

# Kansas Memory



## Isaac Goodnow correspondence

### Section 9, Pages 241 - 270

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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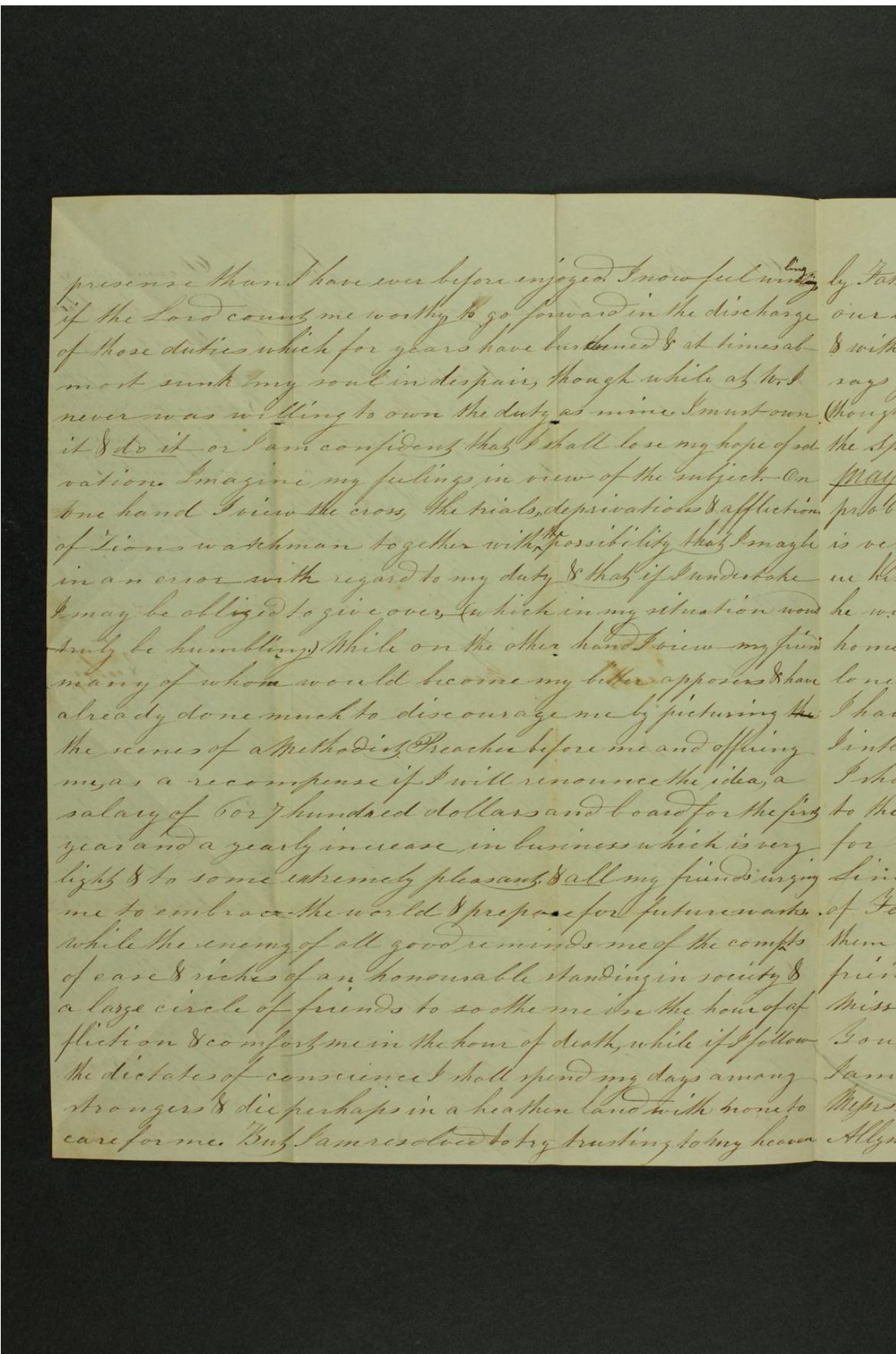
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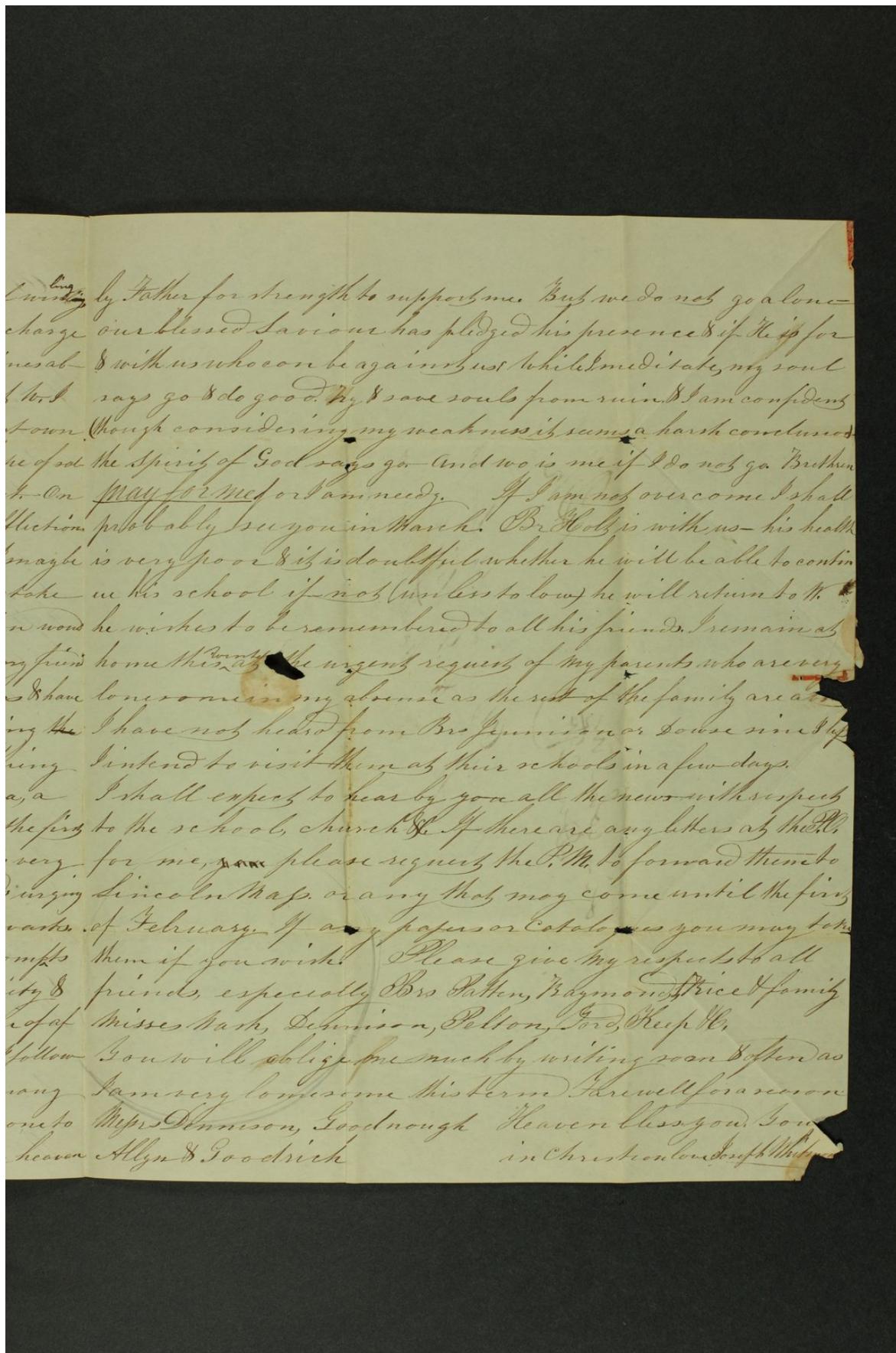


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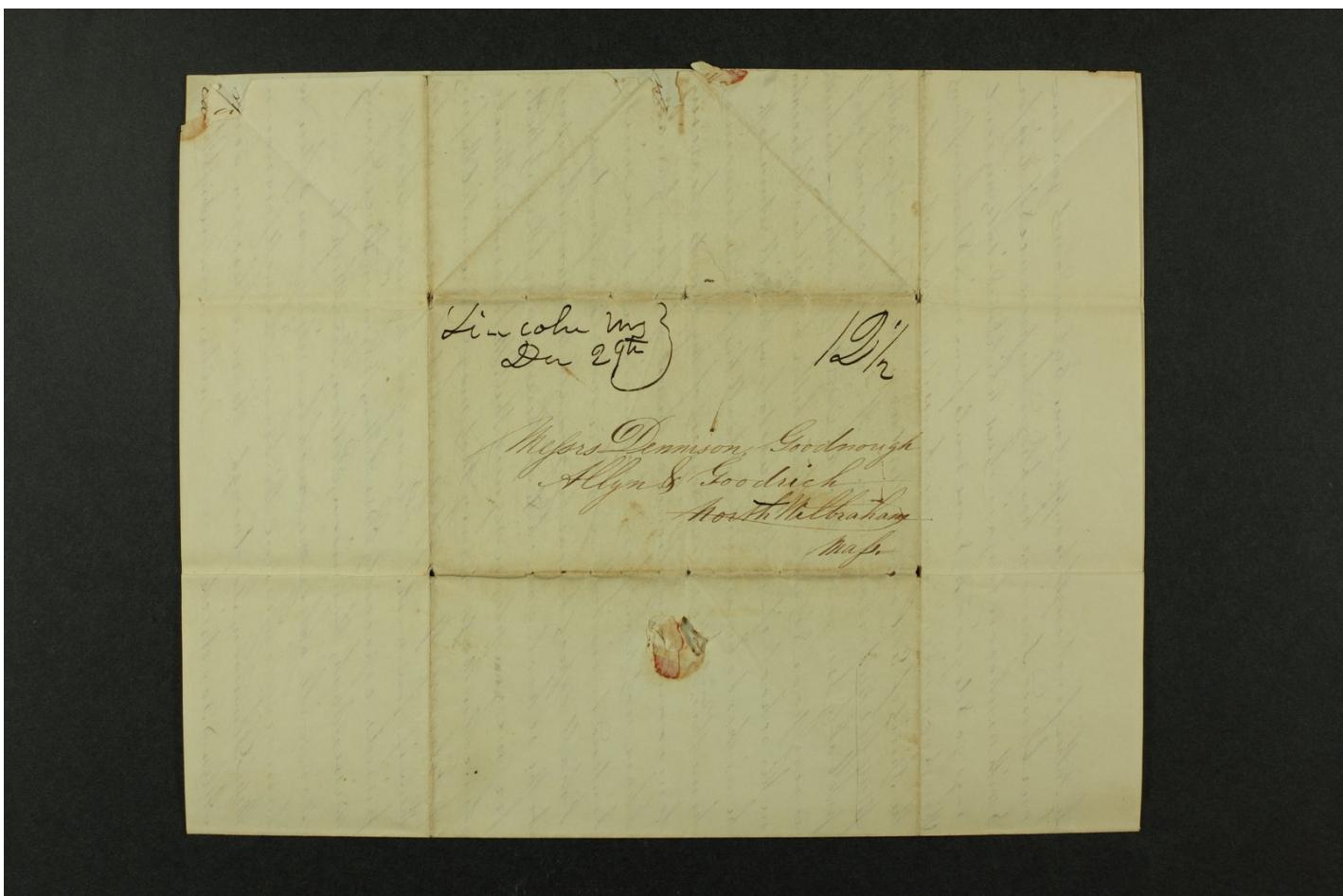
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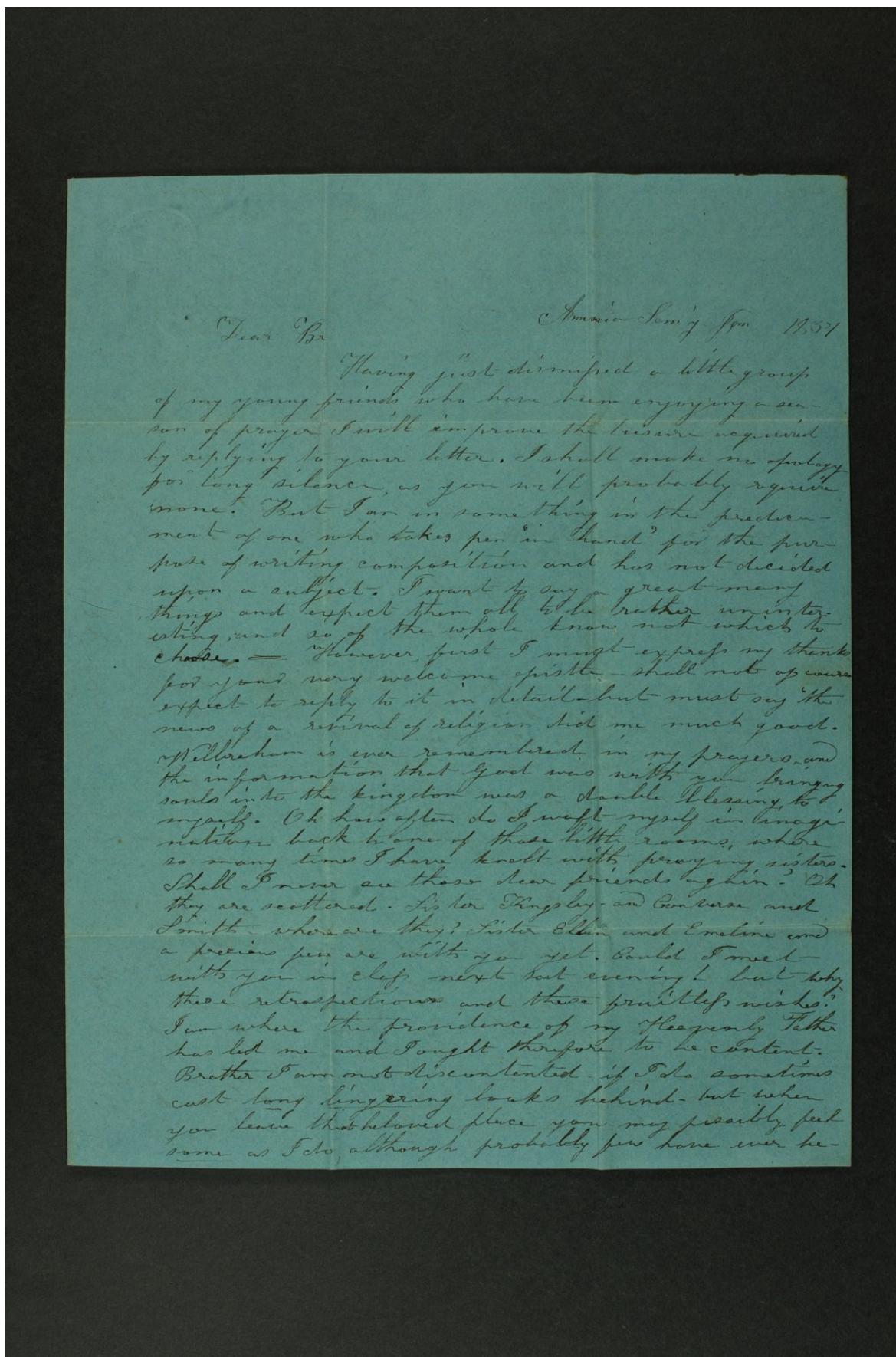


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come so much attached. Things here in the school are very pleasant. Our present teacher well qualified and very agreeable. We enjoy ourselves together very well. Mrs. H. room is a pleasant retreat when we wish a social chat or a relief from the cares that constantly surround us. As for myself. I often wish it were a student that I might avoid the unpleasant task of reproofing - advising &c. The stewardess has no charge of the ladies at all, and the whole rests upon myself. And to be in any measure responsible for the conduct of some of our thoughtless wives is no very pleasant task. However most of them are quite well disposed, and a number decidedly pious. But our little prayer circles are rather feeble. We need some of your Coleraine methodists here to give us a start. Mr. Broad one of our teachers on intended missionary is very devout and has exerted a good influence upon the lads who are under his charge. We have been remembered by our Heavenly Father, in the conversion of the a fore since the commencement of the term. Do pray for us. Our school is but in infancy yet but I trust it is nourished by a kind Parent. At present the money is full and we are expecting more next Sat. - vacation next week. But I am absent minded and perceive that my pen affords nothing interesting. Do not anticipate such another compliment as yours last after sending this commonplace scribble. —

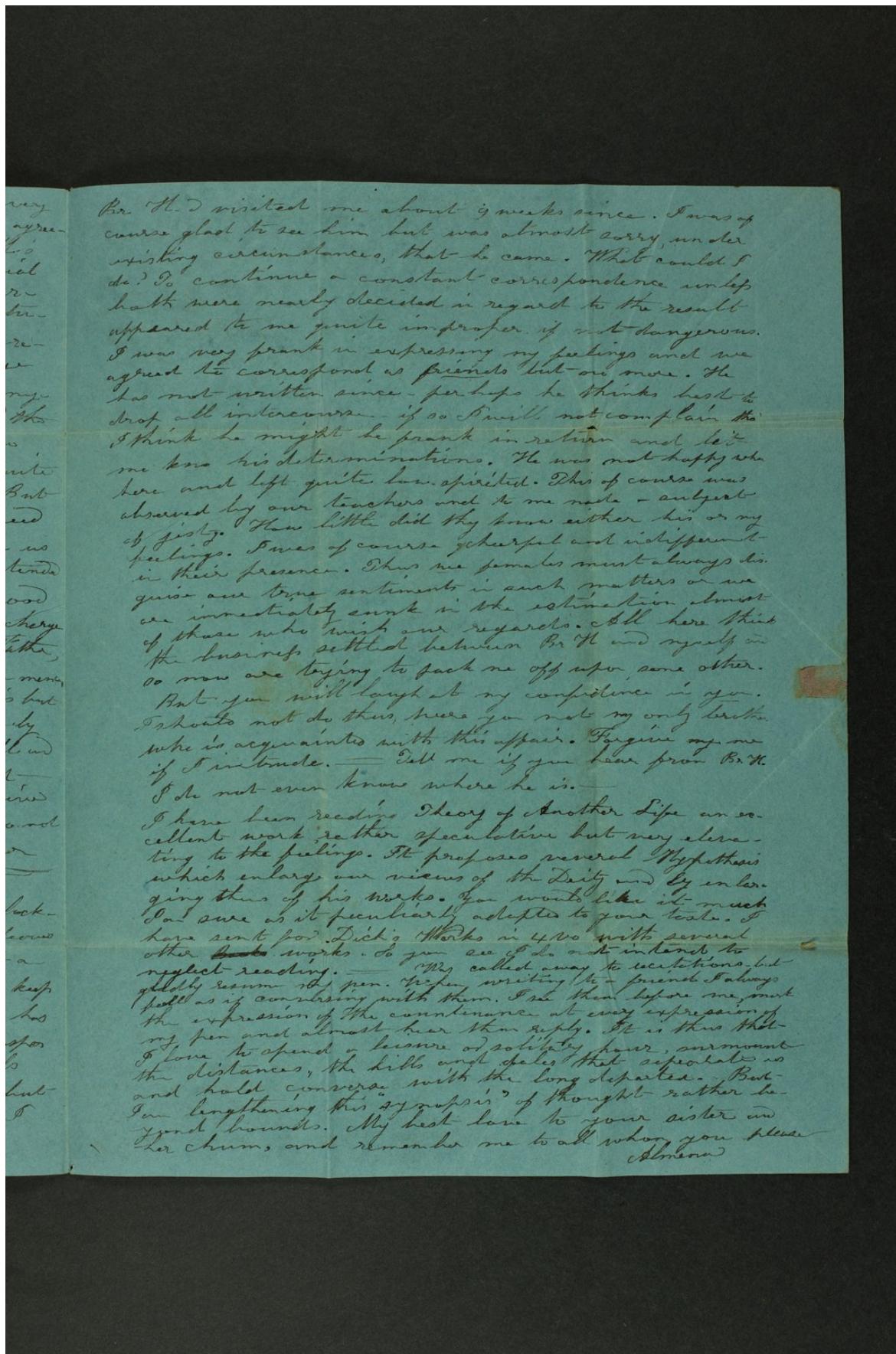
Frid A.M. The bell has called to recitation at 8 o'clock but I have a few moments to spare & Mr. Marsh leaves to day for Middletown, and I would gladly send a word to sis Eliza. Where is she? Do you still keep her within the happy walls of your Seminary or has she like one, bid it adieu? How do you all prosper this term and does Mr. Potter still have calls for teachers to go south? I know not why it is but something almost persuades me that sister E. & I shall yet be stationed there. —

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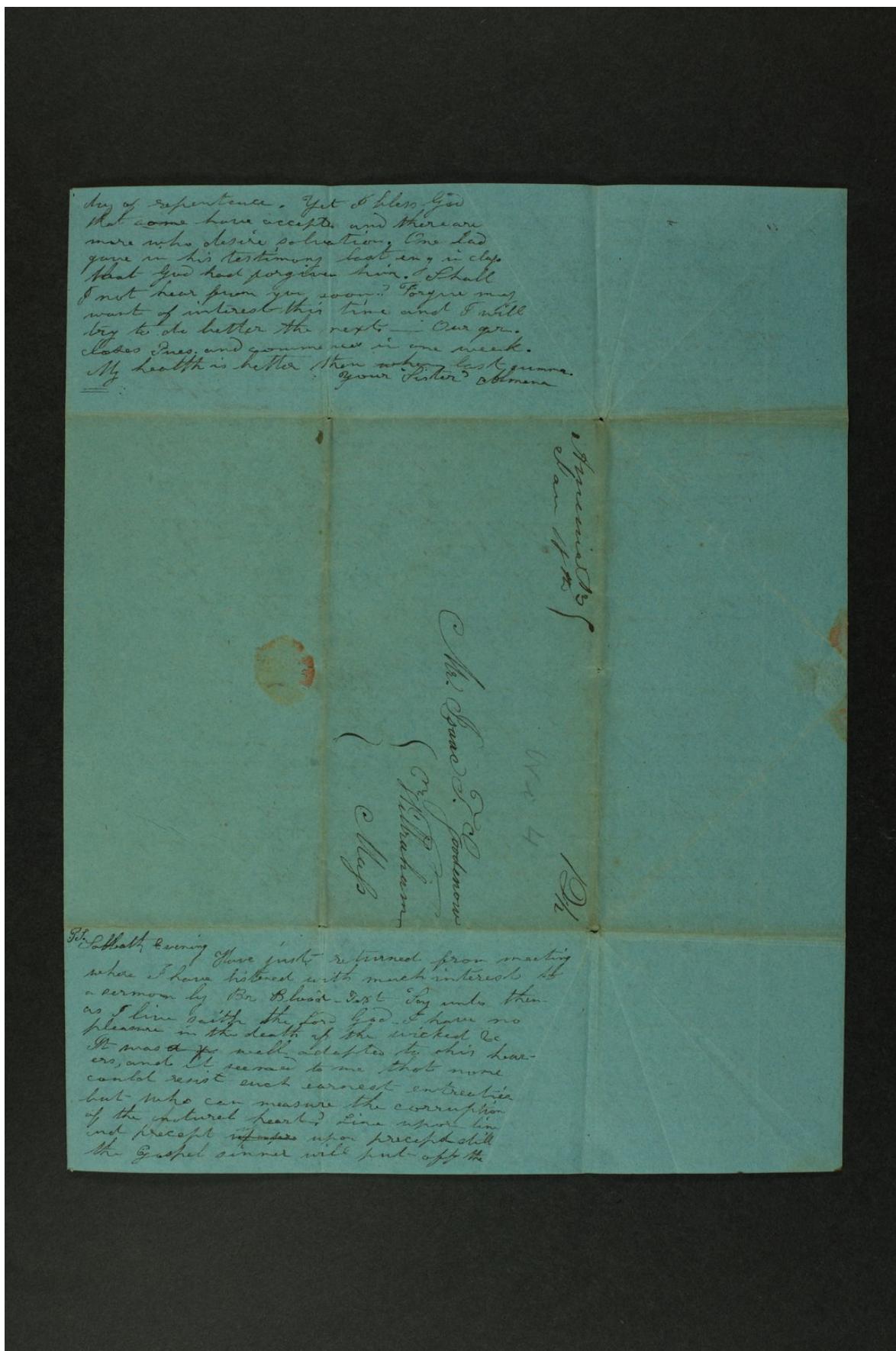


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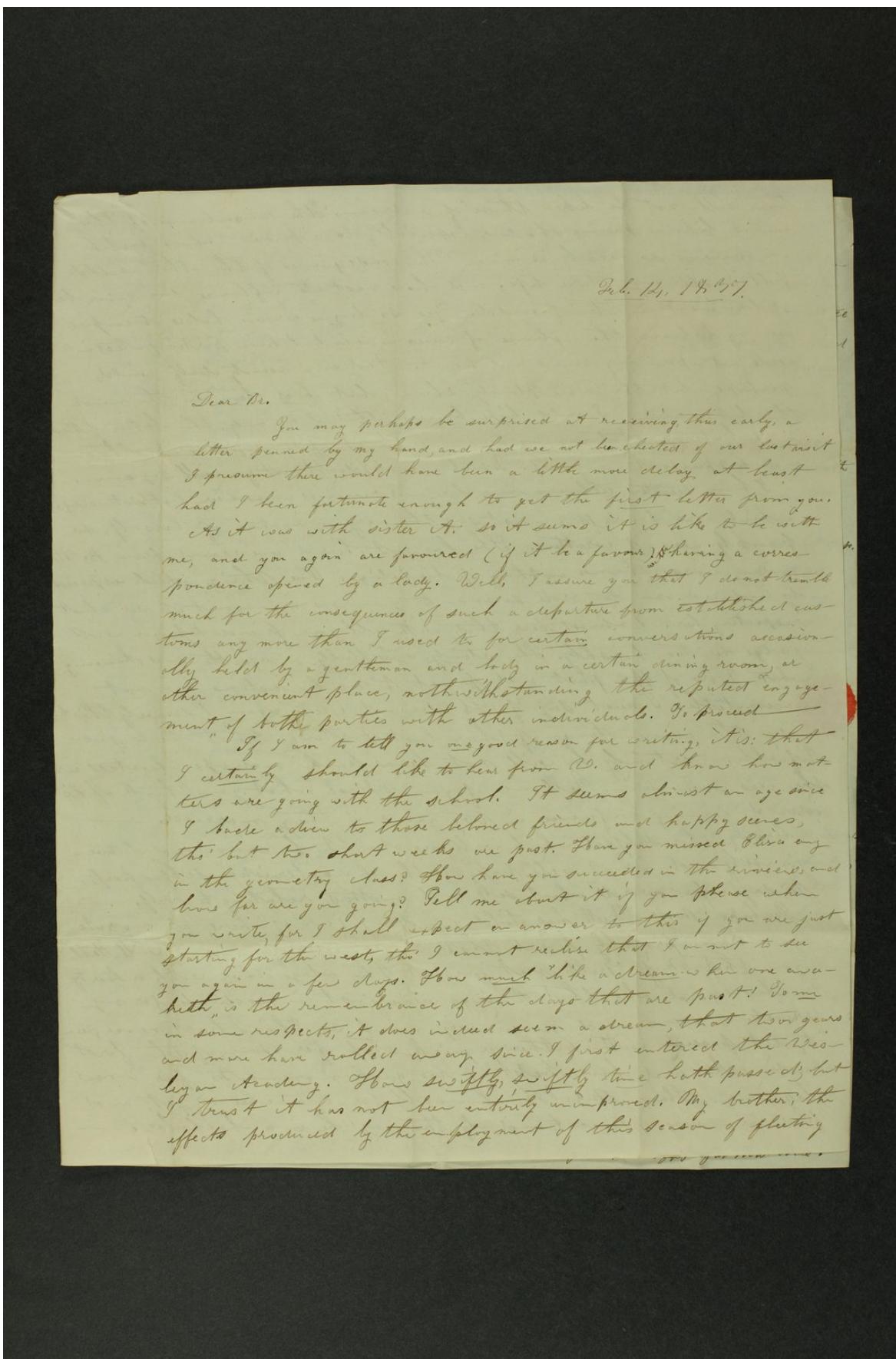


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time will not be like those of a dream. The remembrance of the one is like a passing shadow, especially to a person whose faith in omens is so weak as mine. The consequences of the other will be felt in all my future life, and how vast its influence can never be determined in this world. Yes, so long as reason holds it captive over my brain, the influence of sin is which I have participated in. It will act upon my mind and heart. And even insanity itself would, perhaps, but the more plainly show what ~~had been~~ in the mind this last winter. I would hope however, that I am only the better fitted for whatever station may be mine, both for usefulness to others and happiness to myself. But such a wist I don't think you will say am.

I have written Adrena since here, and received an answer last Saturday, which was I might almost say the very miniature of herself, so frankly was it written. She has not heard one word from Br. H. and of course knows nothing of his feelings. One thing which especially induced me to write so soon to you was an account of our chit respecting her. I almost fear, that with all your friendship, you will judge her too harshly. She certainly is <sup>not</sup> guilty of a cagquette, and knowing what I do of the past and present, to me her actions are not unaccountable. I must say if Mr. H. does not write again I scarcely think under the circumstances of their last parting, that he is inscrutable. Certainly he will not be as frank and open-hearted as she was with him. Tell me if you please what you think of his idea of joining conference in two years if they married.

Leaving this subject, which will, no doubt, be canvassed between yourself and her, I will pass, with characteristic selfishness, to say a few words about self and matters relating to self.

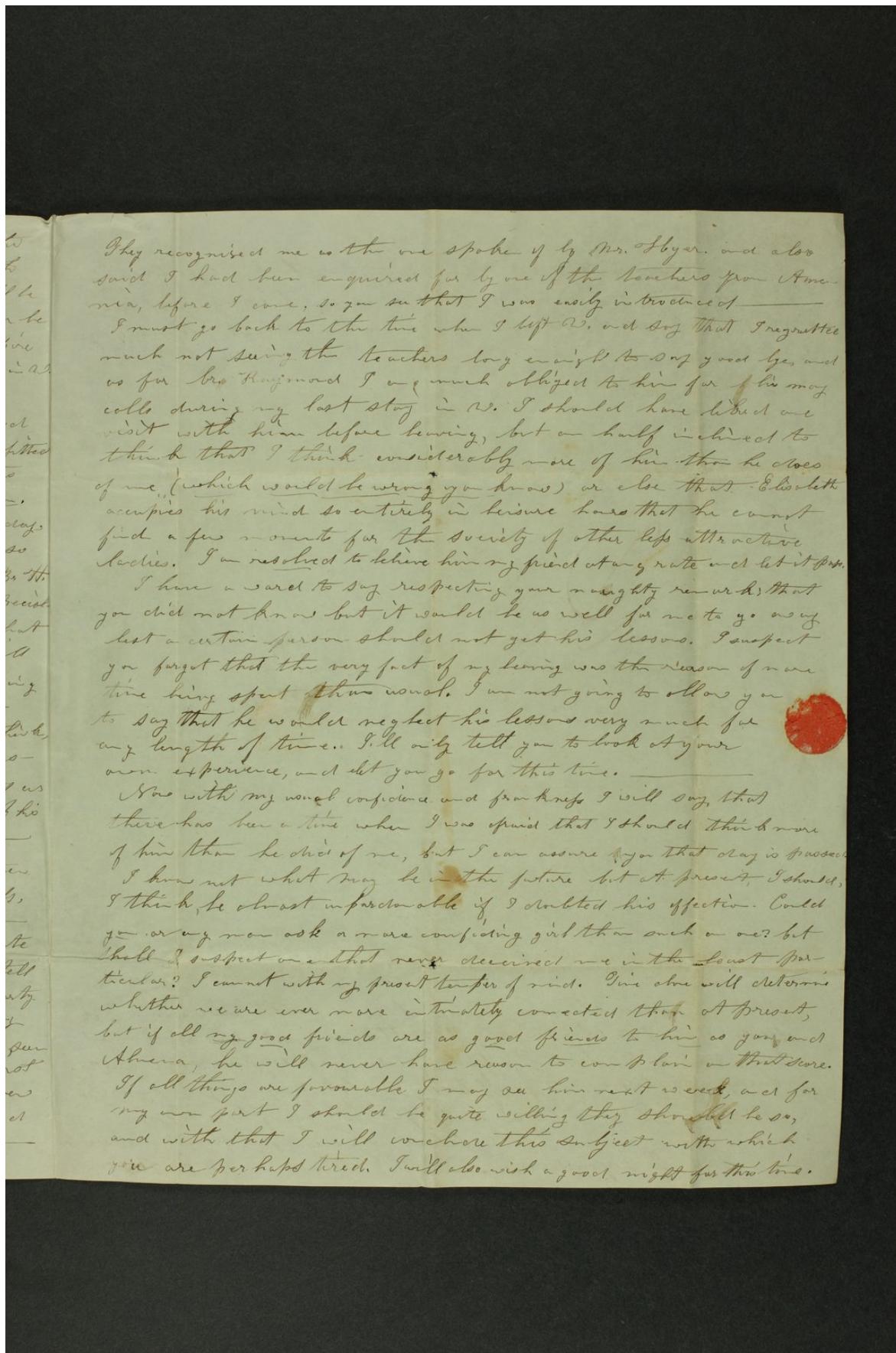
Perhaps Miss Brett has told you of my journey here, at any rate you have probably heard that I arrived safe, and I will tell you that Miss Bill met me at the stage door with a hearty welcome, and also that things were just in readiness for my arrival. I commenced music very much as tho' I had never given it, but passed with rather a quick step over some of the first instruments and have kept up too much movement to far a run before me. Have Mr. H. himself for a teacher as yet, and find him very pleasant, and, by the way he is a bachelor.

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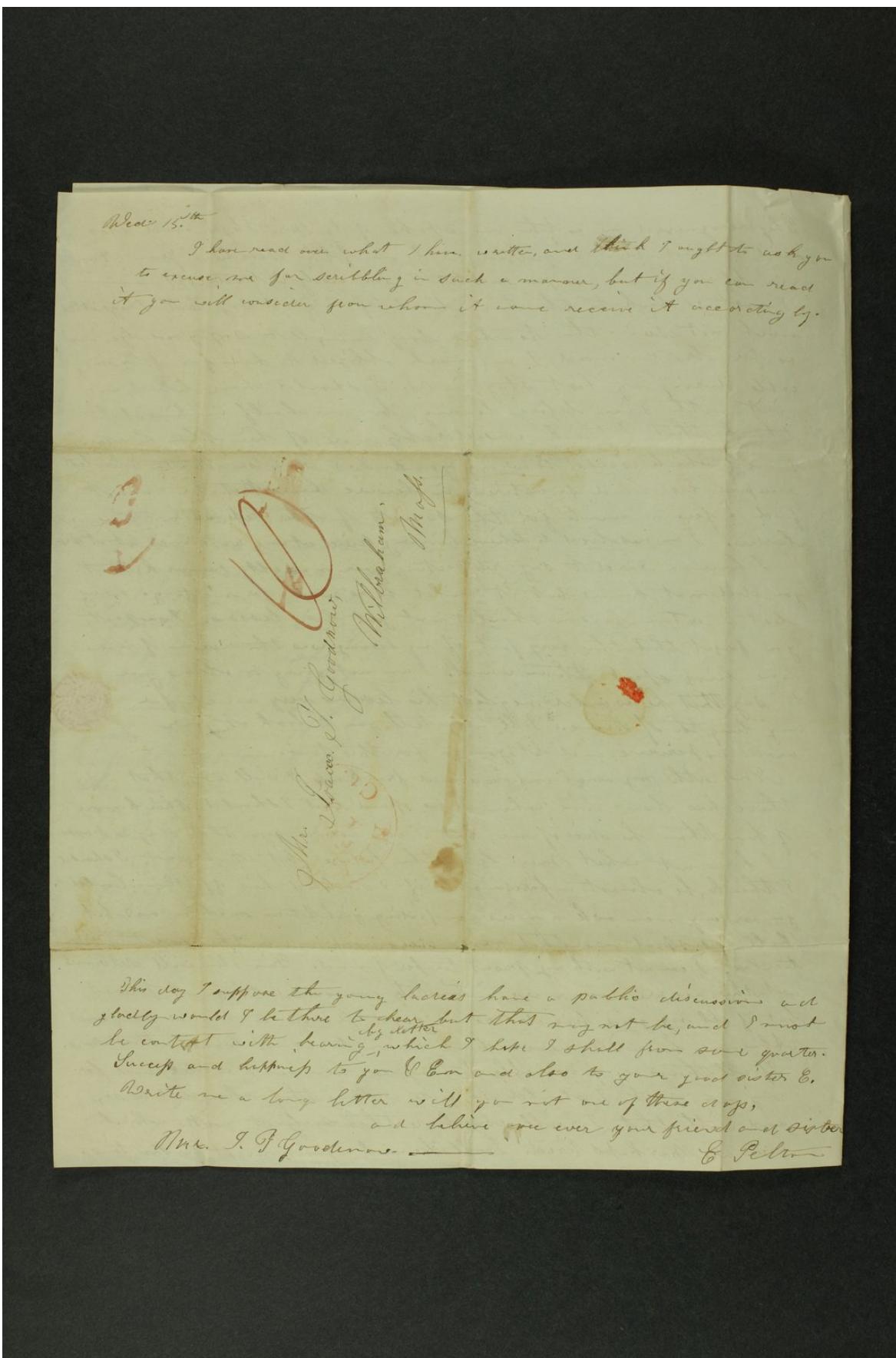


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Hartford March 11<sup>th</sup> 1837

My dear Bro.

Having an opportunity to send to all I would gladly write  
with you a letter but having just written one to Mr. Potter,  
and wishing to say a few words to Dr. H. I suspect  
yours must be a note, with a probability of a lengthened  
epistle next time. Right glad was I to get your letter,  
and I must tell you ~~that~~ at that time I did not  
expect to see Dr. R. This variation, for the excellent  
reason that I bade him good bye that very morning.  
You could say much in his praise you probably might  
~~think from experience~~ that it would please me too well,  
but I fear not all the roguish hints I shall get from  
you. But one question I would like to ask, which is:  
what think you of his self importance? I hate self  
conceit that would seem to say in publick I think of  
me of considerable importance and can talk pretty well  
Now I think some have a little of that opinion of him,  
and do you think he has more of it than his friends  
use would justify? Just tell me if you please who your  
wife. Aben's school does in but a fortnight but  
I think it willful whether she comes here, and if she  
does she will probably go to N. or her way to others.  
I would like to go with her on such a visit, but I  
have not yet thought of going to New York city before my  
with the Rev. Mr. Coles of this place, shall de-  
cide when I hear from Mr. Potter, and if I do  
shall not probably see C. before I go. Sister Ann is  
with you, is she not? I congratulate you if that is the case  
and would like right well to join you in an visit  
with her. Bro. Chapman and Mrs. Storcky called last  
eve, and we had a fine chat, and Mr. Elton Stoddard  
lives in the place. How I wish for Government would

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make me a few lines all we of these days, and I suspect  
that my tongue would not be any sharper than usual  
when the students call. We had no less than  
seven lady students (Ex) in our room to day at the  
Atlantic Hotel, - and not a silent one among them,  
you would have thought.

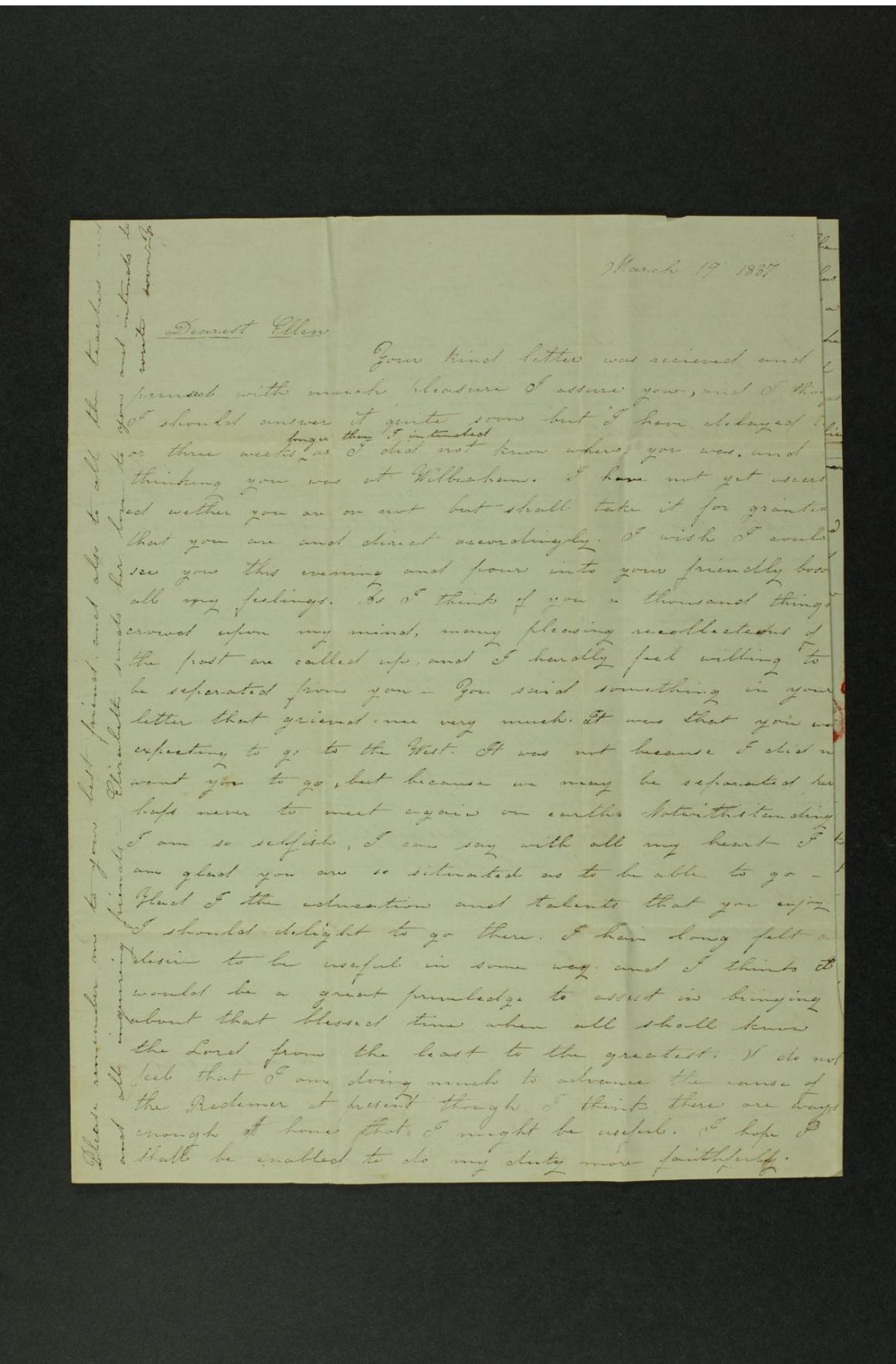
If I could conveniently I would tell you as much  
of my offer for the City as I have Ode Potter, but  
if I accept you will know it now, and I don't  
care for every body there to carry off my affairs  
especially with this present unsettled state. Will  
consent if you can manage it that you shall receive  
the P-s letters. I believe that I trust not  
say more at present, except that I am as ever  
Mr I. D. Goodnow. Your Sister Eliza

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## **Isaac Goodnow correspondence**

March 31<sup>st</sup>

Dear C

Gate seems to be against me. I do not know  
when you will receive this. The gentleman who is to take  
it has been detained some time and I expect I shall  
be long to write you a new edition yet. Since I commenced  
I received a paper from you for which I am very much  
obliged. I should like to be with you this summer at  
Woolsthorpe. Would it not be pleasant? Oh! it would be delightful  
to hear how you are prospering this term. I received  
letter this week from Clara Peltor. She wrote me some  
news about Wilberforce. Do you know <sup>any thing</sup> about she and Mr.  
Robinson? Are they as good friends as ever? She did not  
write any thing about it. She had not decided where she  
would go to teach but was waiting to hear from Mr. Peltor.  
I heard Blamey had despatched Hungerford. What do you  
think of it? Zachariah Kingsley has been at home (in Lynn)  
on a visit from Miskelltown and has gone to the South  
to teach two years previous to joining the conference. He told  
me that Miss Kingsley was then at the place where he was  
writing (which was Woodville, Mississippi.) and wanted me  
to write to her and introduce him. I did not know  
if it was the one with whom I was acquainted, but  
he assured me he would destroy the letter if he did  
not first hear so I ventured to write. It seems hardly  
possible that she can be so far off. What changes <sup>are taking</sup>  
place continually among friends. I suppose you have  
heard that Julia Clark was no more <sup>or rather that she is</sup>  
was married. So ends his collegiate course. Ellen when  
are you going off the stage. I expect soon you will be  
binder about - but I am writing to much nonsense. Please back

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excuse me. You may want to hear from Miss Johnson. She  
know is very well. She commenced school two weeks since and has  
take thirty two young ladies. She told me she never commenced a  
shall term more pleasantly. You wished me to ask her when she  
menaced should be in the spring vacation. I presume she will  
much be at home for she did not go this vacation but spent  
us at a part of it at Clarkstown. I see her quite often. Julie  
lightful is a good girl I love her very much indeed. Mr Whitman  
friends was here a short time since but I did not know it.  
some until he was gone. I guess he did not stay long and  
I guess she was not so glad to see him as he expected  
at she would be. I do not know as I am very good for  
she guessing however. She has not said any thing about him or  
Dr Dutton late I suppose he has made up his mind to preach  
to you as he has returned to Wilbraham -

Lynn) I was much gratified to hear that you had not forgotten  
with to remember me at a throne of grace. Though we are  
separated in body I trust we are united in heart  
he was I do not enjoy so much of the presence of God as I  
now wish to but I am still trying to serve him - I think  
know I never felt more deeply the importance of coming out  
but from the world and letting my light shine than at  
a did present. I am often in company with those who do not  
really profess religion and I sometimes fear I shall be a  
stumbling block in the way of such - It is my daily  
prayer that I may be more like God and that I may  
have strength to do every duty incumbent on me  
when I expect you are having good times in Wilbraham. I  
be as much pleased to hear that our friend Thomas Richardson  
Please has experienced religion and I hope that many more will

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be brought to the knowledge of the truth. I suppose you have heard of the celebrated Mr. Stevens. Did you know he was engaged? Miss Chiquonique Oberman the lady of his choice has been here visiting. She told me she thought she should come to school at W next term. Dear Ellen I have one request to make before I close and it is, that you make me a visit this summer. You must not think of going away without coming to Lynn - Do come, I will do all I can to make

Miss Ellen Weston  
W. Backam.  
Mass.

(Class of the Prescott)

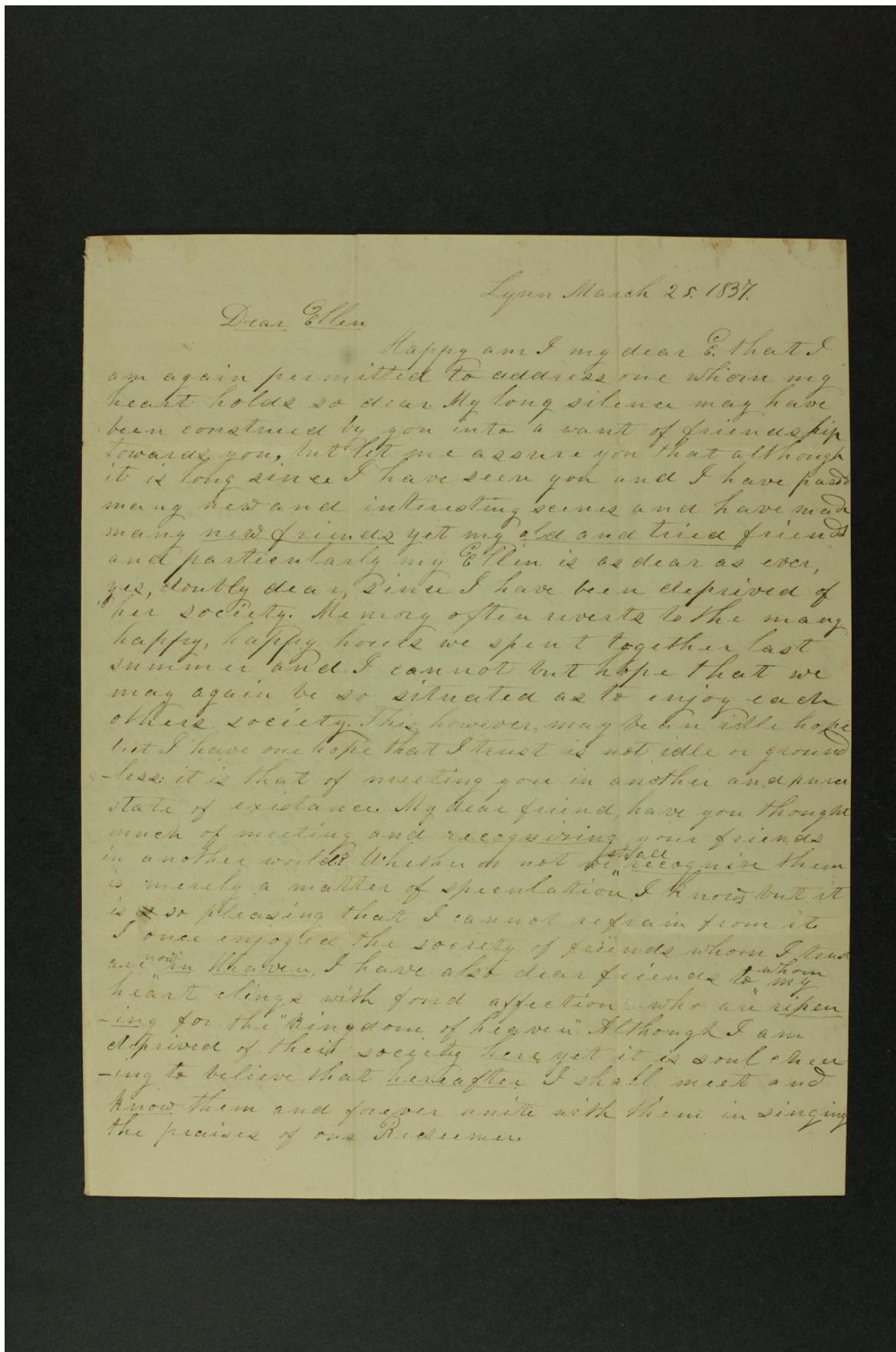
your visit pleasant. At the close of the summer term you will have a long vacation and I hear that Dr. Goodnow was coming - it will be a fine opportunity. I hope you will improve it. Write to me soon and write me all your feelings. I have the utmost confidence in you and I hope you have the same in me. Oh! I love you more than ever this evening. Separations seem almost intolerable. I must now bid you good night. Yours affectionately. Frances Maria —  
(Purdie Clark and all is well)

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I have just heard of the death of two of my early friends that I have not seen for a long time.  
An occurrence of that kind ought to invite me to renewed diligence in the performance of every duty but I am almost insensible to any thing of that kind, my cares are so great and I am obliged to live in such a continual state of excitement that I have little time for serious reflection and consequently my spiritual enjoyment is diminished. I am prospered in my school beyond what I ever expected and I am treated in the most friendly manner yet I cannot help sighing for the quiet and retirement of home.  
I am deeply interested in my school. One week of the term has expired and it gives promise of being the pleasantest term that I have had. In short every thing, every thing relating to the school "goes just right." Miss Bowler and Mr. Whipple are well. They often speak of you and Miss Willbraham friends with a great deal of interest. Do let me hear from you soon. Do you intend to remain at W<sup>e</sup> a year? Do you expect to teach? Please give my love to your sister and all who remember her. Respects to your mother and Mr. Goodnow. I have written this in great haste so you will please excuse all defects.  
Pray for your friend that she may be able to perform every duty incumbent upon her and "act well her part" in life whatever that may be.

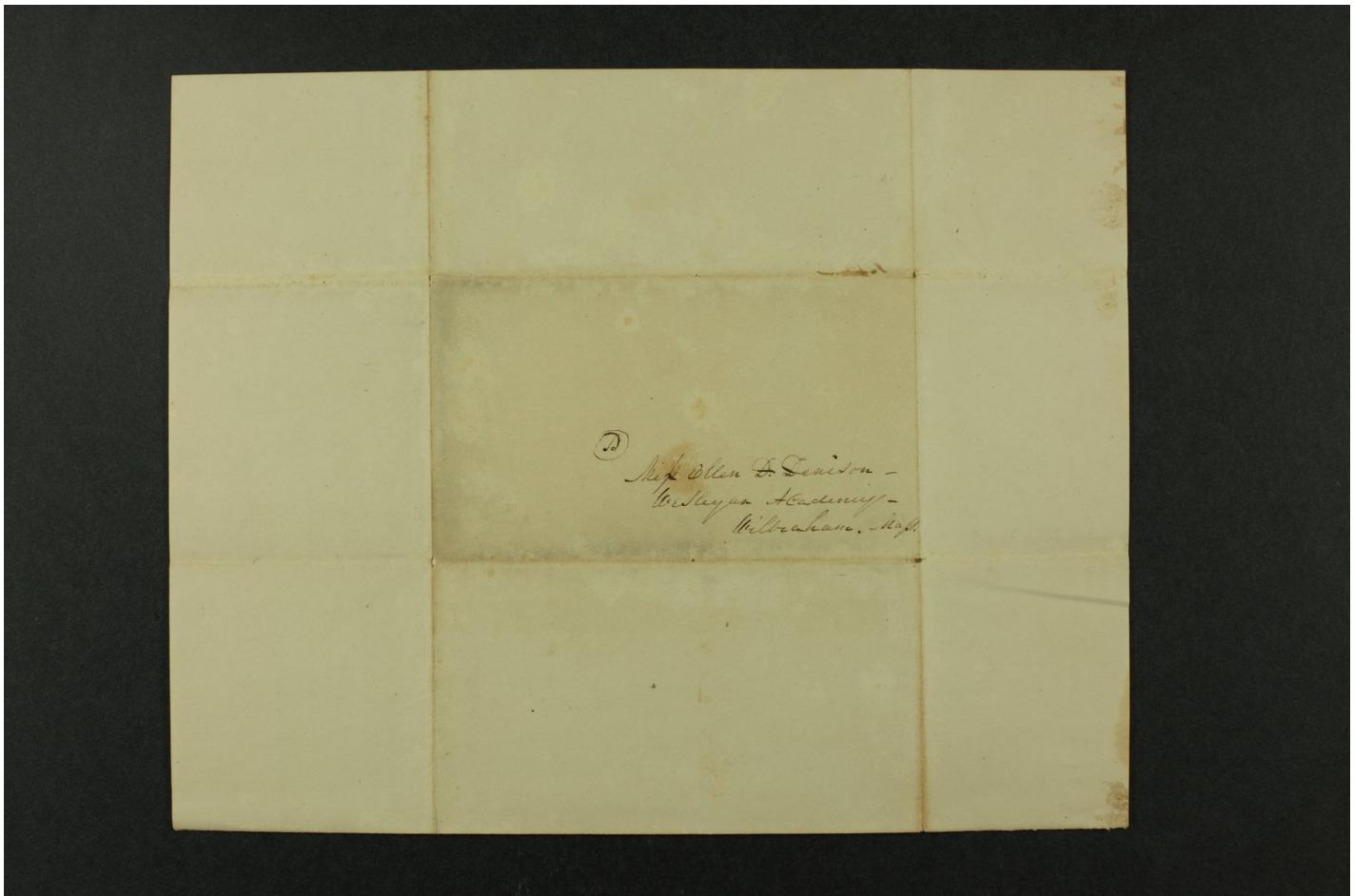
Your affectionate friend  
Miss Ellen Denison

Julia A. Johnson

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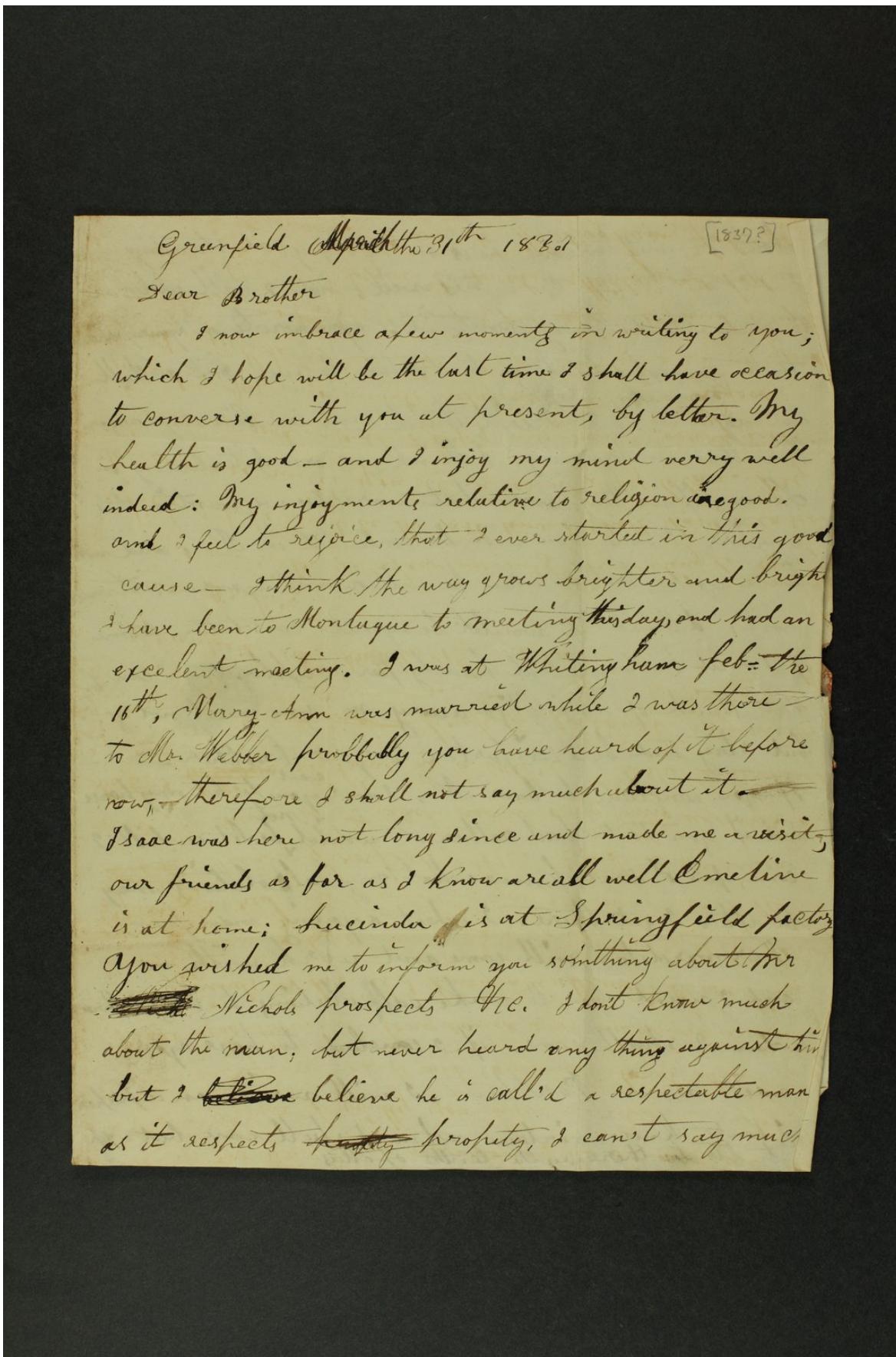


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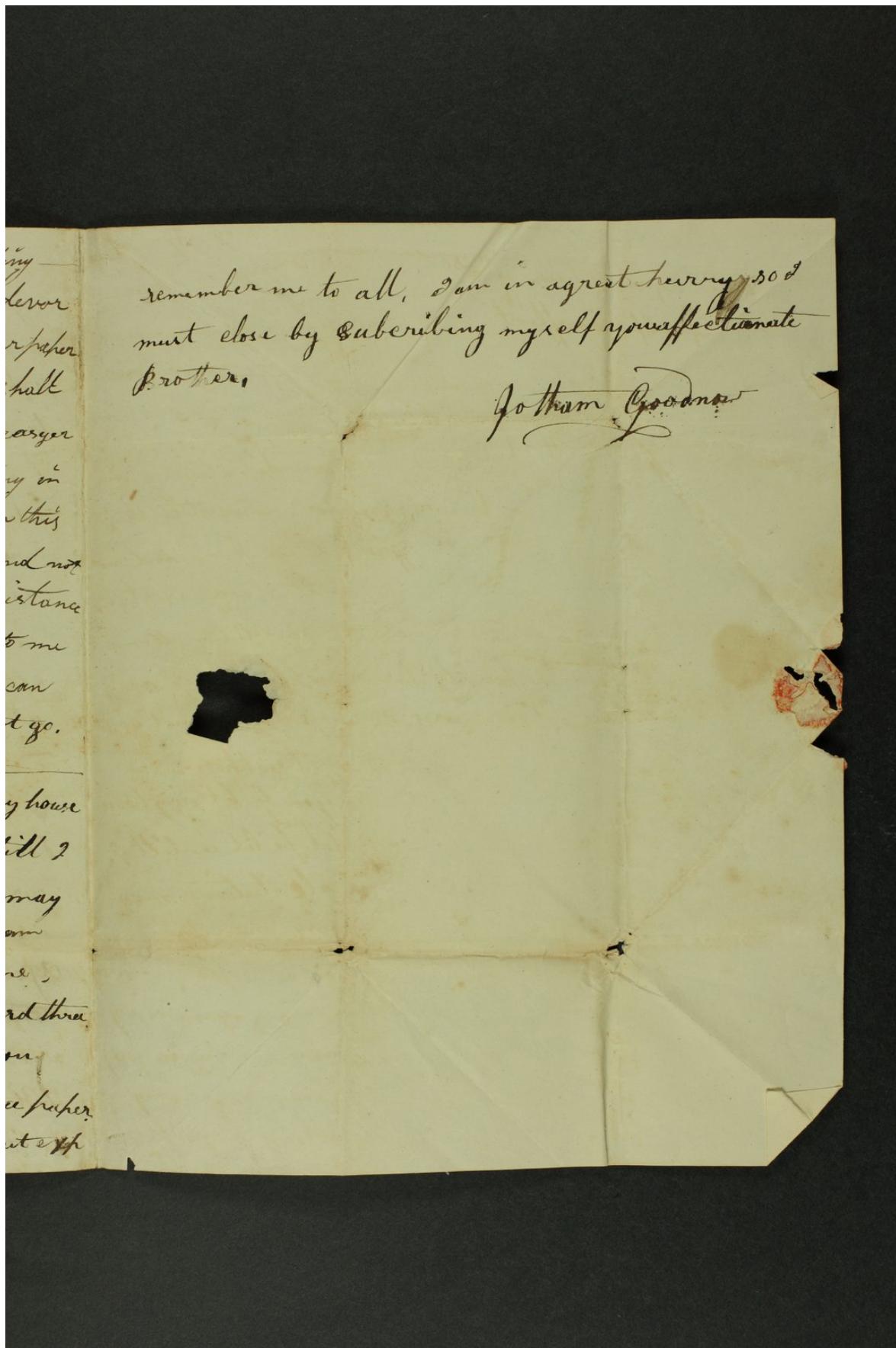
about it, but believe he is in very good standing  
& calculate to go N., this week, and I will endeavor  
to find out something about it. you wrote on your paper  
that you expected to go to Boston to live, but I shall  
not agree to this. I don't think you can live any easier  
there than in Norway, I think we can get along in  
Norway if we try, and what more do we want in this  
world, I hope you will be contented in N., and not  
leave your brother when he will want your assistance  
most, I think it would be a great consolation to me  
if I could have you and family for neighbors. I can  
not think of having you away, no. you must not go,  
but stay and be a comforter to your brother.  
If you conclude to leave N., I don't <sup>want</sup> you to let my house  
and if you don't I had rather it would <sup>not</sup> be let until I  
come, for I don't know what my calculations may  
be after I get there. I expect a young man from  
Bernardston will come and work with me,  
and I want you to make calculations to board them  
when I shall come. if I conclude to have you  
meet me in Portland, I will write on a paper  
I don't know certain when I shall come, but it  
will be there by the tenth of May

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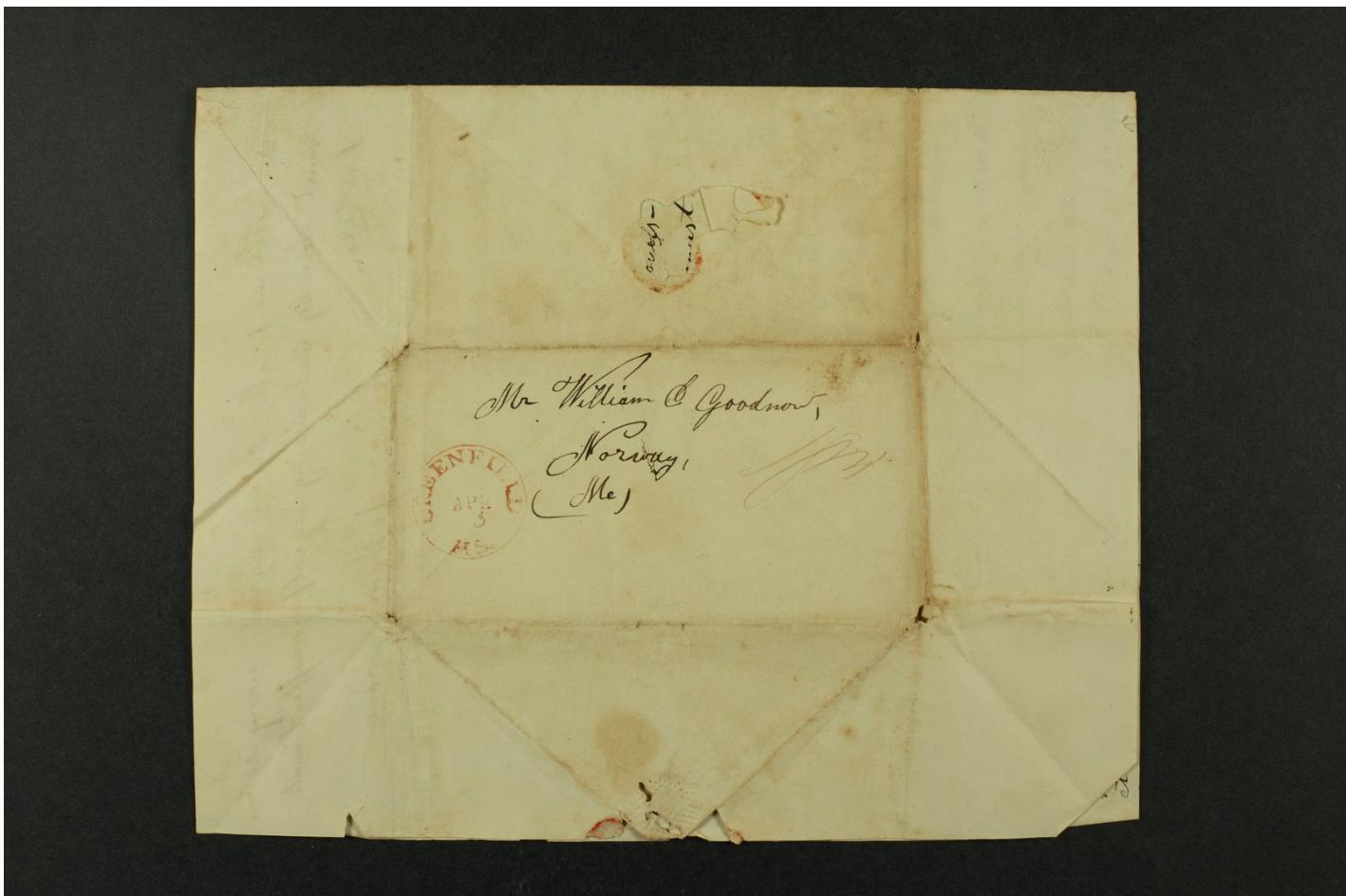
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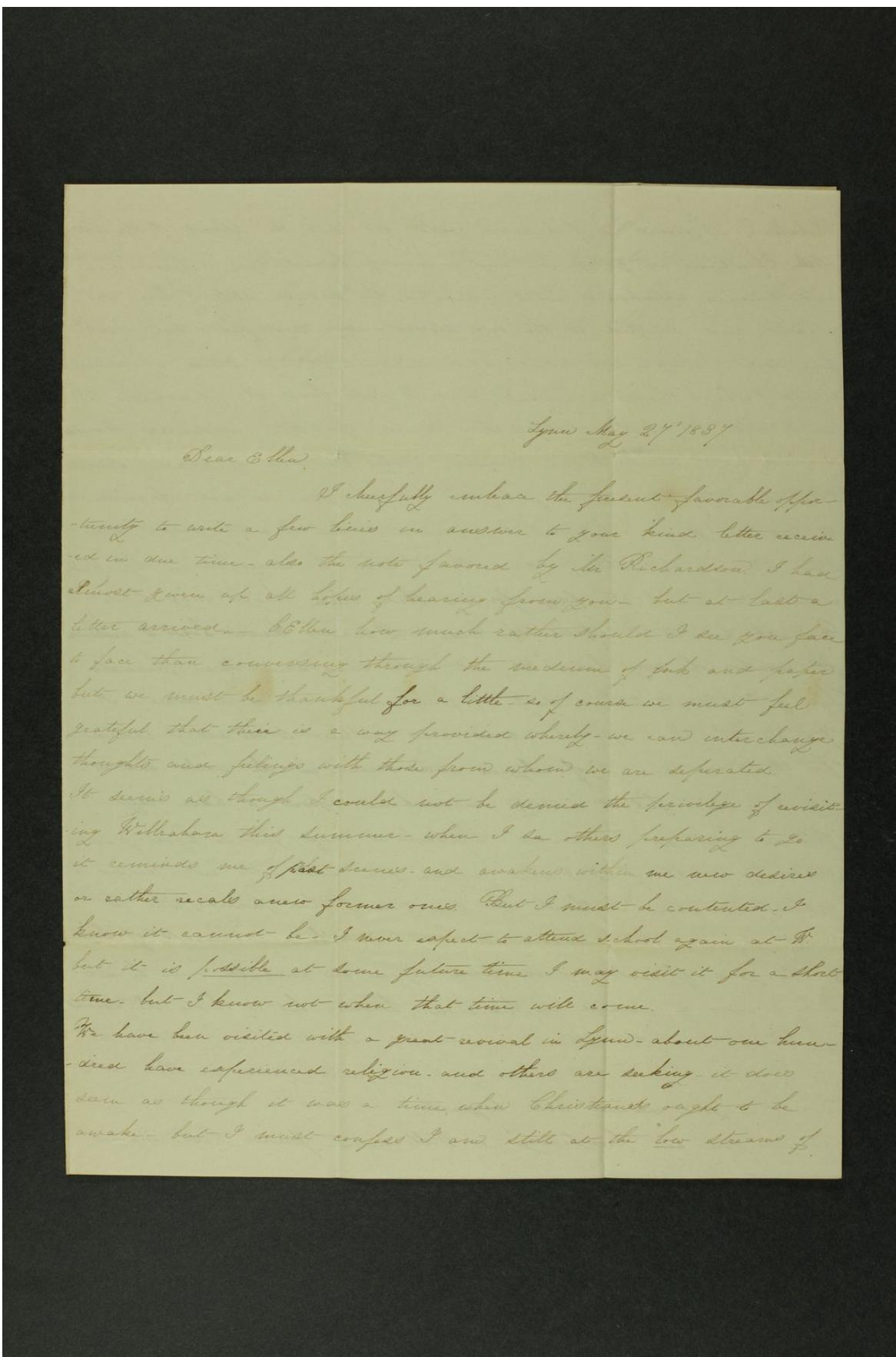


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Babylon - it seems as if I never could get into the spirit of the work she still Christians are pacified and covered backsliders reclining - Is she and sinners awakened and converted by scores - still I live on - for it is cold and stupid - as the very stones under my feet - but still I hear have some feelings - my desires and determinations instead of divine, fervent feeling I think have increased - and I still find it pleasant to you to meet with the people of God - were it not for these evidences I was of this despair and think I had sinne away the day of grace little be so Ellen are these ever your feelings? - but no - you do not become so low in your religious enjoyment - but I will say I am a little still sorrowing and still praying that I may be renewed in life and the conversation - will you pray for me that these things may be so? not to appear you ask how is it about the west! I hardly know how to answer Bottie - it would be very hard to part with near and dear friends and I feel as though I wanted to and was willing to do all I could for the advancement of religion and science in the world - but as yet I do not feel it a duty incumbent upon to leave my friends and go far away. Perhaps I may feel so before you are ready to go - if so I will inform you and will not delay to accompany you. I think the situation of that person, who is ready and willing to leave friends and the easements of home for the good of souls - is in some degree an enviable one - he not only receives a reward in his own bosom but to hear the shouts of praise from the redeemed is not a small thing. Ellen we doubt you will be the means of doing much good in the world and if so your reward will be great.

How are you all prospering at Killeen - friend Catherine is

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the work she still striving to be a meek and humble follower of Christ?  
Is she willing to be a self denying Christian? I should have written to  
her at this time - had I known she would have been at school.  
I hear your Literary society prospers - I should like to have been  
dinner guest at your cabitation. I hear the ladies did themselves honor - did  
you take a part? I expect they will have another one at the close  
of this term, what think you? Mr Richardson says you must not  
listie be so suspicious with regard to him - as he did not go to Richmond  
at the time he went to Mount Holyoke - however I suspect there is  
now a little partiality that way. What think you of Maria Potter and  
the Anna Maria? I used to think it was Juliette Richmond - now I do  
not know what to think. Thomas says he expects it is Mrs  
andrews Potter - were still. How do you like the new Steeved? does he  
not appear any thing like Uncle Hardy? Do write to me soon - quite soon  
I and let me hear the news. Tell Miss Nash Frances intended to  
have written to her but had not time - she must take the will for  
the deed and write soon. Will you write me if you know where  
Miss Crocker is - I want to write - I have neglected to fulfil  
you my promise so long I am almost ashamed. Also of C. Mason  
say to at H. Please ask her to send me a paper or something of the kind  
so that I may know where to direct a letter. as I intend to write  
from very soon. Please remember me very affectionately to the Misses  
not Grish - also to your sister. Please also remember me to all the  
teachers especially to brother Mitchell and say to him - he must  
not forget his promise to visit Lynn during the summer  
vacation. My respects to Mr Goodnow and tell him we are  
anticipating the pleasure of seeing him at that time - why cannot you  
come with him? There are two or three gone from Lynn to attend

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School - Mr. Pease - are you acquainted with him? His Prince son & our minister - You must get acquainted with him - they are both brother Methodists. The latter is a kind of an adopted brother of mine. Miss Chapman from Charlestown. She is a very pleasant young lady. When you write last day - whether you have become acquainted with them and how you are pleased.

Miss Ella D. Deane  
Prof. George Washington  
Billerica

To Campbell

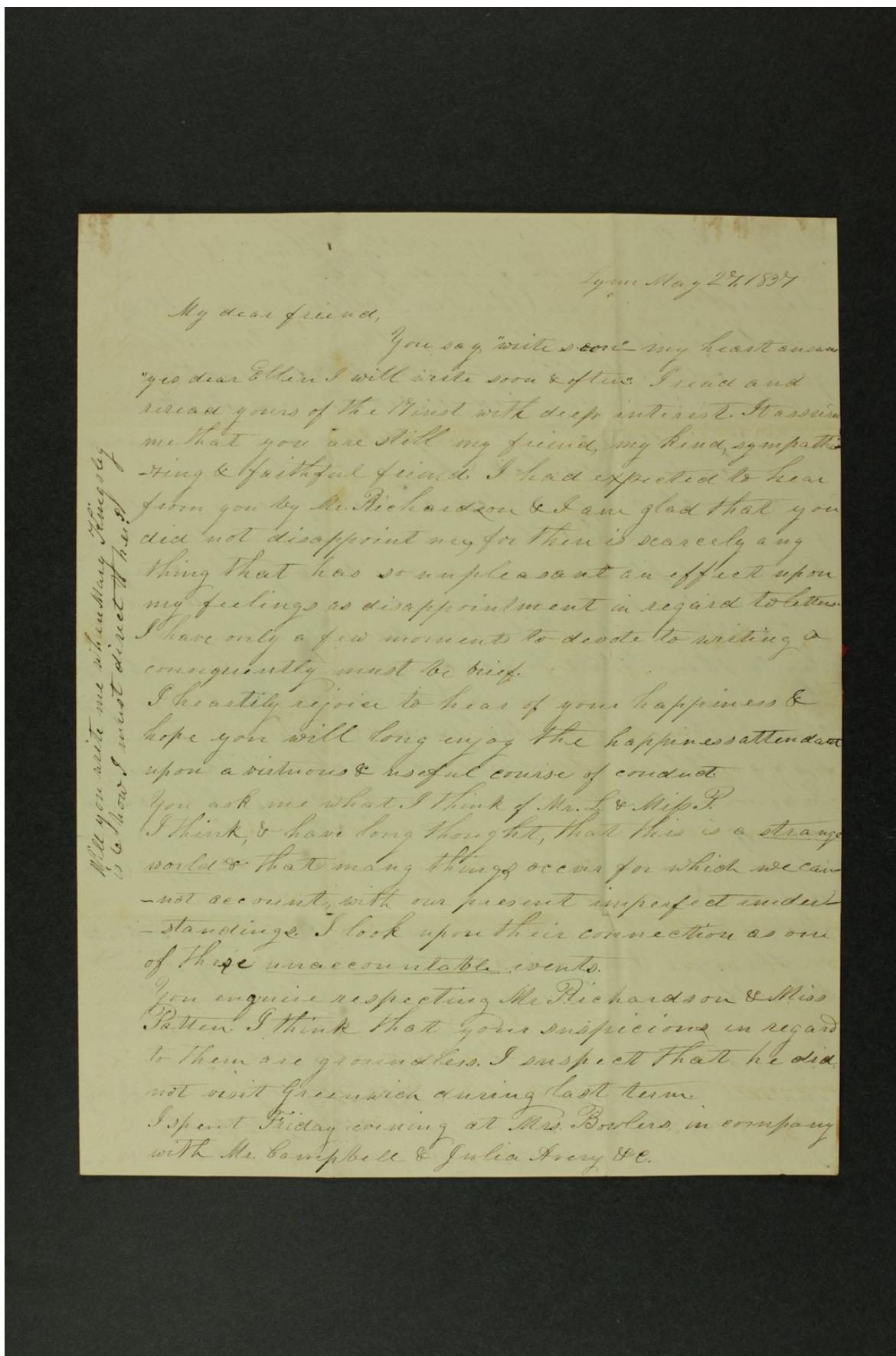
I feel almost ashamed of my letter - it is written so hasty - but you know I can write better so I will not make any apology. Julia Johnson is still friend and her son as ever. Mr. Campbell returned with Mr. Richardson and has spent a few days with us. Let you see I must stop for want of paper to write soon and often. Your affectionately - Elizabeth.

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We spent the evening agreeably in conversing about Wilbraham & our dear friends there.

Margarette Othman (the Rev. B. Othman's daughter) now of Charlestown, will be at W. the next term. She is a young lady of brilliant talents & fascinating manners. She is engaged to Rev. A. Stevens. That it would be prudent for all susceptible young men to place their hearts under lock & key.

I was much disappointed at not receiving a letter from Miss Bush. I shall write her if I can find time. If I do not, please remember me kindly to her & say to her that I hope to hear from her soon. Love to your sister & the Misses Fiske. I would write them if I could say to them that I was disappointed when I heard that they were not coming to Charlestown. I had hoped that I should have the privilege of seeing them. My health is improving although my task is very laborious. My term ends in the 9<sup>th</sup> of June & I have some idea of returning home at that time. I shall conclude when I shall return home. I sometimes feel as if I could not stay from home any longer.

But whether at home or abroad, pleasantly situated or otherwise, I trust that I have an Almighty Friend who will never leave or forsake me. Dear, dear Ellen do remember me in your visits at the throne of grace. Ask not <sup>for me</sup> earthly riches & honor, but ask that I may be enabled, cheerfully, to do & suffer all the will of my Heavenly Father. Best respects to your brother & Mr. Goodnow. Do write soon & oblige your friend & sister Julia.