison, trout, Salmon, Turkey

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

such as bring the highest price & neediest
sale. Can there be obtained abundance
in your vicinity? Are fish plenty?
As to Florida I spent part of a winter
there - its climate is all that recommends
it at present. I have been in all the
States bordering on the atlantic, gulf,
Mississippi up to its junction with the
Ohio & those upon the Ohio - I want to
investigate Kansas & California more
I believe I have given you my wants &
it will give me great pleasure to have
your opinion or rather the facts upon
which your opinion is based, as your
earliest convenience. I wish'd you thus
much because I know you are not
accustomed to give facts second hand
ca -

Tomorrow is our good old thank
sgiving, does not its memory stir up -
"doubt or may be bitter fancied"! From pres-
ent appearances we shall have a very
severe winter for the poor - all provisions
are so high the mechanic cannot get
ahead & thousands leave for the West
& South. it is only the monied men that
can live here & they live for their money
Turkey

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

My Mother would go if inducements
offered - He is passionately fond of fruit
raising - would a nursery pay?

Hoping to hear of the full recovery
of your health I with our regards
to Mrs. S. I am sincerely yours friend
C. D. Soule

P.S. Please let me know your plans
for the future. Are they to farm
wholly or engage in some literary
department? if farming, what par-
ticular part? stock, grain, fruit?
would not some be a profitable
branch? A gentleman, boarding with
me has resided two years in Texas
he thinks that the best state he ever was
in - at all events it does seem there are
very many places in Uncle Sam's corn
bin where life can be sustained without
such arduous toil necessary here for the
man of moderate means. I love to revel in the
revels of the hunt with you - some new bird
animal or flower give us a week's pleasure
while you C. D. S.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Parmelo [?] E

Nov 30 1845

My dear Mrs C

I have a moments time
to write you of Lucy's death.

I presume you have heard from
your husband, that she was very
sick with Typhoid fever at
Stansend W. She died Sunday night
Oct 30. Poor Aunt H! is almost
heart broken; I don't know how she
will live without her.

The Brothers and Sisters are
coming from St. L. today, she will
be here tomorrow. There is such
a change, no one will be able
to see her. Do write Aunt
soon. I trust your Mother is
better.
Yours with love
E Parmelo.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Shannon, Dec. 2^d 55-

My Dear Wife - I have attended meeting in Manhattan, this am. & am now at Isaac. I went over the Kansas river last eve with Mrs. Lee & staid all night & had a very pleasant time. Mrs. Lee was very glad to hear from her friends & especially to receive the presents. Her box of bedding has not yet arrived although daily expected by a team which I have engaged to get the same with other things. I am now getting my cabin bowked up & ready for Lucinda to move into this week. The past week has been very pleasant & Indian Summer-like. Lucinda is better than she was - also the children - The thermometer ranged last Friday as high as 65 degrees at noon & 50 at sundown & today at noon at 50 - I should like to know how it is with you. I work out door with my coat off & without a handkerchief about my neck. My striped shirts are real worn & first rate. I am the wellst now that I have been for years. I do not bleed by the Piles, but do pretty often at the nose. I am full of blood & stout looking. You would be astonished at my change of looks. I wish I could send you my dequerrette now. Well, bless the Lord for all my good health & all the daily blessings which I enjoy. If you were here safely seated in my pretty cabin, how happy I should be. Miss Copeland of Fitchburg, whom I escorted out for her intended husband was married last week by Bt. Blood (see her marriage in the Herald of Freedom of this month.) Well, much happiness to her & her husband - they are a very likely & good looking couple of Congregationists & the first married couple in this section.

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Mrs. Lovejoy, formerly of Norway, has a young son, born in Manhattan about two months old, the first child born in the City, & it is named for Gen. Pomeroy who is the main agent of the O. & E. Emigrant Aid Co. & who is about settling here, & having a stone house built in our City. Geo. S. Park, Esq. has just ordered a fine stone house to be built in the Spring, intending to locate here with his new married wife - our mill is now getting up & we shall soon have matters & things lively in all our affairs. We expect soon to have weekly prayer meetings in the City. Now is all our Norway meeting affairs, S. School, &c. &c. & how is Mother - Sab. Day - I have come down to the City to meeting, but there was none, & I am now quarter to 3 o'clock, P.M. seated in a sunny place in my Cabin, writing without any fire, the sun keeping me quite warm. I wish I could know just how the Thermometer weather is at Norway - I wish you to tell Meraley to keep a memorandum of the weather if he remains at home this winter - Up to now I have heard nothing from Norway since I left, excepting the sad news of Mrs. Moore's death, by way of the Oxford Democrat which Perry Russell sent me. O, what an end to her earthly hopes! I hope her death will be sanctified to the good of others. Ellen is quite unwell with the chills today, having got cold last night in fixing her chamber from the snow which beat in last night - we had about an inch fall with a very heavy wind - it has mostly melted away today. The Thermometer ranged this morning at sunrise at 20 degrees above zero & returned at 32. I suppose the weather is quite cold & blustering in Norway now. How do you get along? and how do you make out in getting water, & how

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

is the Footen collar? What is the news from Josiah Danforth - has he found his valise? Lucinda lost hers on the way here - she feels bad about it as she had many little things in it. I have heard nothing from Mr. friends since arriving here. Elisha Melber is married as Lucinda told me to-day! Mary is expecting to be married to a likely rich young man at Shelburne Falls. I have written to Cousin Whitney at Strongsville & told him he might expect a letter from you soon - please write him if you have not got done it. - I intend to write brother Gredwin soon & also some of the other & Norway friends. How do you succeed with Mrs. Millett? Hope to hear from you once in two weeks. Farewell.

Yours as ever

Isaac G. Goodnow

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Monday 10th have received your letter
this morning of Nov. 18 -
Yours well
Wm

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Howe, Emeline B.

Home Villa Dec 5th 1855.

My very dear Friends,

If you knew how often you were spoken of in our family circle, and how much you had been in our thoughts since you have been in your far western home, I am sure that you would wonder why as an individual I had not manifested my interest in you by writing, my apology is that I am become such an old woman that I rarely touch a pen now days, and as Mr Howe has written you I ease my conscience by thinking that you were kept posted up with what there was of interest appertaining to us on our location, However I must acknowledge that occasionally my conscience has given me a pretty severe twinge, for my apparent neglect of you, Now as I have "owned up" I may hope for forgiveness, for among all my friends there are none whom I would be less willing to trust with neglect than myself, and now let me ask do you continue to like your residence in these "western wilds", Oh I do not love to think of you at such a distance, I want you where it is possible for us to visit each other, this severing of friends is so painful, and poor dear sister Goodnow to be a pioneer in this new country, would we have thought it possible a few years ago! But perhaps a residence in your fairy land may work a great change in her, and she may yet be the strong hearted old lady I once predicted she was destined to be, As

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for Be Goodnow, I can imagine that your mode of
life would suit him, He is where his energy of
character can find full opportunity for exercise,
Does he find time to analyze many of your fine
famed prairie flowers? — How I would love to
peep in & see just how you are living, and if
sister Goodnow would allow it, help her to cook for
dinner perhaps for a lot of hungry men, How
is your brother Joseph, & Jane & little ones? It would
indeed be pleasant to have them in your neighbo-
hood, I have no doubt but you have many choice
spirits about you? but do you not often sigh for
the comforts of an eastern home? —

We have felt some concern
for your safety on account of the Indians, Are
there any hostile tribes near you? — I fear you
are perfectly helpless in case they should choose
to molest you, However I trust the good Lord
will preserve your valuable lives and protect you
from all dangers

I greatly desire to have a good long
letter from ^{you} and have a full description of your
new home &c &c, please ~~me~~ indulge me, when you
can find a moment's leisure to devote to such a purpose

Last week I recd a letter from Mrs
Sodje, they are still in California, I doubt if she
is as happy there, as she would be at the north,

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

however as usual her letter is written in quite good spirit — And strange to tell a few days since I received a letter from Mr Adams!! — After ten years silence to again commence a correspondence, It is so long since I wrote him, it is rather an awkward matter to do so now. His letter was post-marked Cincinnati, I do not know whether he is residing there, or was merely there at the time of his writing me, He said nothing about it, The last I knew of his whereabouts, he was President of a Female College in Indianapolis,

Mr Home & Sister Susan & Fannie all send their love to you, Fannie is at home at present, and will remain till after the holidays, she has not been very well of late, and we send for her to come home from school supposing a little rest would do her good, — Susan's health is quite delicate, — Mr Home has been complaining, but is now about as well as usual, — The little children are all well & hearty — and each send a hearty kiss to uncle & aunt Goodnow, — My little Ella still continues the wonder of the world — that is the pride of our domestic circle, But really I believe that others beside her pa & ma think her an interesting child, —

I don't know as I have any news to communicate about your New England friends, I have not seen any for a long time, I suppose you receive letters by the wholesale, hence

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

you are kept well posted up. — Please remember me
very warmly to Br & sister Garrison, — Hoping soon
to hear from you. — And earnestly desiring the choicest
of Heaven's blessings ever to rest upon you — I remain
Truly your affectionate friend.

Emeline B. Howe,

Mr & Mrs J. J. Goodnow

Dear Br & Sister Goodnow when ever I think of you away out in
the wilds of the south (which is very frequent) I think God has made
a mistake and that as soon as you are convinced of your
error that duty should prompt you to pull up stakes and
come back again, but then speaking as we do of the National
Heart — we remark that when a man has committed
himself to a certain course or taken a position — the
winds of his heart won't let him own up and retract
his steps, tho' I trust will not be so with you — one
of the most magnanimous acts I think I ever witness-
ed was performed by Bishop Hedding in the General
Conference of 1844 — A document had been presented
to which he with the other Bishops signed his name —
It was in regard to Slavery or abolition or some kindred
topic — The next morning after the Conference was
opened — He got up and said that he had made it a
point of duty through many years — when ever he
found that he had taken a wrong position as soon
as possible to give up the wrong & get right — now
Yesterday I committed an error in putting my name
to that paper — upon reflection I wish my name
erased from it — now this is the way to act —
— be manly and back down — the lessons you
& sister G have learned has given you stores of kindly
— good & lessons of wisdom which will afford topics
of conversation & instruction to (if not your) children
& grand children and to young folks all your
lives — It is a joy to have you stay there
— least the Indians demolish you, or least the

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Shimons, Dec. 16, 1857
1/2 P.M.

My Dear Wife -

another day of rest has arrived & I am truly able to appreciate the same - I on Monday found your letter at the P.O. when I mailed one for you - was very glad to hear from you. I was somewhat troubled about your having expected a letter for some two weeks before. The past week has been a mixture of sunny, rainy, & snowy weather, but not extremely cold - thermometer being down only to 10 degrees above zero at sunrise. I have had a poor turn of the old complaint the past week which made me some lame - I have, however, been able to cut logs & wood, & to enjoy my usual allowance of the wants of nature. Not but a sprinkling of snow has fell yet - Friday was quite an icy day, the trees & ground being covered with glaze ice. To-day it has disappeared considerable. I yesterday attended the Polls for the adoption of the State Constitution lately framed by the Convention held at Topeka. Brother Isaac was chosen one of the Judges of election, & myself & brother Parkinson were chosen Clerks of the same - the result of the election you will soon see by the Herald of Freedom. A Convention comes off next Saturday at Lawrence to nominate State officers - Isaac will probably attend, possibly myself - There has been exciting times here for a few days past - the Missourians undertook to destroy Lawrence & some 1300 men soon assembled there to defend it & messages were sent over the territory for immediate help, & volunteers soon departed from here & others quarters to aid Lawrence. Word has arrived that peace is restored & that the invaders have departed to their homes.

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Well, thank God, it is he alone that rules the nations
 of men, & I believe that the wrath of the enemies of
 freedom in Kansas will be turned to His praise, & the
 right ultimately prevail. I hope the scenes which you men-
 tion in your letter will be sanctified to the good of many souls.
 These events are sad indeed, especially that Mrs. Moore & Mrs.
 Eldridge should be taken away so suddenly & distressingly. I approve
 heartily of your arrangements about the tenants & water,
 & hope you will enjoy the winter well. Mr. Packard being
 so near by, you will not be so lonely, & I think he will be
 a good tenant, & we will call the afternoon to cheer you up some.
 Tell him from me to take good care of the widow & fatherless.
 I have much interest to know just how the weather is with you,
 so to compare it with the weather here. I hope Minnie will keep
 an account of it if at home, if not, tell his wife to & I will send
 her something from Kansas.

Jan. 14-1856 - Since writing the above I have been to Kan-
 sas City, & wrote you direct from there, & since re-
 turning have written on another sheet which is here
 with enclosed. To-day is some snow & cold & being lame
 I keep close to the fireside, & am writing my friends
 in part at Norway, of which you may ever long
 here. After this week I expect to be engaged for
 some time in the woods getting in timber on
 the Big Blue River, & to run the logs down
 to our New Mill. - Yours as ever,
 Isaac Goodnow

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Mr Goodnow
Dear Sir
I have made up my
mind to go to Kansas,
and I would like to go
in the company with you
I wish to know when you
are going. Whether in the
company that is to start the
8th of March or the company
that is to start 1st of April
is called the Worcester League.
I wish to purchase a ticket
to go at the time you go
you will. Believe me
very much ^{in me} your
about the matter
Most respectfully yours
Edmund Jones
W. Graham 2nd St. 1854

Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Shannon, K. S. Jan. 12, 1856-

My Dear Wife - On Christmas day I mailed to you at Kansas City a letter with some information of myself up to that date - It was then a snowy & cold time, & I had an uncomfortable time getting home to Isaac. People that have lived in these parts for eight years say that seven years ago there was a similar winter & not since. The other winters being generally mild. People are lagging with sleds & sleighs would run well if people had them. There has from 5 to 6 inches of snow fell hereabouts & the weather from Christmas till yesterday has been a steady cold, the thermometer ranging in the morning generally below zero. The cold weather seems to have broke now, & it is mild & pleasant. I am now quite lame with sore feet, my heels being cracked open & bleeding, more or less I cannot walk much, & I have to keep rather quiet. Lucinda & babies are now quite well & fattening up. Isaac & Ellen usually well. I shot a prairie hen yesterday & send you the scalp & one of the side ornamental feathers which grow just back of the head & on each side of the neck, being the insignia of the cockerel hen - these hens resemble the eastern partridge but are much larger & beautiful meat. Brother Parkerson shot two beautiful wild Turkeys at one shot weighing some ten pounds each, one of which we disposed of to

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day - last Wednesday, by invitation I dined on a no-
ble turkey of 12 pounds at a neighbors which was
shot with my rifle & had the company of Mrs.
Lee & others of New England birth. It reminded
me of our down east Thanksgiving days. Mrs.
Lee has got a good new cooking stove & other
necessary articles with her \$50 which was a great
help: her box has also got along safe. By my
persevering labors Mr. B's things have arrived from
Kansas & I now have a good feather bed & other
things which are quite acceptable & comfortable.
I wish to know how you get along with the cold
weather & how you enjoy yourself. I presume
Mrs. Packard is handy for you in some things.
Monday, Jan. 12, 1856 - A new year has dawned upon
us & it comes in like a lion I reckon. On the first
day I mightily wished you a happy New Year &
many of them - I was then on my way home
from Kansas & was at Big Springs 15 miles west of
Lawrence, & 60 miles east of Manhattan having been
there five days waiting for mild weather. I hope
you will receive the money from Mr. Coledge to
pay as before requested; by letters which are re-
ceived here from the East it seems that hard
times prevail, living being high & money hard. I pre-
sume you are aware wot, & will continue to
be but there are no doubt hundreds of mechanics
out who have hard work to make the thousands
meet who by coming here would do first rates

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Many are waiting for matters to be permanently settled here before they will start, & when they do come it will be too late to secure the best chances for success. Claims that were taken here last spring are now fetching hundreds of dollars advance, & some will soon bring a thousand no doubt. Arrangements are now making to build a bridge across the Big Blue River by our City & new roads & a ferry, & for such other improvements as will materially raise the value of our City shares & especially my claim, & I have good reason to believe will fetch up my interest here to a handsome amount. If I have my health, I think by fall my property here will be ample to do away with my special liabilities to special friends in Norway. If so, won't you be glad? - Well, I hope you know in large with me, & this quality keeps up my spirits & ambition in a marvellous manner. - We have now a regular mail established here, & hope to receive our eastern news in two weeks clear through - after receiving your 2^d letter I shall forward this, hoping to hear from you oftener than heretofore, at least every two weeks. -

Jan 20 - Sab. P.M. - I am glad to announce the receipt of your letter dated Dec. 21st, yesterday, it having arrived at our P.O. on Friday. I am rejoiced also to learn of your good health. It seems that the Lord does still strengthen according to your duty and your labors here. I feel it to be so with myself. The past week I & brother Parkerson have been cutting timber

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Two buildings which we intend to put up this
year fall fast by our axes. I trust we shall be blessed
in our labors, & that I shall see you in due
time the avails of mine in good shape. - I heartily ap-
prove of your doings in my business affairs & hope you
will not regret the pains taken in my behalf. I am glad
that you have got me down this, & hope that
her sickness will prove for her best good, whether for life
or death. I think you will have the satisfaction of
doing your duty in laboring for her comfort & wants.
It is among my best thoughts that I have always tried
to contribute to the happiness of my parents in their
declining years. To-day is cold & windy & I do not venture
out for anything, being unwell with Piles, have given
up all my business. I supposed I overdone the beer
part as in my timber business. Well, I try to be careful
but go a bit too fast when I get at it as you do sometimes.
As I have, therefore, concluded please direct & have all
my papers & letters sent to Shannon, K.T. till I
countermand the same. - I shall write J. G. Robinson
as soon as convenient. I have written Dr. Goodwin &
sent in the same mail with this: - as to Mr. Wiley
& in his send the prairie hen scalp & neck feathers to see
if I find you. - Yours as ever,

Isaac G.

My dear Aunt says I may fill out this & I gladly improve the opportunity. I am
now in good health, weighing about 160 lbs. I have more than ever before, you
could hardly know me. I had bright, precious things of yours that
I will most gratefully use. It is a beautiful likeness of a - I shall
speak out? - of a beautiful woman & her friend. The which I shall
be glad to try that I cannot see to, they are not for me, I am to enjoy
good visit? In your next letter to Mr. Pallas, on a box a half a part for my dear
giving me your whole mind of the merit, & the merit, of that heart. This is my dear Aunt's

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Providence Jan 15, 1856
Friend Goodnow
Dear Sir,

After so long a time I have been able to get a letter from you. What is out of gear with the postal service? It is really a mystery to me how it can take nearly 2 months for a letter to come from Kansas while passengers can ~~scarcely~~ make the time in as many weeks. Well, I am glad to hear from you at even this late day.

But I am very sorry that you have been so much unwell - hope to expect that you are now enjoying health again, for as you said "What are we without health & what may we not be with it?"

You have been having rather serious times since you wrote really and at one time I had serious apprehensions for the future though.

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never doubtful of the ultimate result; but I was fearful that the freedom of Kansas would cost the blood of many true men.

Happily the cloud has passed away for the present and, may we not hope, that the crisis is past - the rubens~~er~~ cropped?

About home matters I need not speak as doubtless others of your friends & correspondents keep you posted up on neighborhood or social matters & the press finishes the task. Of myself I would fain remain silent, but it seems that I may not properly do so.

Well I cannot say that the past year has been pecuniarily very prosperous. You know how it was before I came back, since which it has been not much better. Soon after I wrote you last I took a violent cold which resulted in a kind of bilious or lung fever - I hardly know which claimed the victory, for it seemed like a contest between them - which of course used me up for some time. But that is not all. After all the rest I am now doing nothing and have not been in

a fortnight though I expect to begin work again next week. You know it frequently happens that my business is slack in the lead of winter. When I engaged with my present employer, he expected to have work all the winter but the weather has been so bad lately that we have to wait for the mason work.

However when we resume work I expect no more delay. You readily see the consequences of the foregoing statement. I have just about paid expenses. It seems like small business but so it is. I am very sorry that circumstances are such as render it impossible to send you any money yet - first and principally because you, who was so kind as to forward it to me, are in need of it and secondly because I wish to cancel the obligations.

I can appreciate your condition and hope soon to be able to help relieve you from it.

I feel as though I could not blame you if you should lose whatever confidence you have or had in me. However I hope not as certainly ^{meets} my intention is to do right and fulfill my engage.