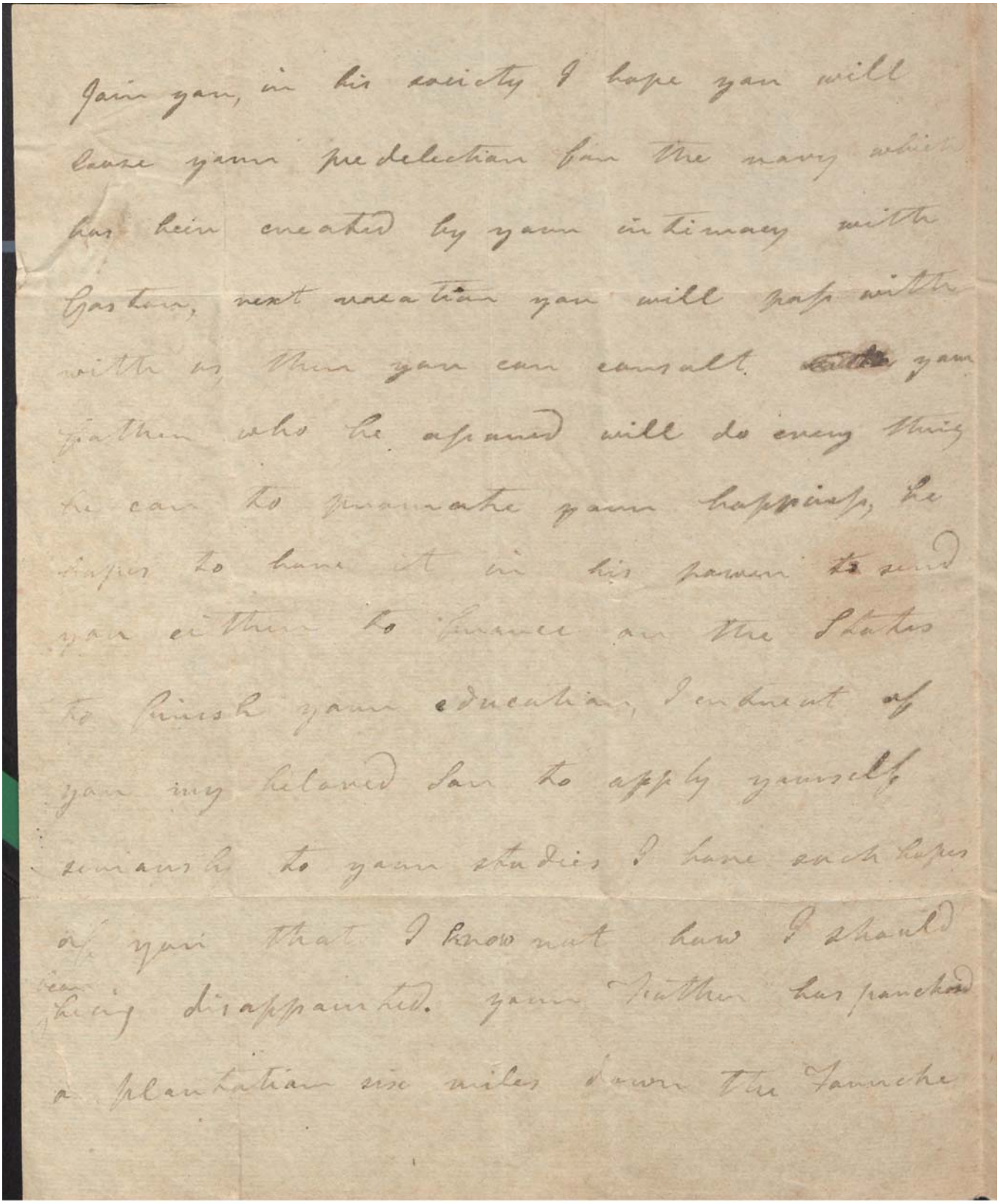
February 4th 1816

My Dearest Nicholas

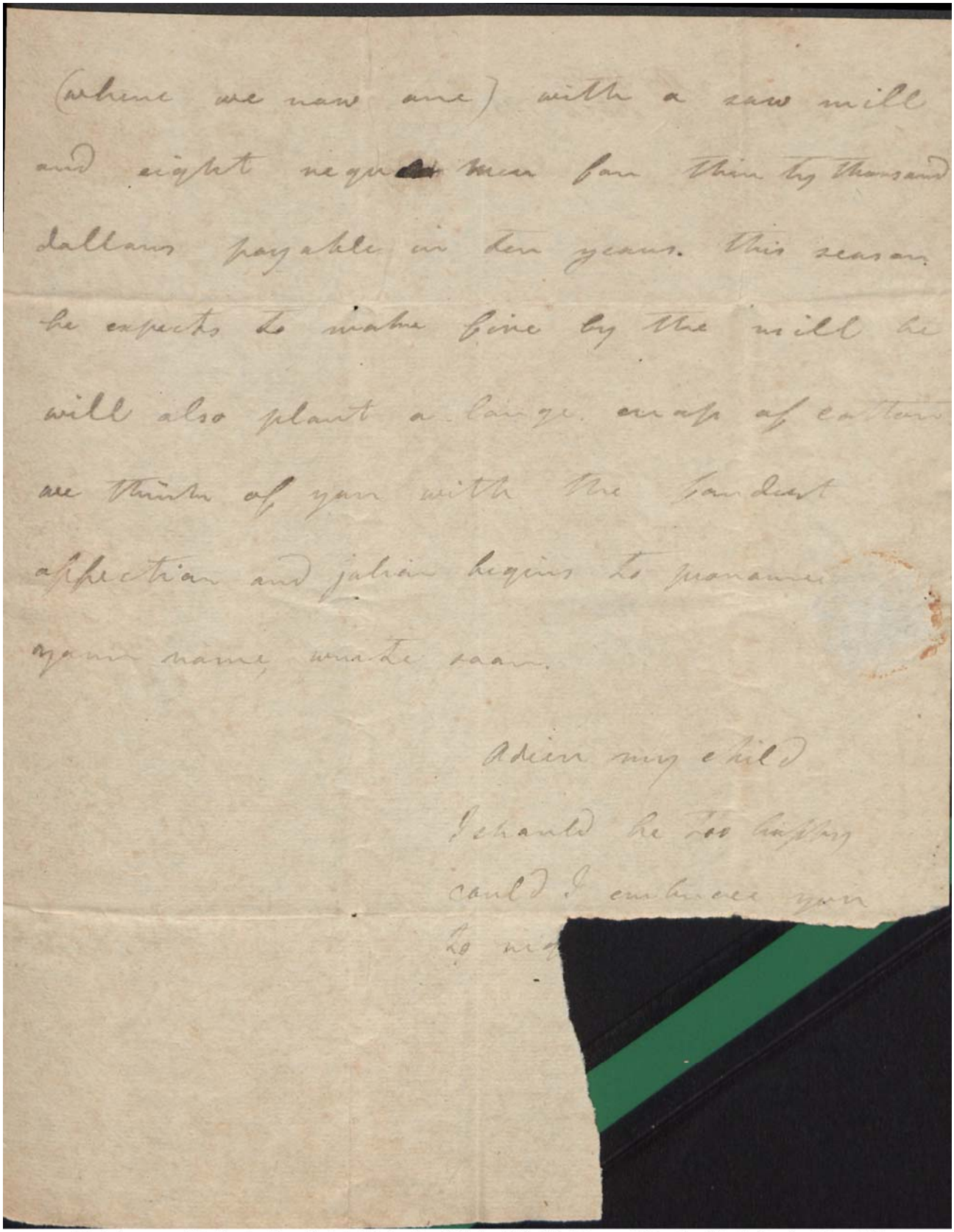
I should have answered your letter of the 22d instant, but I did not receive it until the day we were leaving, although it has always been my wish that you should study Law, yet you must be sensible my dear Child I only desired to advise not dance you in the choice of a profession from my observations of your abilities I think your objections proceed rather from a disgust to that study than a want of capacity, however you are too young to decide on any. In a few days your brother will

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join you, in his society I hope you will cause your predelection for the navy which has been created by your intimacy with the Gastons, next vacation you will pass with with us, then you can consult ~~with~~ your father who he assured will do every thing he can to promote your happiness, he hopes to have it in his power to send you either to finish your education, I entreat of you my beloved Son to apply yourself seriously to your studies I have such hopes of you that I know not how I should bear being disappointed. your father has purchased a plantation six miles down the Tanneche

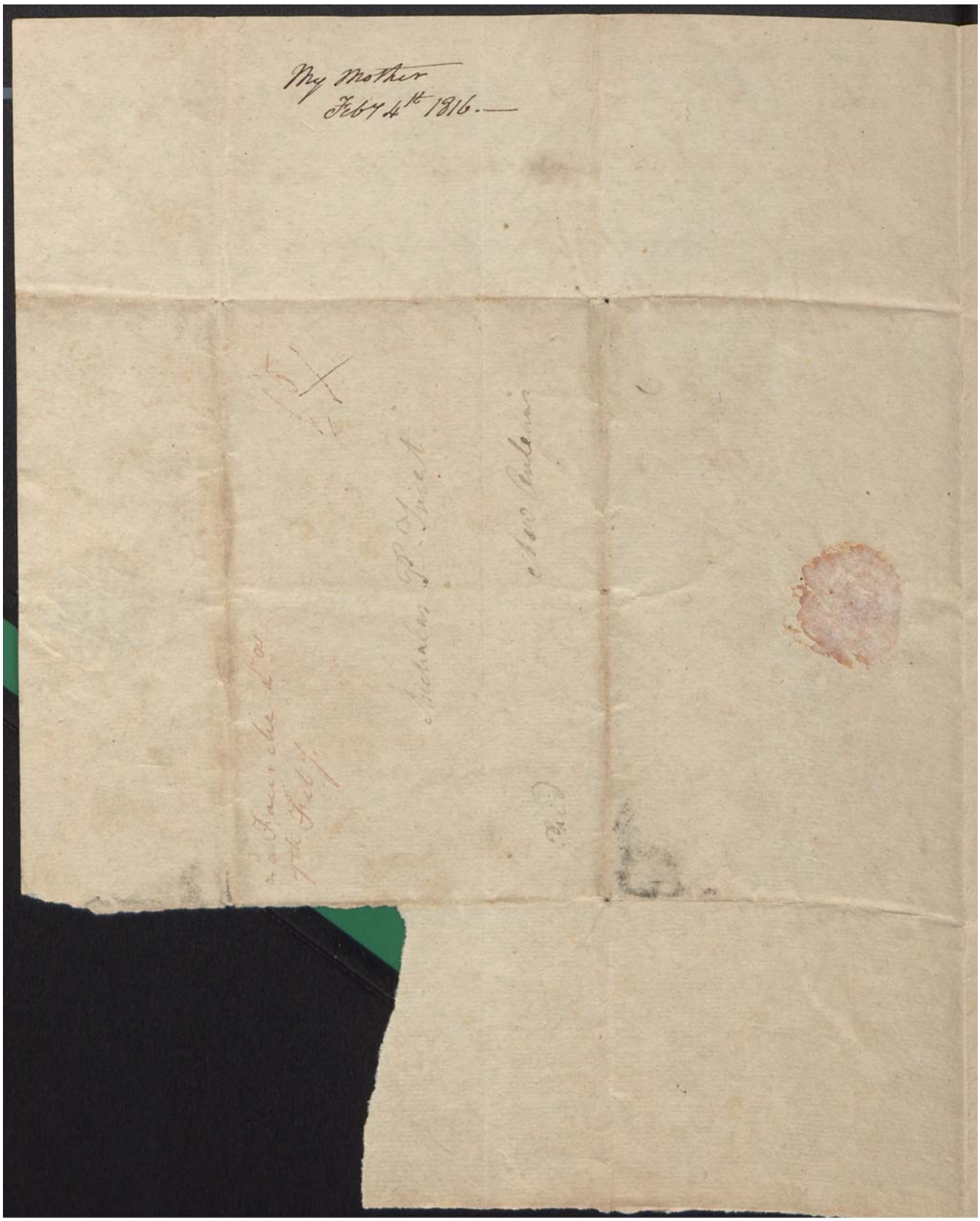
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(where we now are) with a saw mill and eight negroes besides them by thousand dollars payable in ten years. this season he expects to make fine by the mill he will also plant a large crop of cotton we think of you with the fondest affection and julia begins to pronounce your name, write soon.

Adieu my child
I should be too happy
could I embrace you
to night

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