

Kansas Memory



Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Section 49, Pages 1441 - 1470

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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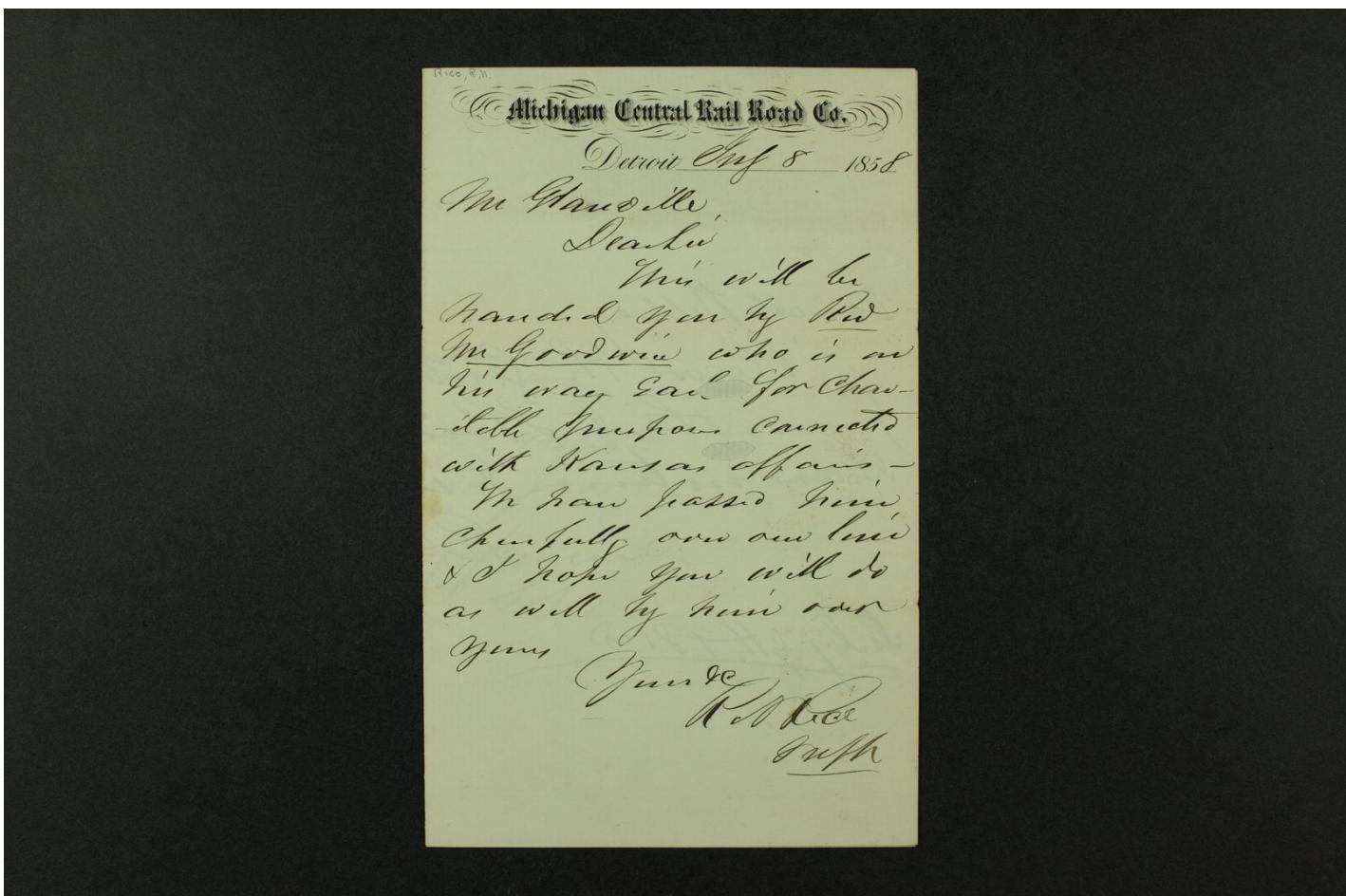
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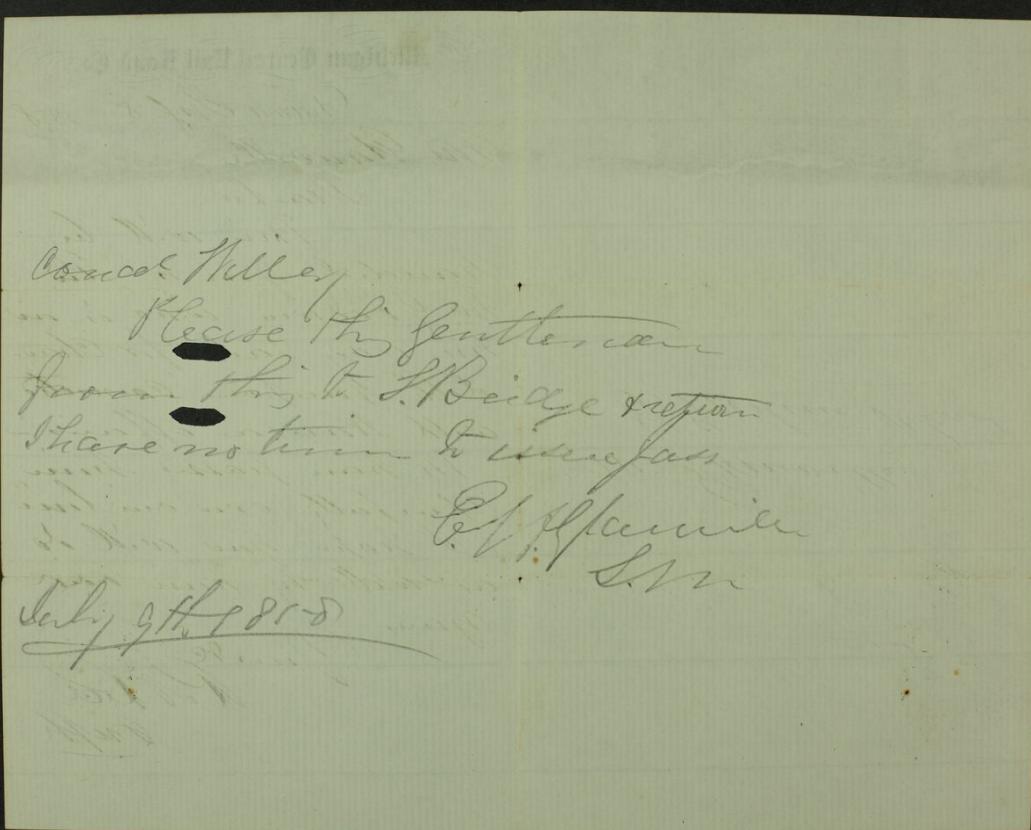


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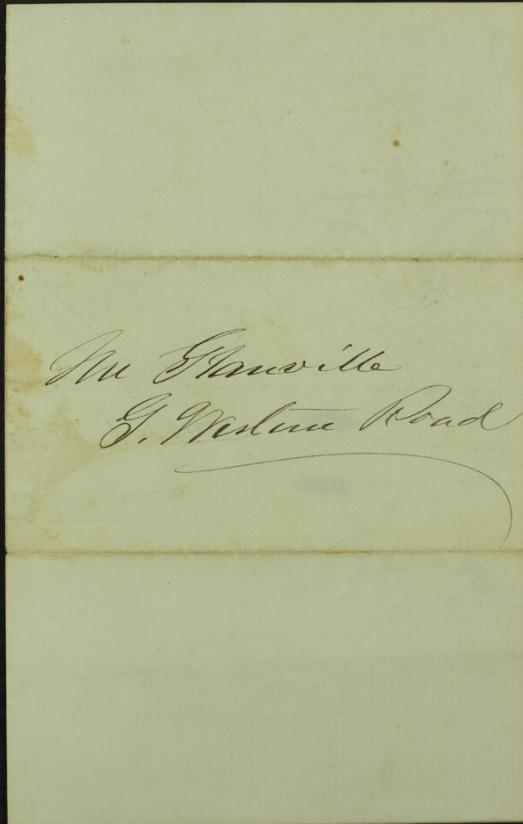
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[Goodnow, I.J.]

Rochester, N.Y. Sabbath July 11th 1858
1½ O'clock P.M.

My Dear Ellen,

I have been to church this A.M. & there is no preaching till evening & I gladly improve a portion of the interim in keeping you posted up on my movements. I wrote you last Tuesday from Detroit, at which place I arrived the same evening from Chicago, over the Michigan Central R.R. Wednesday I went up 20 miles to Mr. S. Hattuck's & found them very pleasantly situated on a hired farm of 63 acres. He has fine crops growing of Barley, Rye, Wheat, Corn, Potatoes &c. He has bought him a farm of 100 acres 70 miles West with a house, dog cabin & other conveniences upon it. They seem contented as they would not have been in N—, therefore they are better off. Truly has not grown much nor improved. Poor little thing! If you can not bring up Hattie better than Truly is trained I should not wish you to have her! I have paid S. Hattuck on Perry's account \$28.33. Tell Dr. Joseph that Perry ought not to work another day to receive more than 2.50 per day. I feel tried every time I think of it, when I think of Trafton & Perry working the church \$3.00 per day. Any quantity of ^{the board they allow} Carpenter's can be had in Illinois for 1.50 & 17⁵ per day. Had I not better bring one along with me to work on my house? I left Detroit Friday night by the Canada train & arrived here yesterday morning. I worked hard yesterday to raise something for our church, but it was perfectly useless. With a population here of 6000, & 6 Methodist Churches, some of them large & costly, the people are money less, & the Societies as near bankrupt as possible. I am absolutely astonished at their poverty so far as cash is concerned! To all human appearance my stop here is entirely useless, yet I come with full conviction of succeeding.

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well. Tomorrow morning I leave for N. Y. I shall hope to arrive Tuesday morning, & then hear from you, &c., I did not see Mr. Mead in Chicago. Carrie Arnold has a good many calls from the gentlemen, but they do not seem to stick. Christine thinks & he is not quite dressed & worth enough. Her flirt of a sister Emilie is married & nicely pleased with her new husband! Is it to keep him down & take 2 or 3 of her children, & presume will add, in due time, very greatly to the number!

They speak of Mead as acting ~~strangely~~ - sort of half crazy! There is a little mystery about the meat, which I suppose would be cleared up by seeing Mead. I trust that Cupola to the Church will be painted soon & that slips enough have been finished to seat the people comfortably. The slips should be well varnished before getting scratched or marred. Has Woodman commenced plastering yet? Let him go ahead & I will see him paid by Cash or Land Warrant!

Br. Shattuck would like to have Melville, if he comes east this fall, to bring on the balance on his note, & call & see him. How comes on the Wild Cats?

I have thought of a plan to destroy them if they trouble you. Take a chicken, which they have caught & dropped, & poison the meat with Strychnine, leaving it where it was caught: the wild cat or coon will return to eat it & be put in a position to eat no more chickens! Have those guns shot off if they have not already been, but keep the double barrel loaded: one barrel with shot & the other with Bucks shot! It may prove convenient for you some time, I think. I shall not send on any land warrants, but bring them with me. Tell Joseph that Andrew Denison is ~~away~~ gone home to visit. How I would like to drop in this fall, & have an old fashioned visit. Do you "miss me at home"? You bad that you should be alone so much & yet I think I deserve almost as much sympathy! I have not been as well as last year, but am quite well now. How are you & my little Hattie? I hope she will grow good & better all the time. Kiss her for me & tell her to kiss "Aunty" for Uncle 12 times! Farewell!

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G[oodnow], I. T.
New York City,
July 14th 1858.
My Dear wife
I arrived in this City
yesterday morning by way of Hudson
River, coming down the river from
Albany in the Splendid Steamer
Sir Isaac Newton. I found
a very good traveling companion
and am very well. This makes
it much pleasanter. I saw
Br. Howe yesterday. He comes
out this morning with Young &
his bear! Curious he, I shall
ride with them this PM in their
private carriage. All well.
Last night I spent with Br.
Leverton. His wife & Louis, who is
home visiting with her family of
4 girls, were out visiting Mary.
I shall probably see them before I
return. My plan now is to go

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direct to Boston in 2 days.

Dr. Shaffer left yesterday with his family for Maine to be gone over week.

I shall see him on his return on the College business. I hear that Louise Stimpson has gone to New York with her husband - I may call & see her.

Tell Mr. to have 3 tons of hay put up for me in No. 1. Order immediately.

I am disappointed not to find any letters from you!

What is the matter? I have written you - I don't know how many times! I must hear from you soon.

Tell Mr. Garrison, the Church must not rely on me to raise money for the Church only to pay Woodman for plastering, the \$100. job. What Corn Carpenters be hired for now by the day?

Money is very scarce with the news, but is plenty in the Banks & place of deposits.

Regards to Mr. & Mrs. Houston, J. S. family, Dr. Kimball, Wm. &c. Don't forget Dr. Robinson & my friend Miss Jose.

Write us all the news going. Truly yours,

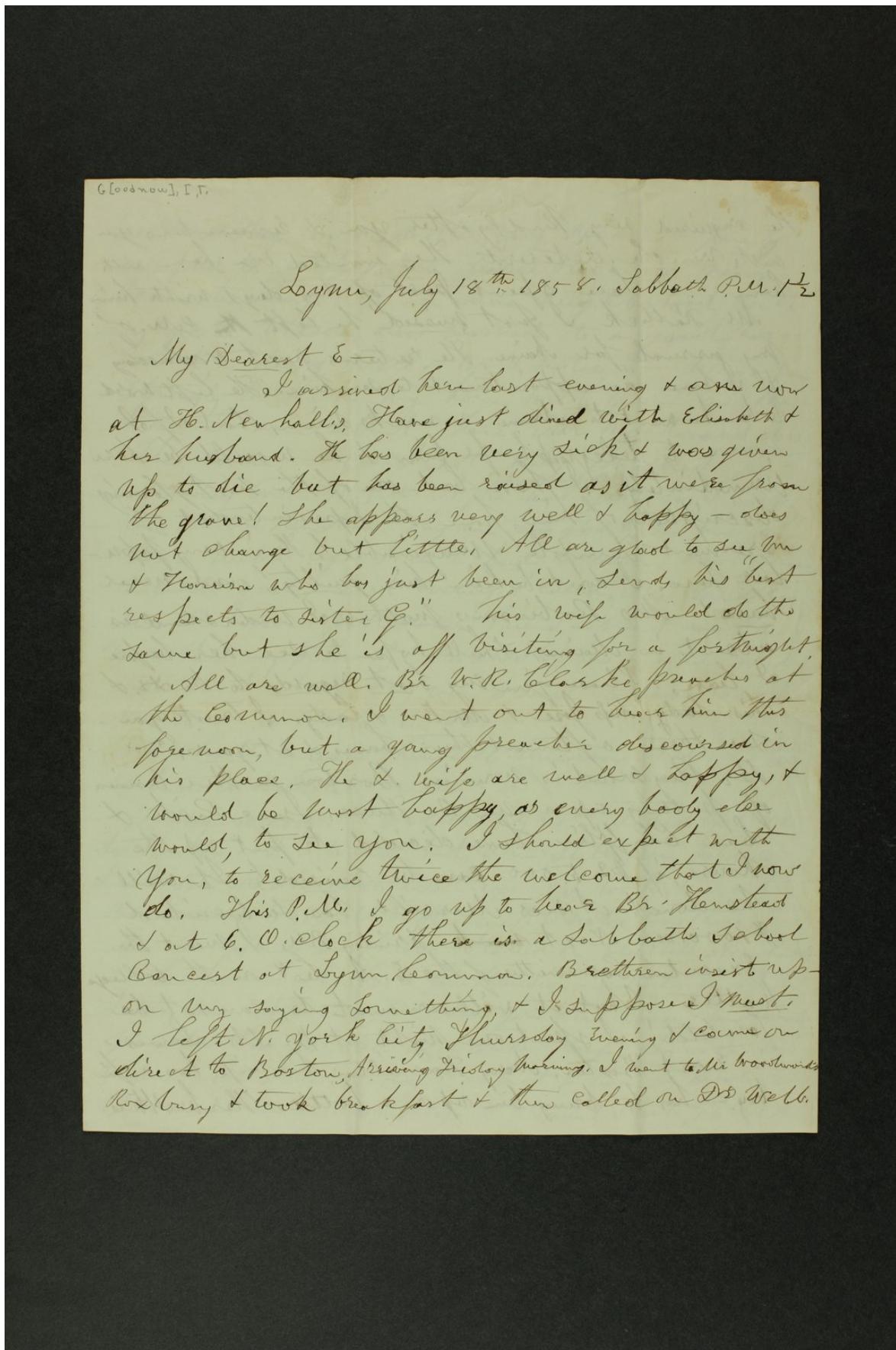
I. G.
Direct to New York till I order to the contrary.

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He enquired very kindly after you, & remembers you with much interest. He invited me home with him. I have spent part of two days with him. Mr. Kellock I just missed he left the U.S. of my arrival for Maine. He returns next Wednesday & I have an appointment to see him. He left word when he went to Maine 2 weeks since, that if I came to telegraph for him I would be here immediately. I have had one of the most glowing descriptions of him, from the Superintendent of Vermont Temple Imaginable! He is very popular here. I don't believe him guilty, and never have! Mrs. Robinson's mother I understand is absent in Maine, I shall hope to see her before I leave. Please give my best regards to the Dr. & his lady, Miss Jose & Mr. B - & lady. I trust you see them often at their houses & at yours.

Br Roy Mond is now in Boston on the business of putting up a new B. House. Isaac Rich & Lee Clafflin have decided to put up the house, if \$25,000 can be raised! It will be done! Amos Merrill has subscribed \$1000.00. Next ~~sund~~ Friday P.M. I meet the Executive Committee of the E. A. Co. on the College matter. What it will amount to, can not be foretold! I spent one night at Br D.W. Lewis, in East Boston, Mary Hamilton his wife has a fine boy - has to bring him up on a bottle. Her health is

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better. They love one another very much - finely
adopted to each other. Jessie Rice is near
them teaching, - in the same neighborhood with
Agustine Wilson, now married to a good bus-
-olved, - doing well. Br & Sister S - urge me
strongly to make my home with them all the
time I am about here. Mr Woodward does
the same. Am I not well provided for?
Wednesday morn 7 A.M. After ~~breakfast~~ ^{breakfast} yesterday I took
tea at Br. Henshaw's. They were very glad to see me. She
has a milk leg! Is in a bad condition! Poor woman
2 little girls. Last evening, I called ^{on} Mrs. Sonborn
Mrs Robinson's particular friend - spent ~~an~~ ^{one} hour
hours there very pleasantly. Also Mr. Stetson another friend
with Mr Sonborn. They were pleased to know how much
Mr. R. is liked in Boston.

I shall remain here till tomorrow all ~~I then~~
return to Boston.

Tuesday morning, 6^{1/2} o'clock, July 20th I did not go
to Boston as I intended but am still in Lynn,
I sat at Br. Richardson's. Last eve - I took tea at
Br. Gorham's. His wife's sister was there.
Mrs G - sends much love. I called on Elizabeth Newhall
at her home! She has a fine mansion - only 2 in it.
Lends love. All went to see you. Went home a few minutes
from Br. Gorham's with Br. Clarke & wife. They wish me
to dine with them to day, I expect to leave for Boston this
P.M. I met her yesterday, George M. & Daniel Steele, Gilbert Thomas,

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Fralis Newhall, & L. Cromell all ^{to} day I expect to call on Dr. Mansfield, & several others. Please say to Dr. Garrison & Mr. Houston that I will bring a land warrant for Dr. Gill when I return. If he is in a great hurry they can borrow one for him till I return I will replace it. I have not heard one word from you since I left I was disappointed in not hearing from you in New York. Shall expect to send several letters on my return to N.Y. not a word yet from Thoreau as to his decision about coming to N.Y.—

I hope Dr. D— & others will see that anything will be made pleasant for Mrs. Robinson to play on the ~~old~~ ^{new} organ both day. She ought to have a present by & by. And if necessary I will subscribe \$5.00.

How comes on the subscription for Dr. D—?

How far along is the Church pens? & has Mr. Woodman plastered the Church?

Write often — about to N.Y. City,

Love to all — Kisses for little Martin
~~country girl~~, ^{garden} girl!

Affectionately
I. G.

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Boston July 21, 1858.

Dear Sir.

In reply to your inquiry, it affords me pleasure to state that I deem the Educational enterprise in behalf of which you are laboring, one that, if successfully carried into operation upon the basis and plan proposed, will aid materially in promoting the mental, moral, and physical well-being of those who may be trained under its auspices, and thus impart a healthy and vigorous tone to the community in which their lot may hereafter be cast, and over which some portion of them will be destined to exercise a guiding and controlling influence.

I have journeyed quite extensively in different sections of Kansas Territory, and have repeatedly, with renewed gratification, visited Manhattan. I am free to say that not anywhere in the whole region traversed do I know of a more beautiful and eligible spot than the one selected for the site of your Institution; and the adjoining tract has marked advantages which especially adapt it for the purposes of an experimental, agricultural farm, which wisely

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is to be made a prominent feature of the establishment.
— The God of Nature has done much in the region referred to for the physical health and comfort of man; and if man does but his duty in providing for the educational culture of the generations who are to succeed the one now occupying the field of action, that region will indeed be blest.

From my personal acquaintance with some of the corporators, and from the assurances given me in regard to others, I feel persuaded that no partisan bias or sectarian influence will be permitted to exercise a control over the institution, either in the selection of its officers, the choice of text books, the mode of imparting instruction, or in any other wise; the true intent and determination being to found an institution for Education in its broadest, most liberal, and enlightened sense, embracing the widest range of the Arts and Sciences, having for its aim the increase of man's national happiness, and the enlargement of his sphere of usefulness.

Were it necessary, and did my duties admit, it would be satisfactory to give my views on this subject more in detail, but it is not requisite, nor are circumstances favorable for it.

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What is well understood, as Common School Education deserves and should receive the first attention of every community; the branches taught at Academies and Colleges should afterwards receive due encouragement and support. It is gratifying to know that the initiatory steps, for giving vitality to the former, were taken at the commencement of the Free State efforts in the Territory; and among the first acts of the first settlers was that of appropriating buildings for schools and for religious services.

Paid in introducing the most approved system, a son of Massachusetts, a gentleman distinguished for his beneficence, has liberally donated Twelve Thousand dollars.

Does he stand alone in his enlightened views, so munificently characterized? Have we not reason to believe that he is the representative man of a large class in New England, and the sister States, who are ready, when called upon, to imitate the noble example of their associate?

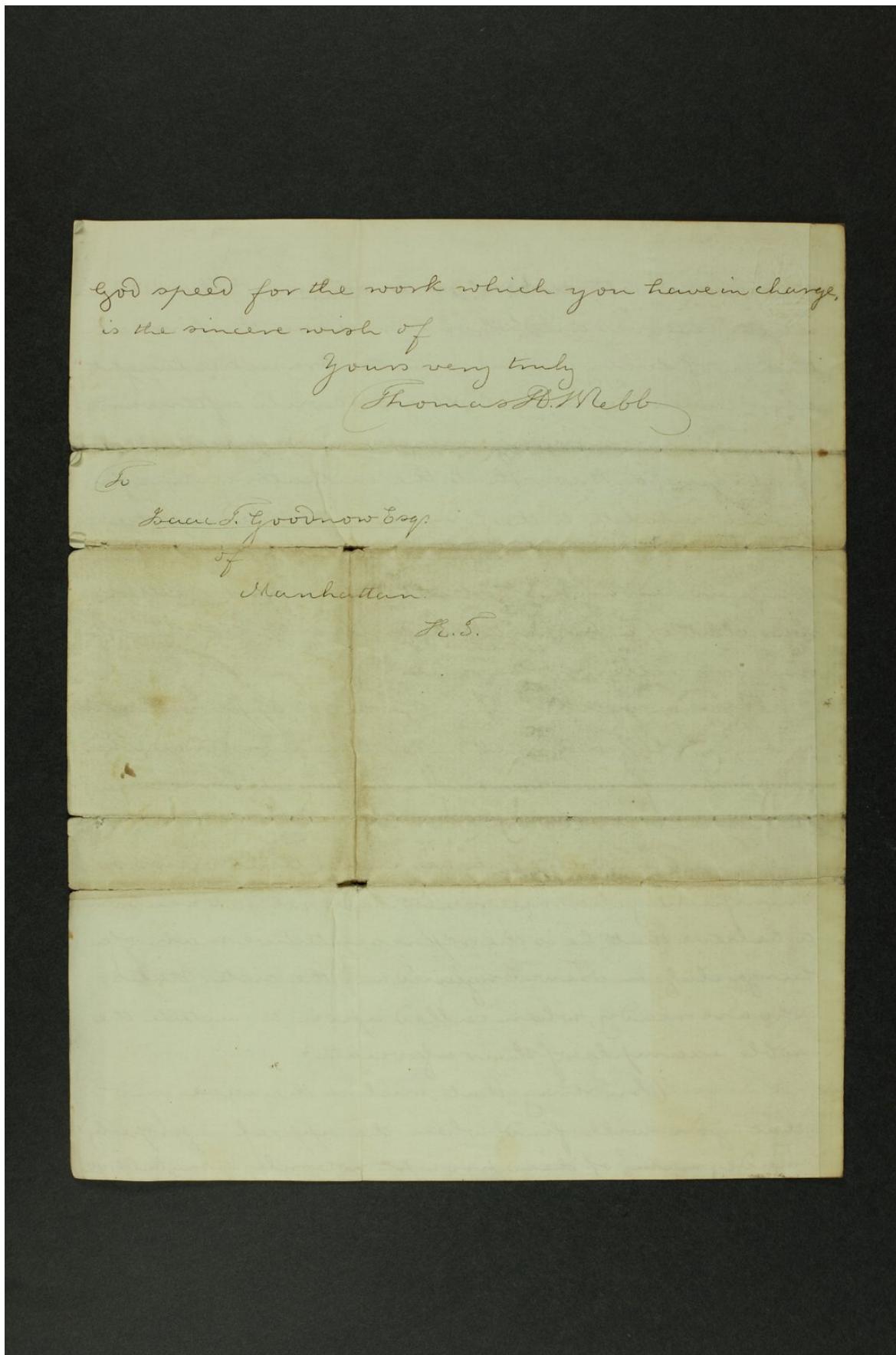
Tusting that such is the case, and that you will find, when the appeal is properly made, many of them prompt not only to say, but to do

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Missouri
I have not
written any
letters so soon
since you left
and I have
not written
any since you
left
[Goodnow], Ellen

[Goodnow], Ellen

Manhattan July 25, 1858

My Dear Husband.

I am anxiously
waiting for a letter from you as I have had
none since you left Elton. William had one
dated Galesburg, in all your notes you
speak of diarrhoea and feebleness. And
a month has passed in which we have
heard nothing. Have you received mine
directed to Chicago and N.Y. One at 6 p.m.
me and one from Joseph 3 at N.Y. No mails
arrived here for more than a week, all
the bridges carried off between here and
Leavenworth, and consequently travel has
been dispensed with. I did not write or post
a letter in the office last week but every
week but one before since you left. So if you
have received them you are pretty well
posted up respecting us. Hatty and I have
not been around much, nor much time to
be alone, for Royal his father or uncle
William have been here once in a day or two.

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or we have had company. They did not work but one week for Dr. Conday before he paid them off, and a Yankee can guess why. Have been without work for four weeks I asked Doyal to hoe out our corn. He went and looked at it and said it had been plowed faithfully twice, and did not know it. Week ago today Jane and Henry were taken quite sick. Henry with violent chills, fever, and ague back in the side. Jane with intermittent fever, they have had a very sick week. Jane dangerously so that I have spent three days all day and shall go this afternoon while Joseph preaches at Mr. Clark's. Dr. Robinson preaches at the meeting house. Jane was worse yesterday, has been out of her head a good deal, but yesterday ^{afternoon} quite rational said she must have rest soon or she should soon wear out. Is some better Henry is getting along well. Dr. Robinson was very sick yesterday has been since Wednesday. There are many cases of fever over by the lake. I see at the Warners Sherwoods &c. We have had abundance of rain so that I have not been to the spring since you left without wearing your india rubber boots. And once William could not get his horse across for one day or more. 2 inches in the rain gauge at one time, rained six nights in succession. Corn, potatoes, and all kinds of vegetation are growing to their greatest height. Sweet potatoes bid fair for a good crop. I have worked in the garden from one to three hours, accept these very hottest days, and still the strawberry tomatoes are choking each other for thickness as well as some weeds. To wet to work has been the complaint and will fill things or crops with weeds. Maria came Friday noon, and stayed till yesterday noon. Is looking well, and is quite contented as is Elisha. Think they are doing well. The old man and R. are at the time figuring for a large job at 3 dollars per day, and I guess it will end as did Dr. Conday

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Dont you mention their doing anything on a house for us. The spirit that is in the carpenters that is known much am I going to make out of you, will never prosper. Give me an honest man that wants to earn every cent of his money or not have any. I have three old hens with me and twenty seven little chickens that have not been molested but once, and that by a Polecat who was the means of killing a nine and biting gold white so she came near dying but is quite well now, and as thankful as cosy to me as you ever saw any thing that could thank you for life. Mr Holley has sent you three letters for that receipt for Shaving Soap which I will copy for you to hand him. Shaving Soap

4 lbs white soap, cut it fine & dissolve it in one quart of soft water over a slow fire. When it boils add one gill beef & gall, one gill spirits turpentine, stir them when boiling ten minutes & take off to cool. When cooling stir in one ounce of red Vermilion also one ounce of the oil of Sarsapar.

Joseph puts a letter in this mail and William says he is going to write soon will excuse me as I must go away soon. Do write me just how you are, or get some one, so that I may know the word. Hatty sends kisses and love and I heartily wish her in any number. Yours affectionately Ellen B. Goodnow

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G[oodnow], I.T.

Wednesday -

Boston, Mass., July 28th 1858.

My Dear Wife

I have just come from Dr.
Brownson's, Woburn this morning. She is not
very well. They are pleasantly situated.

He would like to come to D^r.

I spent the Sabbath in Worcester with
Dr C. Field who took up a collection
for me. Times are hard but I am doing
something. I will report particulars when
I return. I have had a letter from Harriet.
She thinks she is not well enough to go
to D^r. this fall, & I am not very
sanguine of her going willingly any time.

I do not know certainly whether I will
be able to visit her or not. But she
says, if I do not she will never forgive
me! This however I suppose is a rebuttal,
flourish. I think she would prefer to allow
to stay in D^r - a year or two if he can
make over money by it than to return at
a pecuniary sacrifice. She is very local

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in her attachment. W. J. Loomis & Lucy are expectant in the city en route for Spanish, to day. He has been quite sick.

Next Saturday I am thinking of going to Fall River, or E.G.— I have not been to E.G. yet.Leave on from N.Y. 10 days later without stopping. I must visit Ann. & Coleraine, & Whitingham down. I may return to N.Y. first, as I shall not hear from you till I do. And I do not wish to go on to ~~Mass.~~ N.Y., till I hear from you. I was disappointed in not getting any thing as I came on.

Louise Larcom is on visiting.

Lorenzo White is very low! probably will not live till winter.

Dr. Bernstein's wife is dangerously ill. have just had a council of Physicians in her case. My health is now very good, ~~and~~ and I am anxious to return as soon as circumstances will permit. I trust you & Hattie are well Mrs. & prospering, with "Big Pone" & little Pone, dog, cat, chicken, &c. How comes on the Coons & Wildcats? And how prosper the new church? Have they finished seats enough to occupy?

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How is J— & family? Do Kimball's folks
& my friend Weston & family? Is there much
building going on in Minn & does Mr B—
keep the mill going. Mrs R.'s mother is not
here but in Maine. I shall miss seeing her.
I regret this small, as I have a great
desire to call upon her. If I go to Norway
I shall probably see Mrs. Butterfield's
friends in Portland. If not I shall forward
her letter. I hope you see our dear friends,
Dr. R— & Mr B.'s families often.— My best
regards to them. The two Editors & publish-
ers of our Manhattan paper will leave for
R— in about 2 weeks. I like the
appearance of Mr Clark's colleague full as
well as him. Is younger & better looking.
I may add a word before this goes
out but best I should not & will
say Foreman. Yours as ever I. G.
Mrs. Ellen S. Goodnow.

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Charlestown, Mass, Wednesday Eve, 28th July,
Dear Ellen, I am visiting to night at Dr. Brown's
to White. Lucy Babcock that was in her.
Have had a hearty reception. Dr. White is about
better than I expected, - is very thin, but all
hope! Consumption I fear has fastened upon him
for its victim! His wife is very obtuse in
health. This P.M. I met Dr. Brown's wife, &
spent a very happy hour with them. They have
gone on to Ipswich. She looks thin, but says she
is better than she need to be. If I can get a
Collection in the Church at Ipswich I design
to spend the next Sabbath there. I. G.
Affectionately yours as ever, I. G.

Thursday. At 11 o'clock, I am just about ^{to} leave
for Boston. Design to call on Dr. Brownly today by
invitation. I had a letter from Ann, last night
is well - but not very well provided for; just
from our first, requesting me to get something for her
from J. Young. Affectionately, I. G.

Dr. White sends regards for his family, & also Lucy
Babcock or rather Mr. Gibbs. He appears very
natural.

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Manhattan Aug 3^d 1858.

Very Dear Husband.

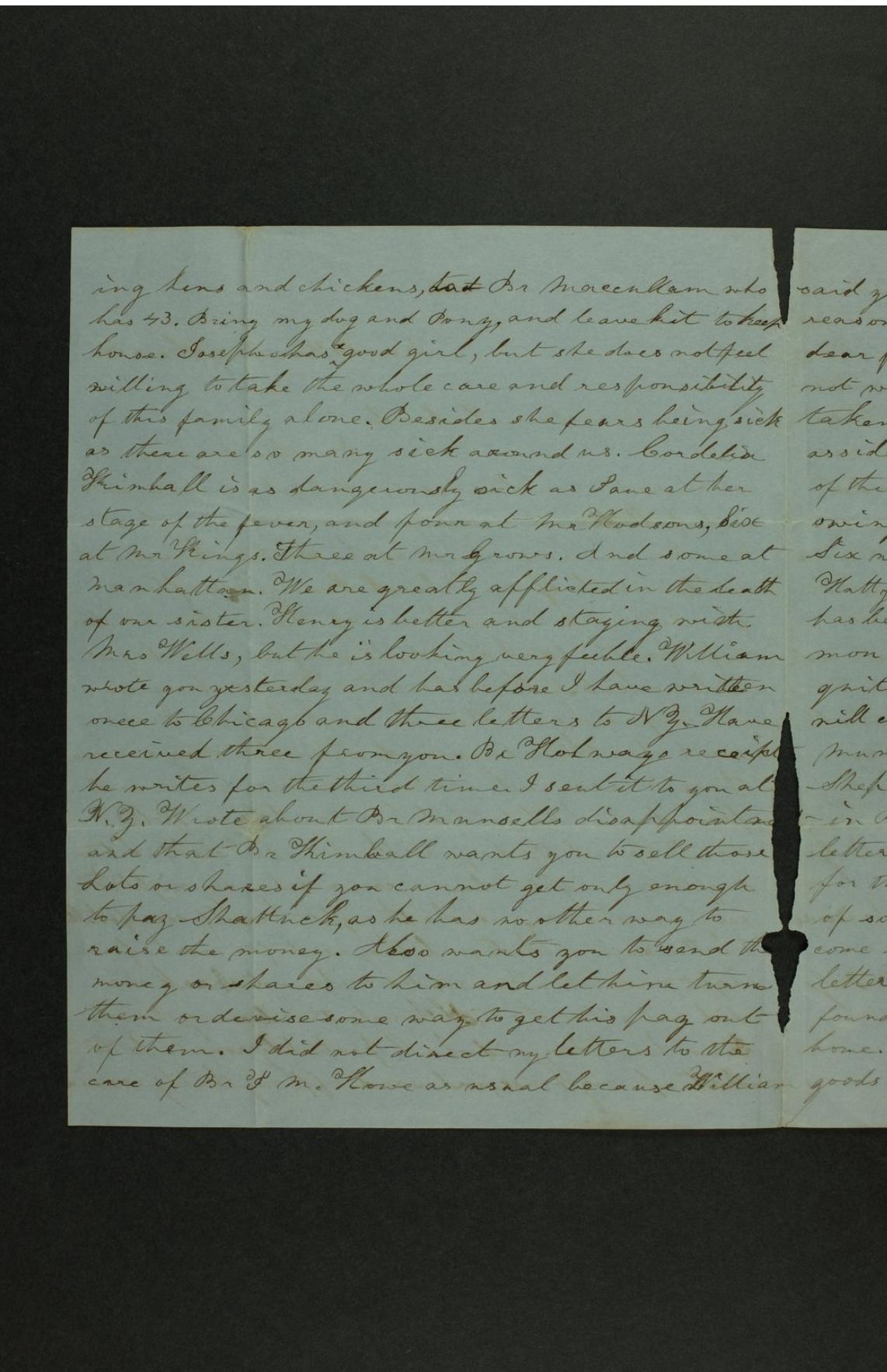
In this changing world, and ever strange land, I yet remain well and filled with anxiety to know what is best. Ere this you have heard of the short sickness, and sudden death of our beloved Fenny. Yes after a few chills, and bilious fever of two weeks our sister left for the land of rest, day before yesterday at twelve o'clock. Of these deceptive Kansas fevers. We hoped her better the week before. I was with her three days, and obliged to stay at home three on account cholera morbus. Came and found she had failed fast and Mrs. Wells was to spend the days with her, so I stopped two nights one night between, came Saturday night to see how she was, and she thought herself comfortable I better next sabbath, and they sent for me before eight, and when I came she could not speak nor did not after that, although tried very hard. I am here today, and shall probably conclude to shut up my house, and send off my thirty remain-

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I am who said you said simply N.Y. I cannot see any
but to keep reason why you should not get them. Our dear
friends east will have to excuse me for
not writing to them as my moments are all
taken for the motherless and afflicted ones
aside from what I spend in rest and on account
of the heat which is very oppressive this season
owing to the dampness, & great deal of rain.
Six nights in succession once in July.
Natty is well as are the rest of us. Dr. Robinson
has been very sick, but is now better. Mr. Scan-
mon is dead. Received a letter from Nancy
quite anxious to hear from us. Perhaps you
will conclude to go and see her when you do Dr
Munsell. You have seen she that was sister Dwight
Shepherd before this. She wrote to visit her
friends in Brooklyn. Dr. Shepherd brought up your last
letter expecting drafts or money some way
enough for the church, as they are greatly in want
of some for the workmen. There has nothing
come since you left. Joseph has sent you five
letters, and will write again soon. Who can be
found to have the care of this family after you come
home. Can you not get some ten gds of woolen
goods for every day wear for these children.

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Plaid or stripe perhaps one thread cotton
but that that will not fade however I think
you can get it for 25cts. I think full of babies
and cotton with shoes and booties for children
would be a great favor to this as well William
R. If we have a house we shall need some new
sheets and pillow cases. Do write me what
success you are having, and when you are
coming home give much love to our Hove
family. Mr. Batemans, and all Greenwich
friends. Tell them if I never see the day the
motherless are provided with every needed good
I shall write them. I mean when I do not
feel they demand my every hour. Hatty sends
kisses, and I join her with much love.

Ever yours affectionately,

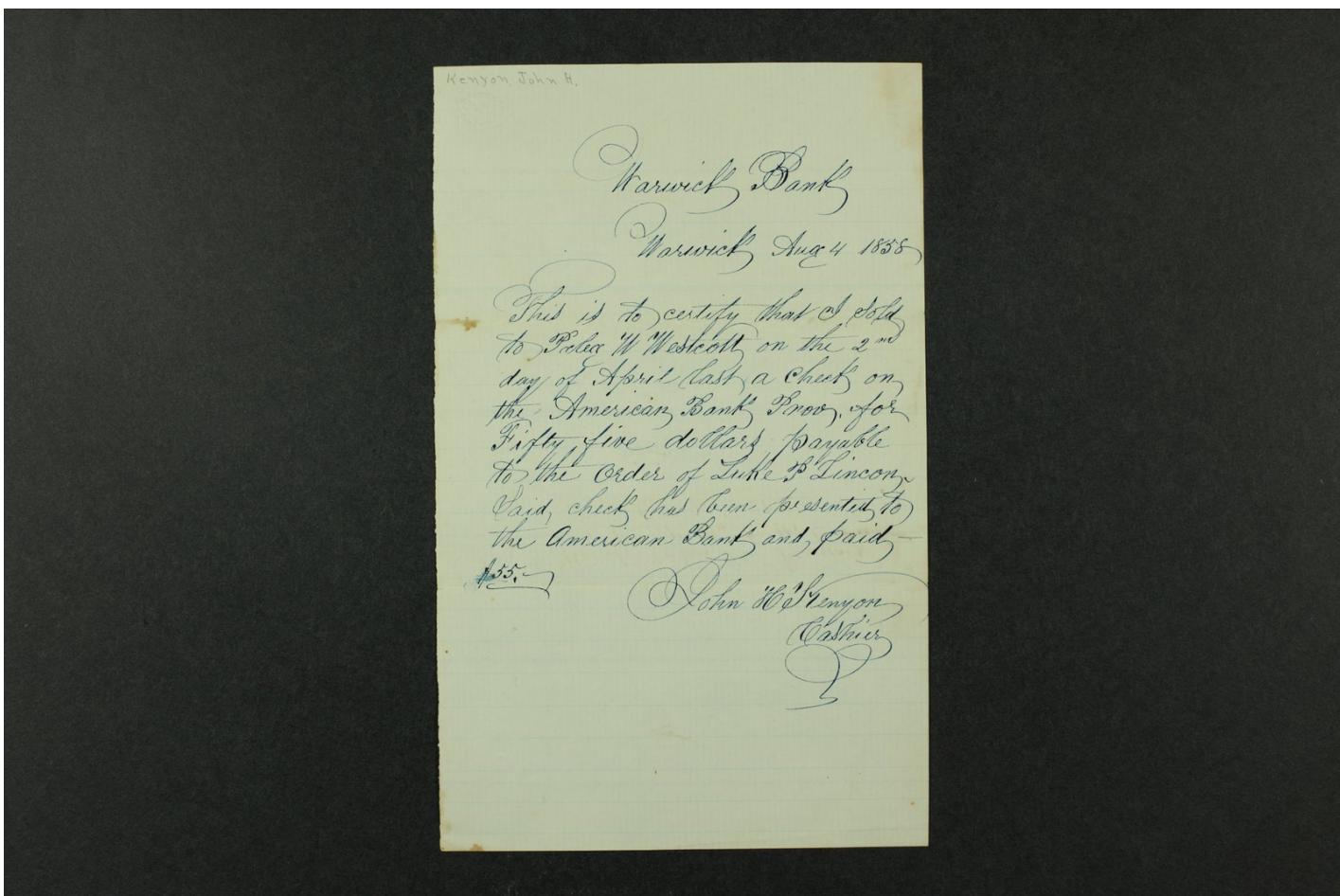
E. D. G.

P.S. Our Colerain and Whitingham friends
you must visit and tell them to write me
for I cannot them at present, E. D. G.

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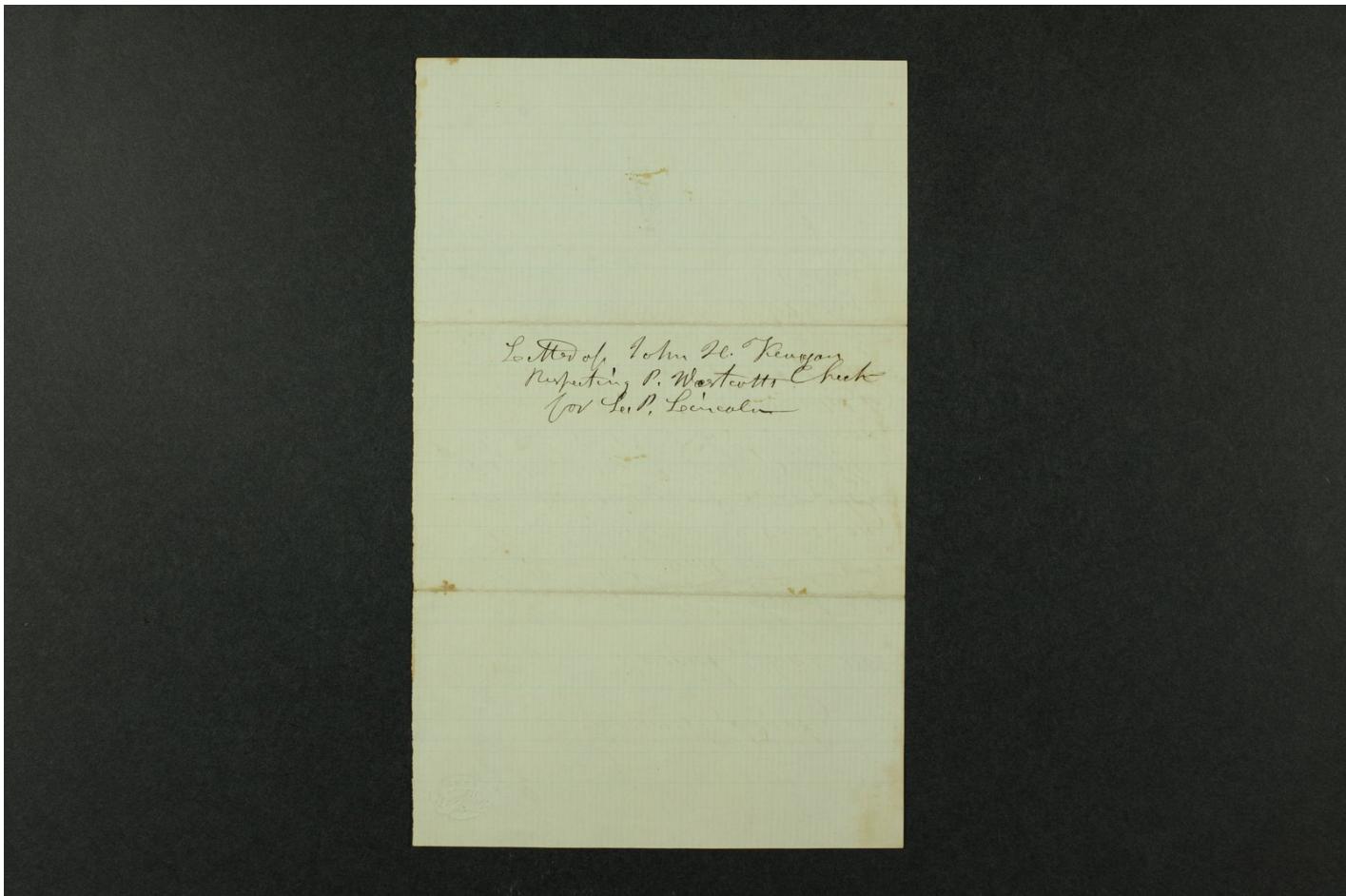
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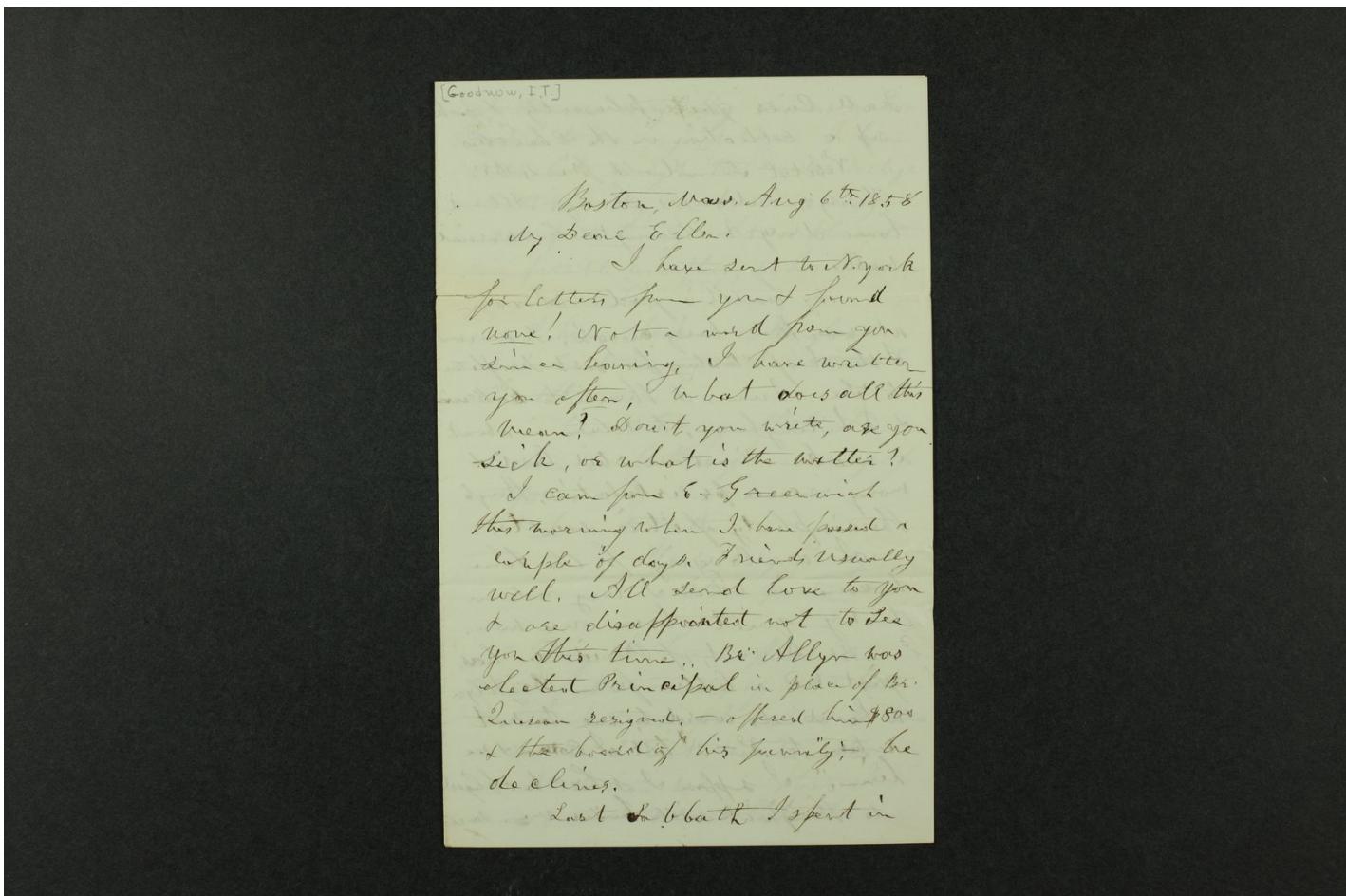
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Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Fall River quite pleasantly & took up a collection in the churches.

Visited several old friends Dr Henry, & Mason's family, Allard home. Mary A. Remington has married well.

My health is good & I am at work - busy enough. Tomorrow I think of starting for East Templeton to see Ann, & thence to Colerian & Whitingham, to return in about a week. Times are still hard & money scarce for circulation, though there is plenty of it in books etc.

I am longing for the time to come in which I may return to my quiet home once more.

Mr Dernot, of Providence has just rec'd a letter from Brooklyn who sends word to me to not return to R-S till I come & see him." I suppose I shall be obliged to thought it will hinder me, some

days - every day seems valuable to me, - just now. I have sold lots enough to render college matters & my own business easy, - comparatively. It is pleasant comfortable weather, & has been for the last time.

I have had a letter from B.C. Eastman - all in usual health.

How strange that I receive no letters from any of you!

Love to all.

Yours very truly
I. S. Goodnow.

To day I have offered our half of the owls of 60 lots in Newbottom, if I will sell them.

You need not mention this.
All I wish said is that I am prepared to meet liability.