

# Kansas Memory



## Isaac Goodnow correspondence

### Section 72, Pages 2131 - 2160

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

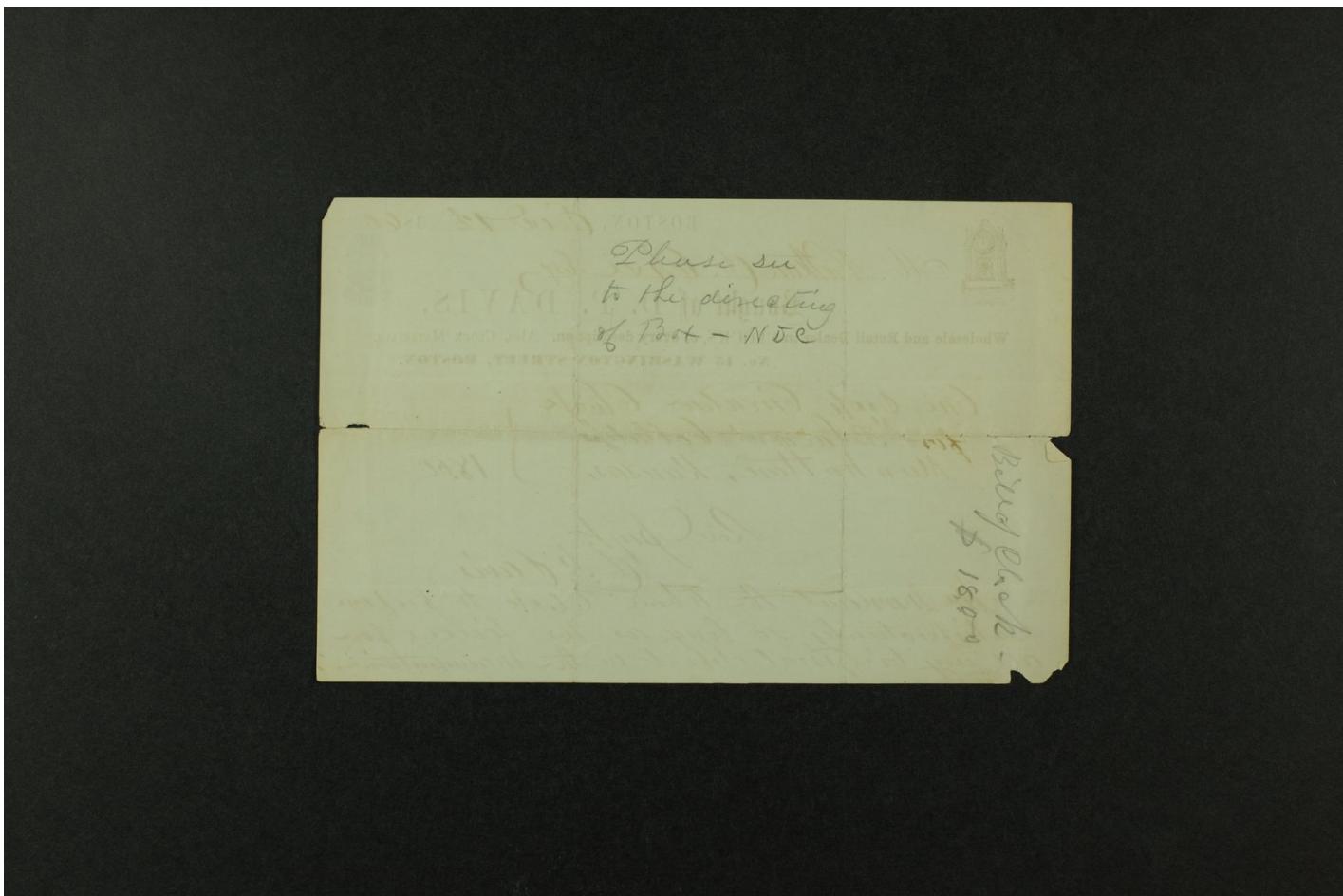
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Troy Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1860.

My Dear Husband.

I was delighted just now, to get another letter from you; as I had been here a week and two days, and had not had one since the 23<sup>d</sup> of Nov (or yours was dated then) I am all glad to see me, and delighted to have me stay as long as I can. Think you had better direct your next to Xenia as I shall probably be there Christmas or soon after. (Perhaps before) We are invited out to dinner, and they <sup>have</sup> a great supper next Friday night. If you were here I should like to go

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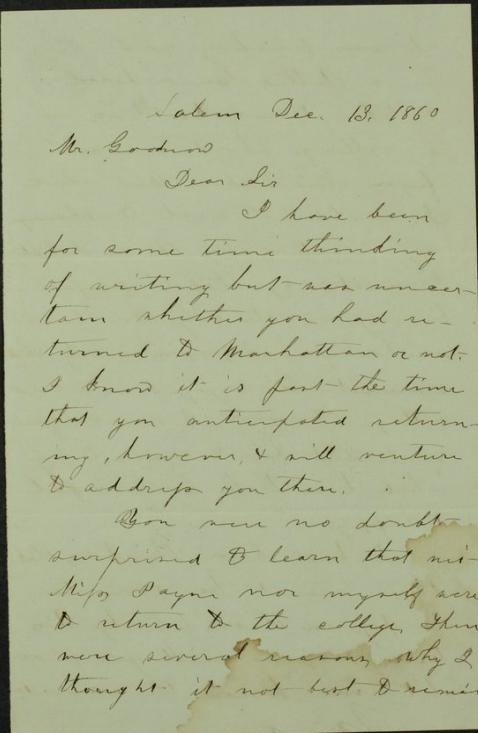
## Isaac Goodnow correspondence

shall go with Dr F's wife today as it is Callier's cousin. Dr Wesley Browne is their Preacher, and speaks of you with much interest. Has a fine wife. They will be there, how I wish you could, be with us. It is a beautiful day. Dr Sabins children are enjoying my visit very much. They have few relatives to write them. You say nothing of going to Washington. I wrote you and directed to care of Dr Browne 227 Grand St. Have you <sup>received</sup> got it? William wrote you and directed to Cincinnati and I put it in that letter. I was respecting that place if I can't remember the name, sold to John Lewis <sup>my understanding</sup> I believe. You will get it and see to it, no doubt. Will Joseph go home before we go? He ought to go and see Nancy. I have not bought all we shall need to take home with us. How long shall you stop at Nancy's and how much time will you have at Cincinnati? Will Joseph go back with us? I have not called on the Colvilles or Deans. here. Kind but little to write about, am trying to enjoy all my privileges in hopes of having you for society very soon. Mrs Sabin sends much love, and would like to see you here very much. The children want to see you as does your humble wife. I cannot tell how much. <sup>from</sup> Ellen

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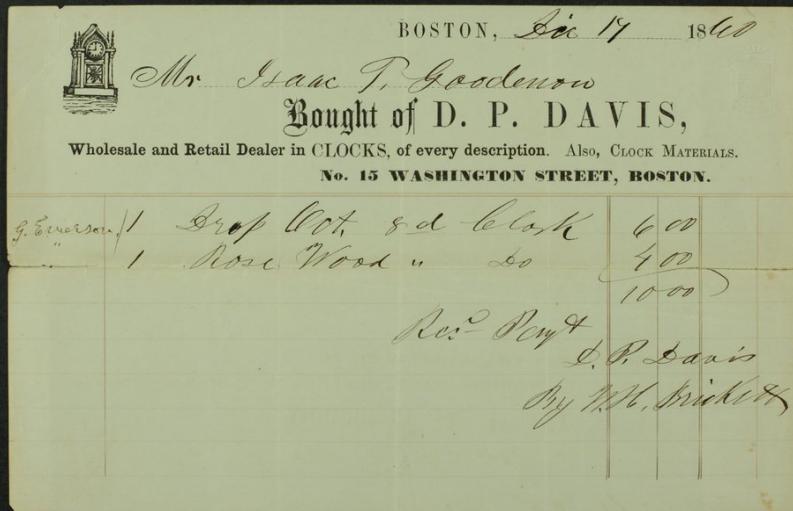
I am teaching now  
in a Public Union School  
& like it much. It is in  
a village about ten miles  
from New Lisbon. But while  
I would not wish to change  
my position for the one I left  
I must say that I prefer  
living in the city. One knows  
one has principles in a city that  
cannot be enjoyed in a small  
village. However I am very well  
contented here & mean to try  
to make here to be both useful  
& happy.

I have been thinking that  
there must be some tax  
to pay on those lots by this  
time & if so will you please  
let me know the amount.

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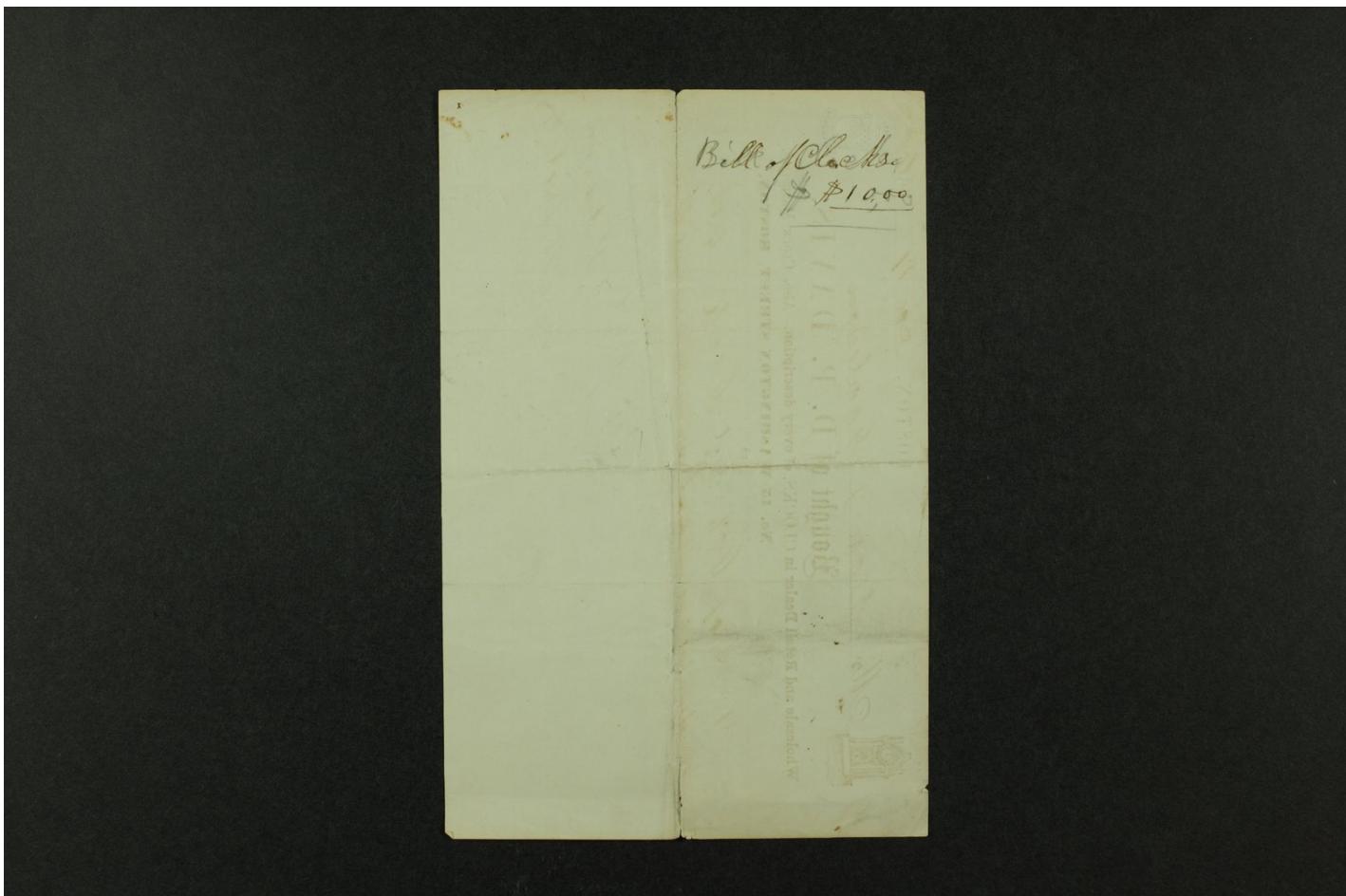
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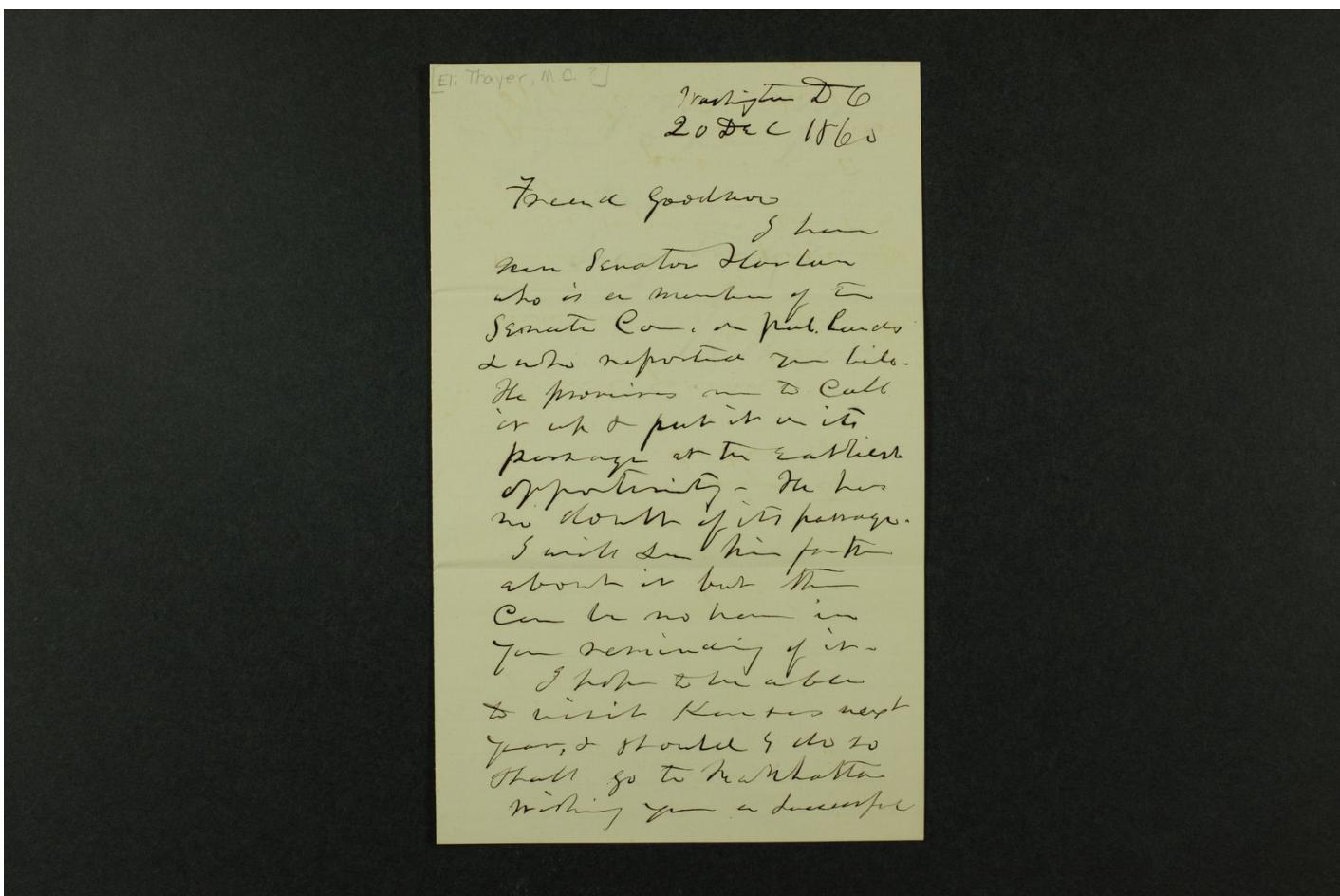
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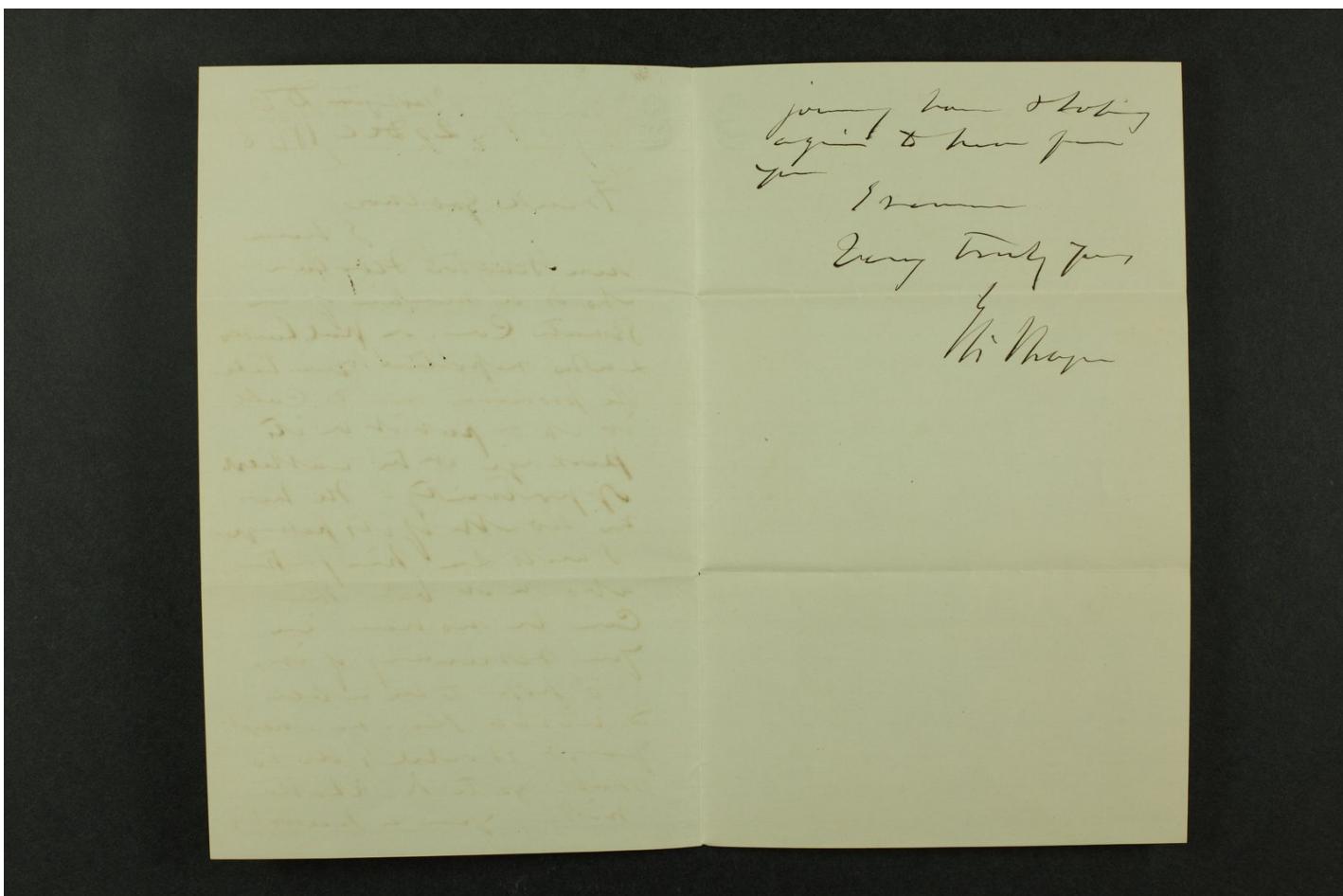


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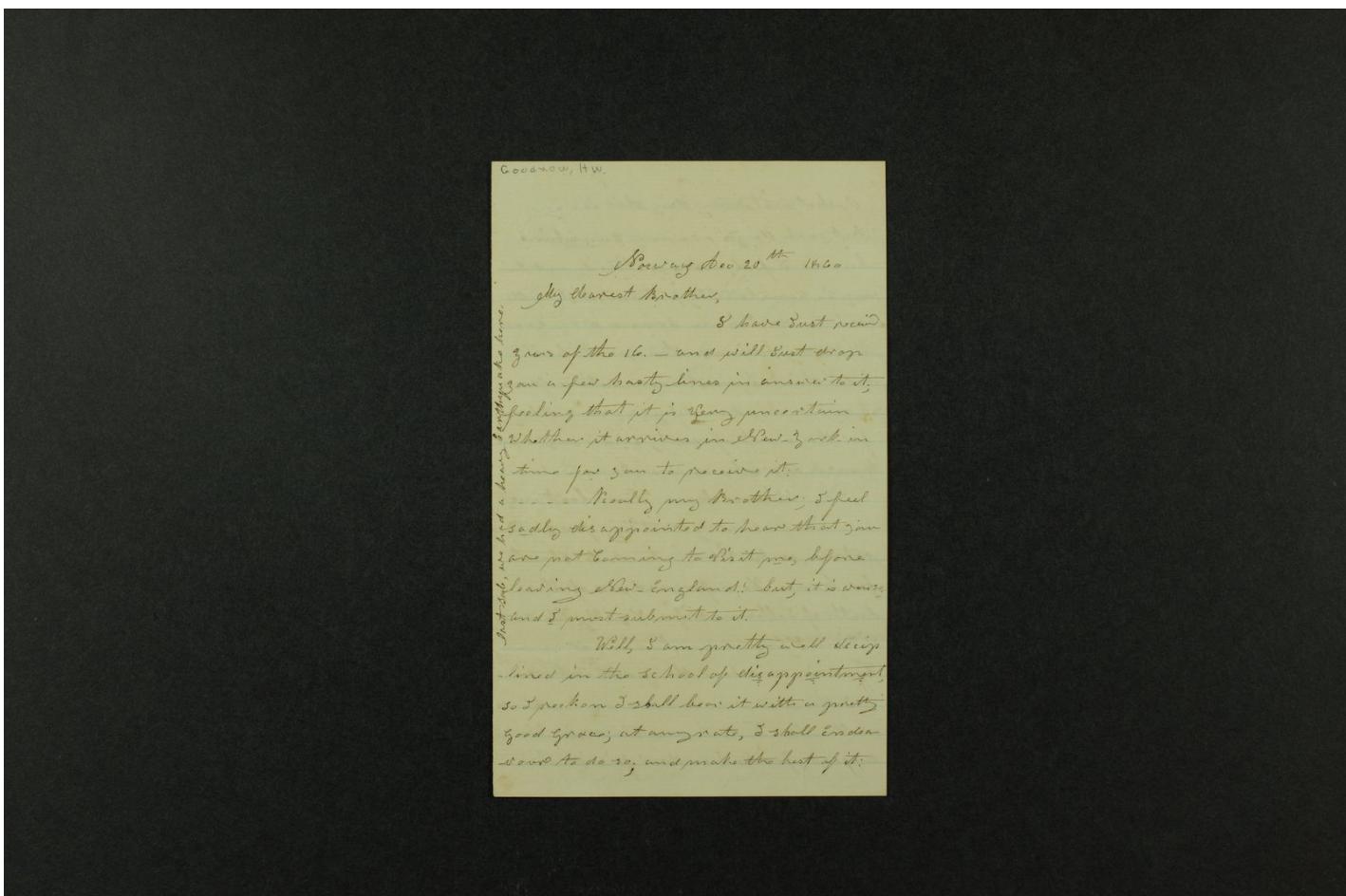
## Isaac Goodnow correspondence



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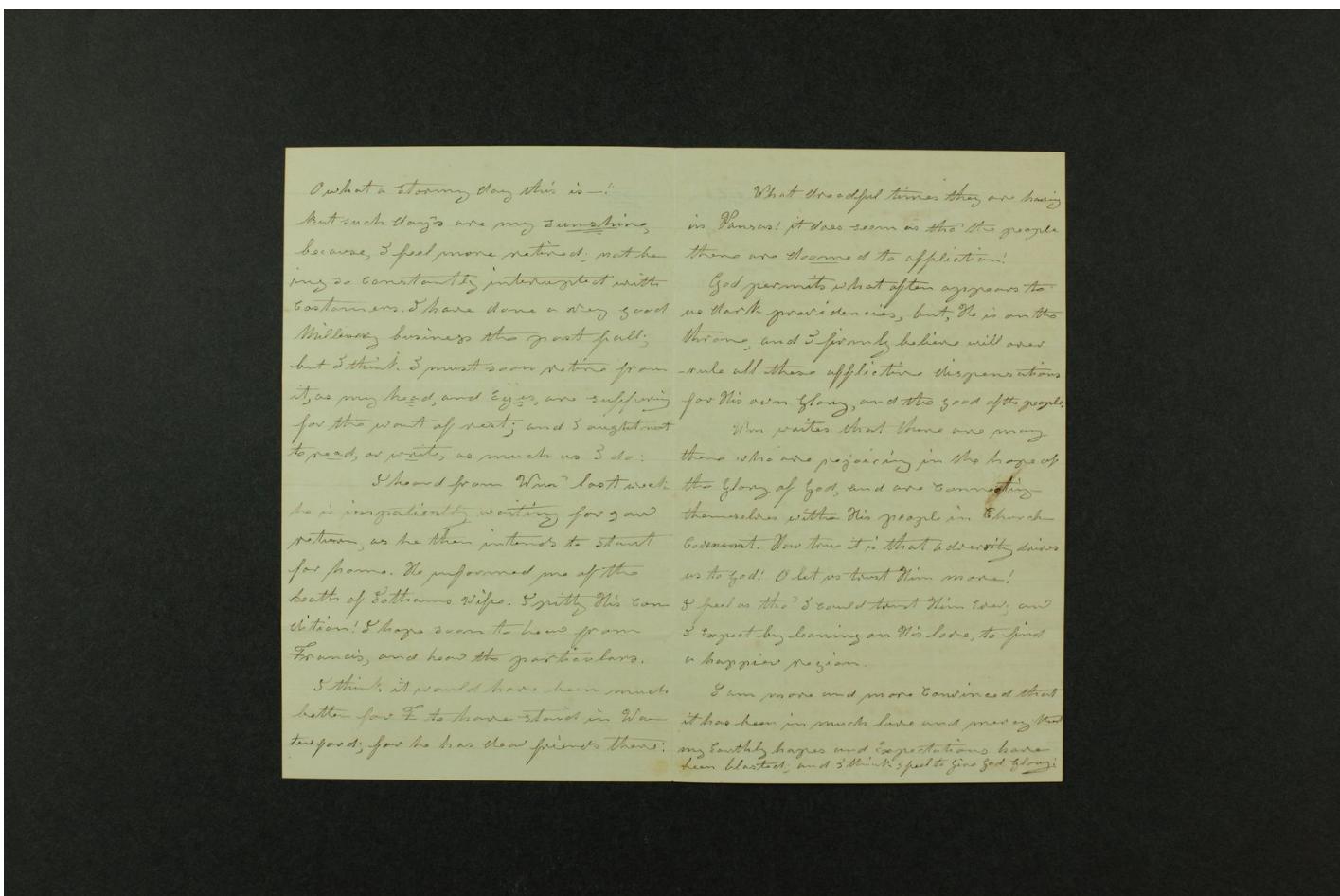
## Isaac Goodnow correspondence



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## Isaac Goodnow correspondence



O what a stormy day this is!

But such days are my sunshine, because, I feel more retired; not being so constantly interrupted with cottoners. I have done a very good Millwood business the past fall; but I think, I must soon return from it, as my head, and eyes, are suffering for the want of rest; and I ought not to read, or write, as much as I do:

I heard from Wm. last week he is impatiently waiting for my return, as he then intends to start for home. He performed me at the death of S. Thomas' wife. & with his condition! I hope soon to hear from Francis, and have the particulars.

I think, it would have been much better for F. to have staid in Wm. too long; for he has dear friends there:

What troublous times they are having in Kansas! it does seem as tho the people there are doomed to affliction!

God permits what often appears to us dark & gloomy; but, He is on the throne, and I firmly believe will overrule all these afflictions for generations.

I am sorry that there are many who are rejoicing in the losses of the glory of God, and are connecting themselves with His people in Church Government. How true it is that adversity drives us to God! O let us trust Him more!

I feel as tho I could trust Him every day; and I expect by leaning on His love, to find a happier region.

I am, more and more convinced that it has been in much love and mercy that my earthly hopes and expectations have been blasted; and I think I feel to give God Glory;

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## Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Well, my dear Brattin, I think it is very uncertain now, whether we ever meet again this side the Stromal World; but let us live for God and man.

-- I have to think of day's gone by, in a pleasant aspect, in connection with you, and many dear loved ones, gone, and they, are best as does to my poor heart now as ever, and ever will be as long as reason holds her throne.

Sometimes feel no other? I was beaten up, and forgotten by those so dear - then, an repulsion, judging from my own feelings & think I cannot let her go. Of few more things I should love to say, to you! and have been longing and trying to have an opportunity to do so. Furthermore you will probably see him before I shall, like me, lose to him, and tell him who I am, and shall be very happy to see him in his place next known once more.

At Friday afteralls in to know you, and that life and family are well.

Please give much love to sister Ellen tell, I have wondered that she has not written me. Who has mentioned receiving letters from her, and I will answer all the letters she will write me; when I communicate them letter I will I should write but a few lines; but you see how I have run on! Well, that is a way I have when I write you; I never know when to stop. I hope you can read it and as you are a good School, 3 years you can; but I think I write worse and worse.

Change my dear brother, you will not forgive me, if you get to write me; and believe me as well you know Sister H. W. Goodnow

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Bluemont Kansas  
Dec 22 1860

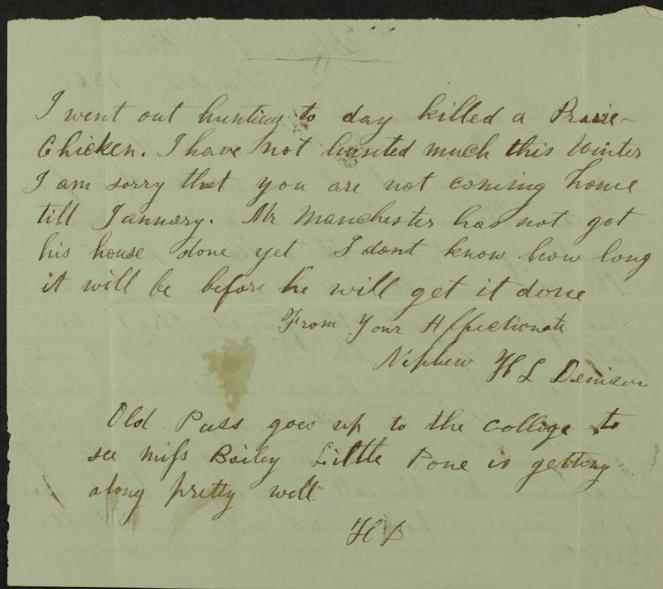
My Dear Uncle

As Uncle W— is writing to you I thought I would write a few lines. We have been having some cold weather for two or three days past. This afternoon there was about two inches of snow fell the first that has fallen this year. Mr Brouse is at work finishing the door frames and soap boards in the College. the 4th term of School will commence on next Monday the 24th of December. Mr Sharatt is going to teach some of the larger scholars and Miss Bailey the rest—

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Bloomington, Dec. 22, 1860—

Dear Brother Yours of the 10th is at hand, & I will as short as may be respond to your inquiries— Mr. Currier was bound up to Dec. 1st & no longer, & I received him in care he could sell & get his money sooner than from you, or Mr. Loring—he had a offer of \$900, but the man failed him after all—he is obliged to make out some money that was due Dec. 13, but he got it deferred till Jan. 1st presuming that you would be here by that time—I got some glass set to enclose the house & have bought back your stones Currier will let you have the house if he can't do or make a better sale for his interest.

I have been up & seen Mattie & got some calico &c for her—Elisha & Mrs. Hale have gone to Missouri to buy a flock of sheep.

The Valley is all plastered, & joined work mostly done & also No. 10—the trimmings are to be painted—Mrs. Brown has another son a week old. The Blue river is almost closed up. I was at Rock Creek last Thursday & put up at Mr. King, & Friday morning I had my ears frozen, it was an awful night & snowed & blizzard; & to-day we have had some inches of snow here. I shall not carry the walls of the new house any higher than the cellar till spring. I have a very nice cellar done for the ell part, 12x20—

I shall be pleased to see that dearable wife,

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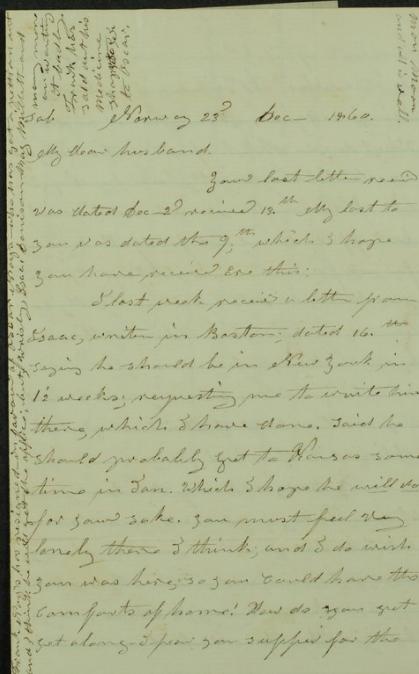
Brother Denison's family are all well except colds, which are quite prevalent all around here now. I have not heard from Ellen since June; nor from any of our ut. relatives—the most I know is through your letters. Brother Wells wants your Poney taken away, I have hay bought for you in with Br. D's yard. What kind of wood was brother Wells & Blake to take? I shall have the books brought up soon, & a team engaged to get your baggage at Atchison. I have received some letters for you, & answered them. Griffin at Leavenworth now wants money forthwith \$50 or \$100 will be very acceptable. Many are inquiring for you—will like money of course. Fuel is now being received by our destitute ones. I have parted company with most of my clothes to more needy ones. J. wrote Dec. 9, & is quite well—they had sleighing in Maine Dec. 3<sup>d</sup> I am kept from there for some good purpose I presume. Where's Mary Ann now? and also Gotham? his wife is dead! I suppose you have heard of the "Union" being marshaled into a cocked hat!—We have had, & are now having good reviewing religious times. My health is quite good, & I hope will be for some time to come. Dr. Whitehorn's wife is dead—Dr. Robinson is sick a bit & Dr. Adams—all by colds & exposure—the Blue river bridge is progressing well. All the Lee family & J. Hoar & wife have got religion!—And many others. Horace—

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## Isaac Goodnow correspondence

comforts of life; I don't see how it can and to me it seems alarming; as they  
be otherwise. The Tsunami of yesterday - come oftener, and more heavy; it does  
bring sad news from thence! and then seem as though we are threatened by the  
What do you think of our national govt. Consulsions of the Earth beneath us;  
-grets? I have recently been reading the as well as the Communications around us.  
life of Washington; and to realize what  
he suffered; and my forefathers also,  
for our freedom and eternal independence;  
and to see it so lightly con-  
temned, and threatened to be overthrown  
by and wicked & cruel - to night is a cool  
reflection; but it is such day and I will  
stop writing about it; it is enough to be  
afraid to think of it.

Well, God is very where; and doubtless  
it is his voice speaking to us in all these  
threatening dispensations! O let us be  
so as to be ready for any; and every im-  
aginey! I feel more and more the im-  
position of it; for what is there of earth  
as in Earth to be depended upon?

I am glad to hear that in our  
spiritually alive in your locality; how  
yesterday we had quite a heavy snow  
storm. The day is pleasant, and warm;  
but, I do not go out to meetings having  
some cold and not feeling very well!

A week ago to day, we had a very  
heavy Earthquake; we lost one in Octy

time it is that adversity turns us to God;  
and makes us feel our dependence upon  
Him! If you ever feel that uninterrupted  
prosperity would not have been so good  
for me, as the trying road of my  
pilgrimage has been; because I am

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naturally so fond of creature comforts,  
and dependencies, that I suppose it is  
why I have had so many important  
lessons set before me. Well, isn't that  
a little while longer, than 3 hours yet  
to labor? or sufficient time?

I have no news to write you  
only that the massies people of this  
place old, and young; went down to  
Mechanics falls last Tuesday to a sleigh  
ride, and after had picnicking and dancing  
through the afternoon and evening.  
Our Minister, and Deacons went one of  
the most of and church, what do you  
think of that? O my heart is grieved!

The person said to me, I suppose you  
would have gone, if your husband had  
been here; & I said no; if he had been  
here, I would not have gone; and I said,  
doubtless whether he was God;

O the inconsistency of Christians!  
or those who profess to be! How can  
we expect God to bless us, as we are  
as a church, but why do I write you this?

Old Mr. Balster is very sick; & I am  
of no assistance, it is healthy here;  
people begin to ask me if I ever forget  
you to come home again, and I don't mind,

I never have received any Person offering  
whether do I believe they have ever directed  
one home from their office, you should better  
look into that matter, & I send you the best of  
my regards. Edens takes no further of your letter  
by day of calling, or to see me. I must be Pardonable.

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## Isaac Goodnow correspondence

Sunday 23. Now finished 3 days of 5 am & 3  
received Mr. Hale called here yesterday, and I  
gave him his bill & he said he should write  
you soon. I think my health is some better  
today than it was last sabbath.  
We have had warm, changey, and pleasant  
weather for the week past. It's a general  
time of health here; and I have no good  
tidings news to write. Yours ever Th.

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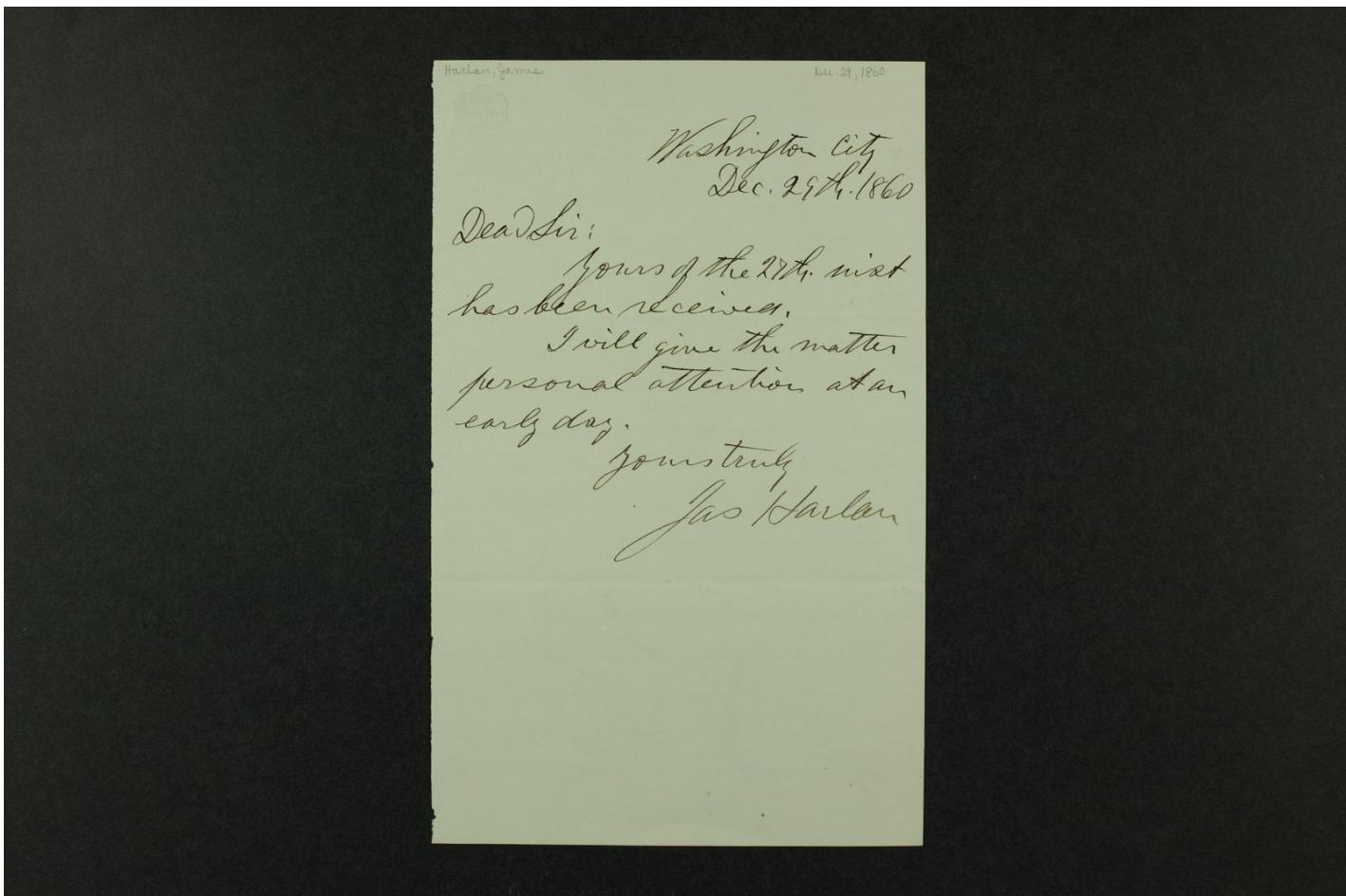
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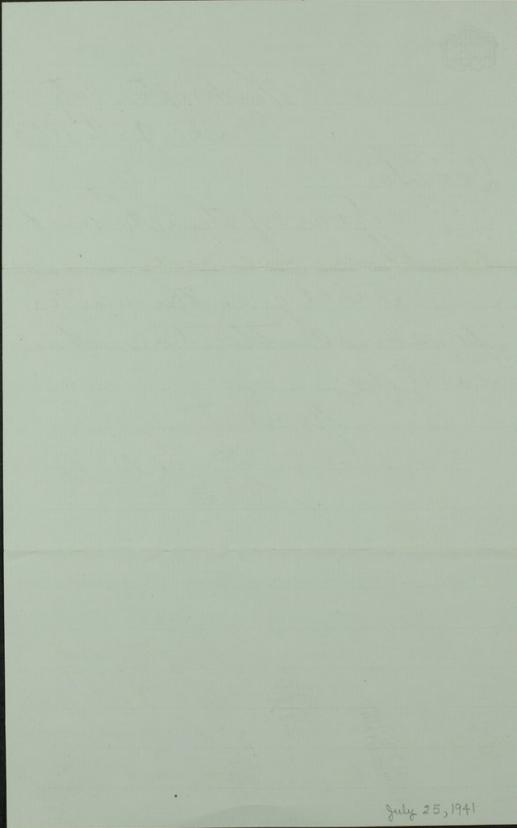
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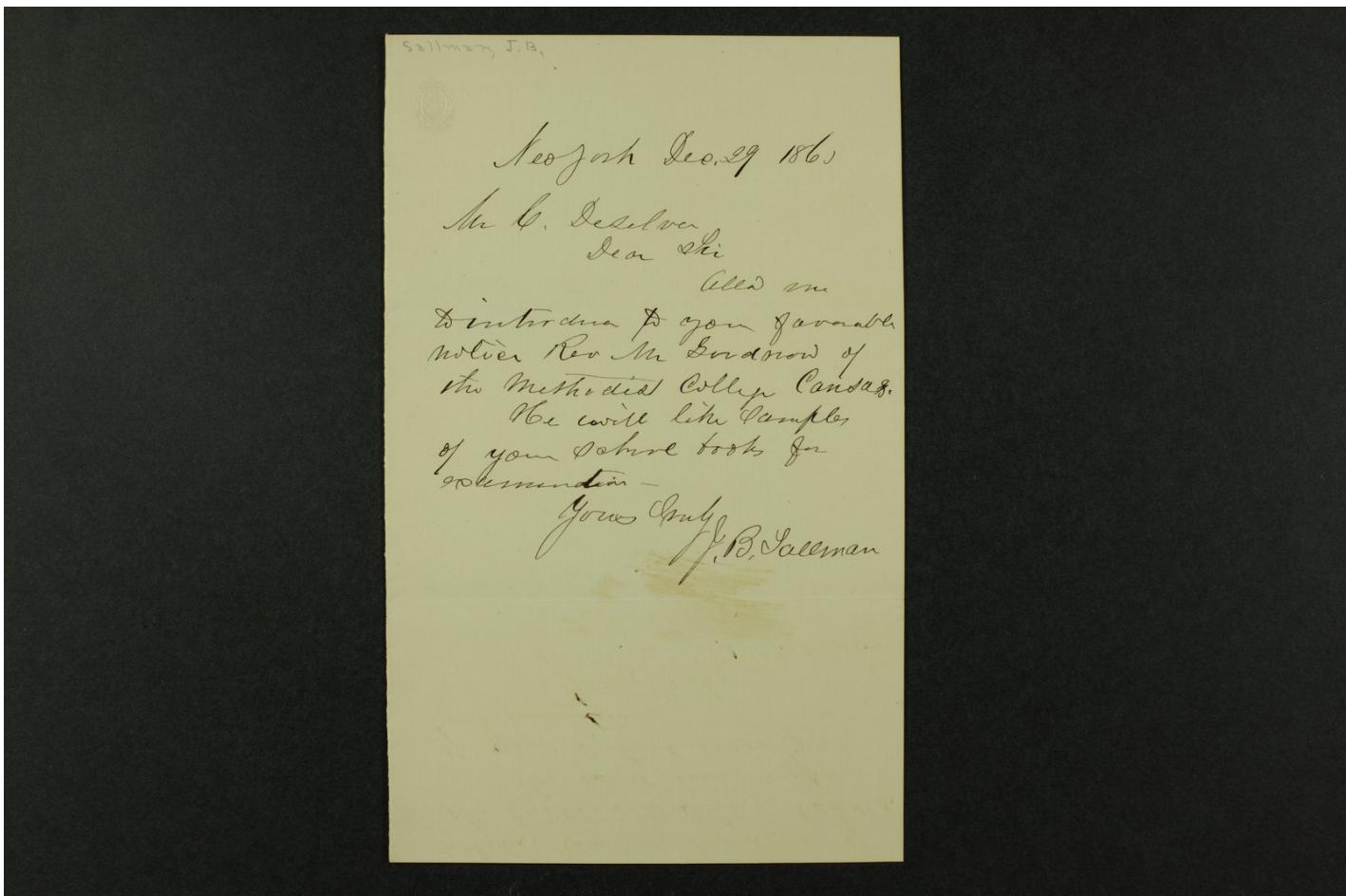


July 25, 1941

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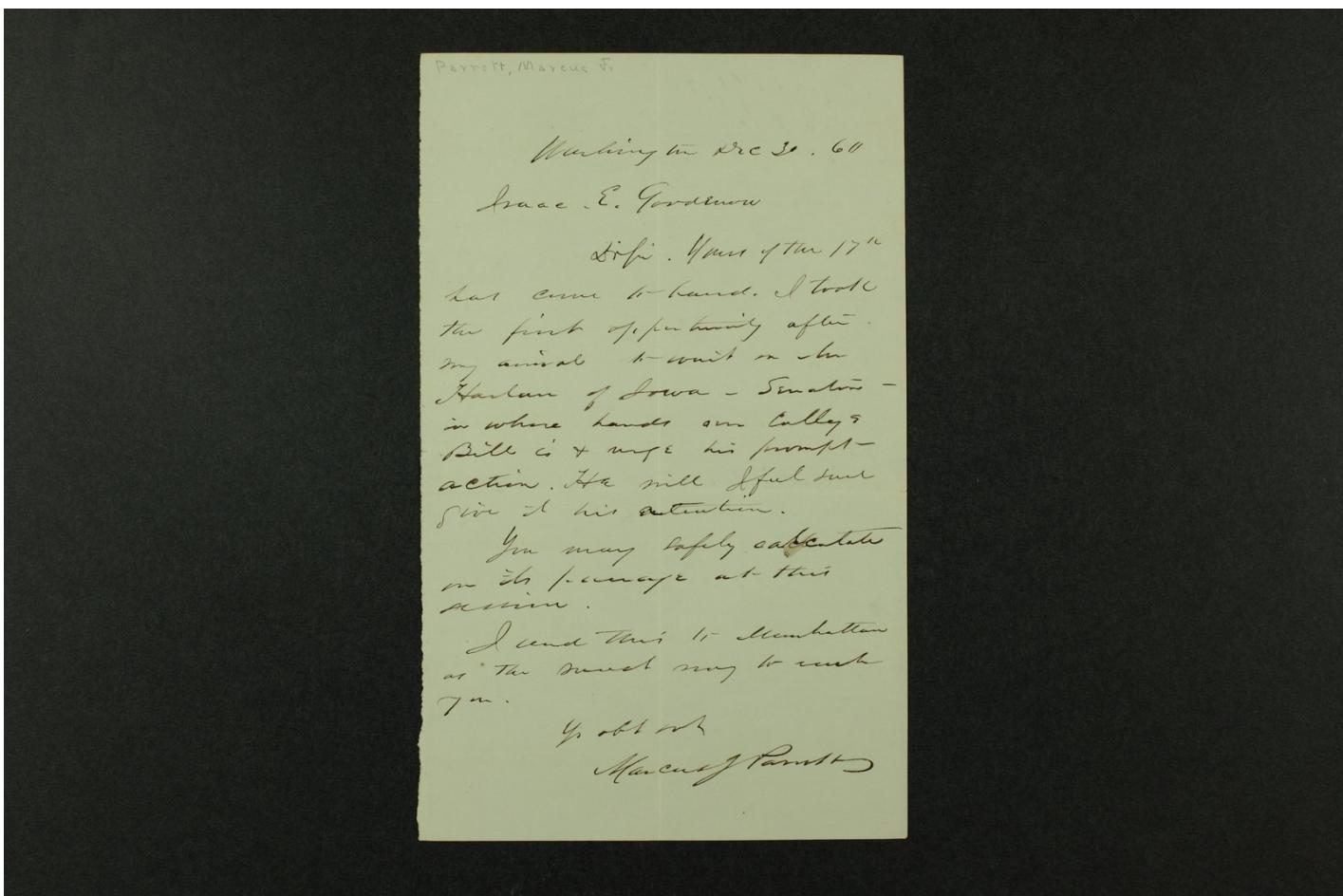
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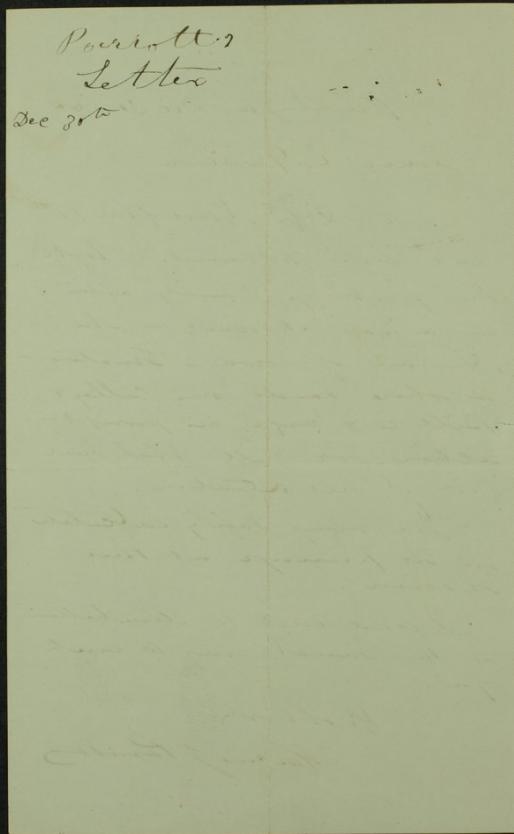
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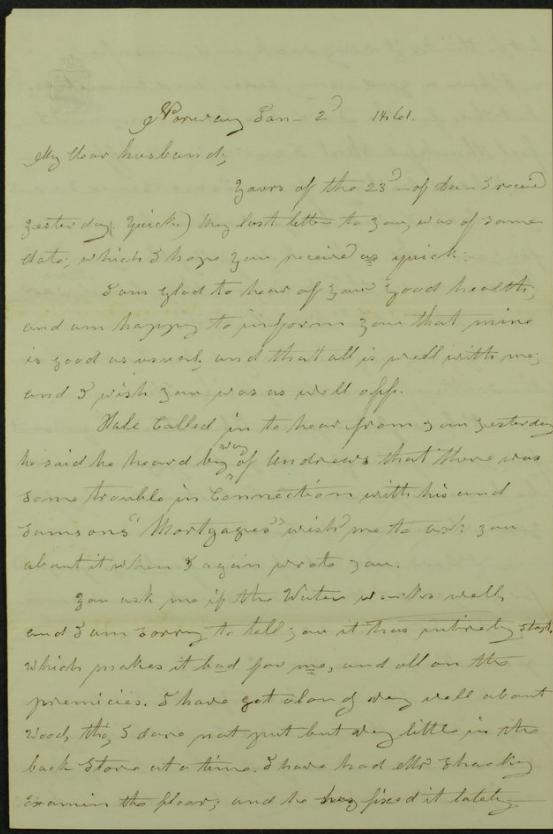
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but he thinks it very weak, and unsatisfactory.

I have a good many tasks, and uncertainties; but thus far the Lord has led me on; and I feel thankful that I am so well off.

I have nothing from Isaac since I wrote you last. I shall be glad when he gets home on some contribution, but I dare not pray for your sake. I know I do grieve the people in Kansas! and I think we are threatened <sup>letter</sup> with worse than the Revolution!

My only hope is in God, for He can cause the hearts of men to praise Him.

I have got a nice Christmas present for you; price of \$2.50, expecting you would be here to receive it, but it is ready for you when you do come:

I have got a lot of nice footings prepared for you; and I think you must need some by this time; and I wish I could give you my own neighbors some; also:

We are having a beautiful winter here, so far; mild weather, and excellent sleighing; I do not ride out myself, but I enjoy seeing others ride; I am a home body you know.

I send you in this letter \$5.00, which

I hope you will receive; and if you do not need it for your own personal benefit, make such use of it, as you think proper:

I do wish the people here would send me something on some contribution, but I dare not make a move, fearing my motives would be misconstrued; but I have a heart to do a good deal if I could:

I wish you would mail me one Manhattan newspaper, and see if it does not come.

I don't believe there has been any sent here.

Business is very dull here, and it is getting worse, and worse, in all parts of the country; but we know the comforts of life for the present; and an effort not to distrust God—providence for the future:

I live alone this winter; I have no one in the house with me, neither do I wish to have; for tenants are more plagues than profits, a good deal; it is almost impossible to account, and then they exact every thing into the bargain:

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We like our Minister very well, still we cannot tell what he will prove to be; & for one have met with so many disappointments in the Clergy; that I place very little dependence upon any of them; but perhaps, I have not charity enough, and do not make allowance enough for good human nature. I believe I wrote you that Savery had moved to Daway; we have recently heard they were all bone sick Hell, if he had done us the courtesy, to me might have been here now; I have always felt that he would not disgraceth.

Mrs. Breal is well for her; Ezra Read has been sick, but is better; Mavis and Bally send a great deal of love to you.

Old Mrs. Whittemore is feeble; but I know of no one very sick.

I think I have written you quite a long letter; then, I have nothing very interesting; Lorenzo Nutting is building them a new house on his farm; and I find he was never any better off than he is now.

Edens goes no attention to your letter; I have not spoken with him this winter. I suppose he thinks he has got me in his power for what you owe him, and treats me accordingly who would have thought he was such a man. I am sometimes almost disengaged,

You see I must stop writing; yours H. W. Goodnow