



1836

Letter from David Hoffman, Baltimore, Md., to
Joseph Story, Cambridge, Mass., dated 2 May 1836.

David Hoffman

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My Dear Sir

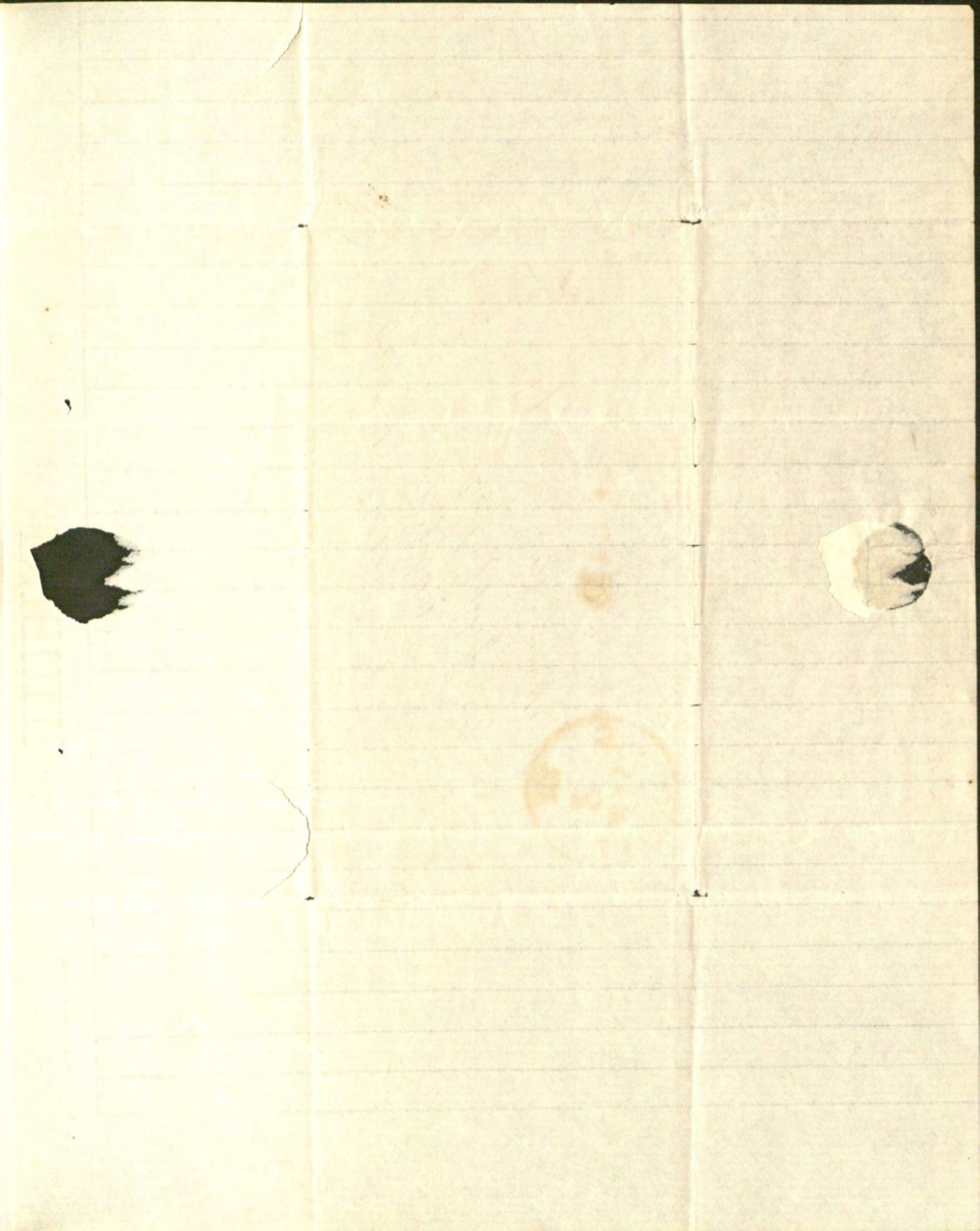
Baltimore 2 May 1836

I am but little employed at present, professionally, and cannot endure want of occupation. I am doubtful what to do - Writing books is but poor employment either as to pecuniary or other compensation, but I have no other alternative, and in any case of doubt as to what ought to engage my pen, to whom can I apply to solve such doubts, with more confidence than to your good self - It has occurred to me (and it harmonises with my previous views and doings) that an Analysis of the Law would be useful, and probably attractive: none has appeared since Lord Hale's - that is obsolete - was never sufficiently ample, and never gratified public expectation - The Science has undergone great changes - has been much enlarged and has been fully rewritten on - Would an analysis of the entire subject, taking my Syllabus of Lectures as the basis, (which contains 90 pages) and amplifying the whole of the topics into a volume of say 500 pages, be a useful work? The skeleton only would not answer - it must be sufficiently filled up to give the whole anatomy - without its physiology - but still (to drop the comparison) with all essential definitions. If you glance your eye over my Syllabus you will see that some of the lectures have the title only - some the integral divisions, a skeleton - I propose to fill up every lecture, so as to present a complete view of all that appertains to every topic of inquiry about enough of them. I forwarded to you several weeks ago my Course of Legal Study - also a copy to Charles Sumner Esq, who I understand is the present Editor of The Jurist - and 50 copies to Hellenand Gray for sale. I have not heard of the arrival of any of them. When you are quite at leisure should

be much gratified by a line from you - Mrs Hoffman
& daughter are well, and may be most kindly
remembered to Mrs Stoy and all dear friends -

Very truly yours

David Hoffman



David Hoffman Esq



PAID

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To the Honorable

Joseph Lory

Cambridge

Massachusetts.

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