

Mrs Sarah H. Butler, President of the Ladies Wyoming
Monumental Association - Wilkes Barre Pa

Washington 18 May 1874.

Honoured Lady,

I have received with deep and grate-
-ful emotions your letter of the 4th inst^t inviting me, on the
part of the Executive Committee of the Ladies Wyoming
Monumental Association, to attend at the anniversary
celebration of the Massacre at that place on the 3^d of July
1778, one of the ever memorable events of the War for
Independence. - Besides the profound interest, which the
instant glory of that day, has stamped on the memory
of every American heart of age to have received its first im-
-pression when it occurred, your letter presents other
motives not less urgent to the impulses of filial affection, and
of cherished friendship, in its gracious allusions to both
my parents, and to their participation in many of the
great transactions of that age in which it was their desti-
-ny to live, and in the attractive promise which it holds out
of an opportunity to meet once more a cordially venerated
friend, in the person of Mr Charles Skinner, and of hearing

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

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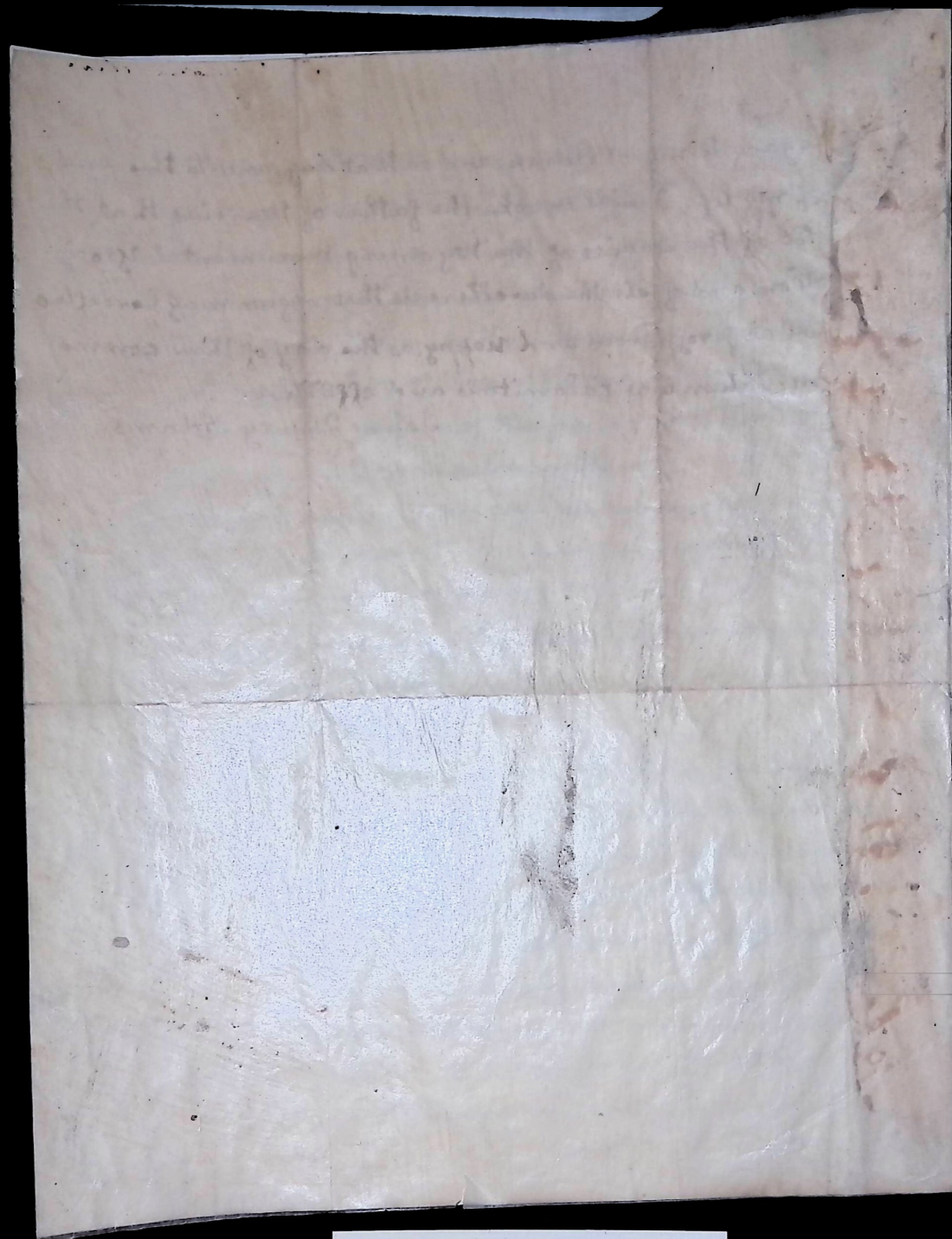
from his lips the deeply interesting and authentic details of that historical epoch, which for a series of years he has been so indefatigably ~~treasuring up~~ ^{treasuring up} for the instruction of after times - but are the genial influences of the flowery season without their stimulants to visit that happy portion of Pennsylvania, where the fascinating beauties on the surface of the soil, are but the index to the mineral riches beneath - My imagination can scarcely conceive a more copious aggregate of inducement to accept with more than cheerful eagerness the tender of your congenial hospitality, and to secure for the enjoyment of my remaining days the actual vision of your Paradise upon earth and the charm of personal interviews with its amiable inhabitants.

But it is yet uncertain whether the Session of Congress will not be protracted beyond the anniversary day, and if it should be, an indispensable attendance upon public duties will detain me here. If it should not, a precarious state of health and increasing infirmities may induce me to return as speedily as possible to the retirement and repose of my own residence at the North. But on the day of the celebration I will be with you in the spirit. I will leave your invitation as a precious

legacy to my children, and on that day, and to the end of my life, I will invoke the Father of Mercies, that the lot of the Ladies of the Wyoming Monumental Association, and of all the dwellers in that region, may hereafter be as prosperous and happy, as the day of their commemoration was calamitous and afflictive.

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