To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled.

The Memorial and Petition of the Subscribers, Merchants,

Respectfully Sheweth:

THAT, among the multiplied injuries inflicted by the belligerents on the Commerce of the United States, in the course of the long and desolating War in which several nations of Europe were engaged, between and during the years 1793 and 1801, the depredations committed by the public and private armed vessels of France were, to your Memorialists, peculiarly injurious.

The claims of your Memorialists on France for ample remuneration were the stronger in these cases, as the seizure and condemnation of their property had been made by the express authority of the French Government, contrary to the plainest principles of the Law of Nations, and in direct violation of existing Treaties.

Your Memorialists will not enter into a detail of the various decrees and acts of the French Government, by which their property was captured, condemned, or confiscated; the archives of this Government will furnish the true type of them, and also of the period when they were operative; it would, moreover, be a useless trespass on the time of your honorable body, because the French Government has admitted them to be violations, and can therefore only serve as matters of fact, not of principle.

The United States having a great political and national object in view, to wit, to obtain the abrogation of the Treaties with France, and a discharge from the liabilities under them, and particularly under the article of mutual guaranty, yielded up the claims of her citizens, for these great public advantages, in the Convention of 1800.

Your Memorialists were among the first to sanction this act of their Government, and to see in it a strong evidence of profound wisdom; but, whilst your Memorialists applaud the wisdom of the measure, they must dissent from the principle of sacrificing private interests for the public good, without indemnifying the sufferers; because it violates the plainest dictates of common justice, as well as the spirit and the letter of the Constitution.

The Government of France, up to the date of the "renunciation of indemnities mutually due or claimed," always considered the recognition of these claims as due to her honor, and attached them as a charge upon her national character. The United States has, in like manner, and in many solemn acts, declared the claims to be fair and just; and upon this ground, as her duty dictated, volunteered her agency for the recovery from France. Your Memorialists are thus placed in a new and unexampled situation; they had been taught to consider as reciprocal obligations the duties of allegiance and protection which, as citizens, they had a right to look for and expect when their property was violently wrested from them by authority of the French Government; they find their own Government exercising its power and authority to prevent their obtaining indemnity. Your Memorialists believe that the United States did receive a full and entire satisfaction and equivalent for their claims; and they therefore pray that your honorable body will take their case into consideration, and make provision for the payment thereof, or restore to them their claims and their remedy against France.

The considerations of justice which heretofore led your respective committees to make twenty-seven favorable reports on these claims, and your honorable bodies to vote bills for their relief, is now invoked, and full confidence entertained, that the high obligation on the United States, to satisfy them, may now be consummated by their faithful discharge.

And, as in duty bound, your Memorialists will ever pray.
Springfield, Jan. 12th, 1865

My dear Sir,

I return you my sincere thanks for your kind and flattering letter. And may I return that I am not even with you to solicit your kind in the assurance of more service you are much more usefully and efficiently employed. Well you and O'Harre cut down a good deal in the wild appearance and knowledge of Spanish youth and all the difficulties of the Rocky mountains. This heavy responsibility, as under civil jurisdiction, seems a way to the occupation of Oregon. The occupation of Oregon as for opening a new country, which could be used to check the Gulf and other men. And to men who have laughed at me as discoverer and now living. Dear Douglas, we are likely to see all this accomplished and you now actively and powerfully engaged in the schemes of New Mexico, but other realities. Other people of your dreams. It is glorious. It is working and the history of a mighty people. When you succeed as needs you will - for progress.
Judge retires the important of the East side. The last on the Magnitude of the great census and may God bless you. It is enough to say white we watch your every move and regret from my soul. That shall not when it than you call on and your physician. I have been glad to learn from the settlement of my health that I expect to remain in society. And when I am capable I shall write to make that known to the president. When you other such a position for our country your friends and your efforts shall always be called. But if the next administration had not occurred it. The best for the well of democracy. There is an effort being made to change the government. That is to give a second judge on the Supreme bench. And make them correct. If this by law is done so that I shall he that judge but I know of you to any change. Walter will at our hands if it is not. The election comes off on Tuesday. The laws are all against him. Campbell has become very popular. A contract for bending while in bed. Walter has been received.

Lover...
To the Honorable James Madison,  

Mr. President, January 26, 1825

SIR: - I write to inform you of the importance of considering our situation in reference to a post-office. Having you will see what influence will have upon the rights and duties of your office as a member of your constituents; for you will find by this petition that we adopt of you that there was a post-office established at Dry Point on the 17th of March 1833 when on the bank from Washington to St. Louis but shortly after the office was established the contractors, on the bank was assisted to apply that office with the main and Coast. The butler 2 miles below the Point, and the distance from Canoeers Hill to Canoeersville. The line of Dry Point is called 17 miles and the line of the bank is Canoeis called 19, and it appears that the petition was lost. Can be treated with respect, but we are willing to say that it 2 miles further and we ask what is to be held of the distance of 11 miles from a post-office if we cannot have the Point, let us have the office. We wish you to inquire of the Post-Office General that a post-office be established at the post-office be a large and respectable settlement with it to take place and after Doctrments as usual, and if the old office is made and 30 miles away from a estabishing, of another and if we cannot get the 15 miles from the Point, let it be made as well and can have a Post-office from Canoeersville to Dry Point, places with Receipt. Very respectfully, James Dunne.
James Givins

[Address]

Mr. Stephen A. Douglas, Esq.
Representative of Illinois
Washington City
Detroit January 31, 1845

Dear Sir,

Our Senate is in Committee of the whole on a subject of minor importance. Some ideal association has brought within the clear vision of my mind's eye "The Ontario Club" of which you rather also my humble self was once member. This while Senators are talking has prompted me to drop you a short note. Now if you will pardon the introduction of this letter, I will pass over the Ontario Club and not disturb the train of your own reflections thereon.

I have satiated with pleasure your efforts to settle the Texas question honorably, and with as uniform harmony as the case will admit. I feel a deep interest in that question. Our Senate yesterday passed the House Resolution in reference to Texas with Amendment. In the House there concerns them. I send you the journal containing a copy of the Resolution as adopted by both Houses. Any documents or information touching Texas, at our claim to the Oregon Territory which you can send me with no inconvenience, will be acceptable.
When do you think Senator in Illinois, and what is the name of your place of residence in that State?

Do not think strange of the above information — for I have received information that you will probably hear the booming of representing your State in the U.S. Senate, and I am anxious to wish you success. The reason I desire to know your place of residence is, that sometimes I may have a notion to send you a paper to—then I shall be glad to hear from you whenever disposition & convenience will allow. I know that this is a short letter, but that you have enough to do. The Committee have met, and new bills have been introduced—this Senate have passed the bill. Then is one now before the Senate of the utmost to my constituents, and I must close this dispassionate letter with the last wishes for your welfare & personal health.

Very truly, Yours...

[Signature]

Secretary of Congress
House of Representatives
Washington City
1862
Syring Field. Feb. 4th 1845

Hon. S. A. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

Mr. Isaac Cook of Chicago, who I believe you know, an acquaintance in my Washington as an applicant for the appointment of Post Master in the City of Chicago. Mr. Cook is one of our most staunch and consistent democrats. He is always ready to spend his time as well as his money to promote the interest of his party. I venture to say that there is no man in the northern part of our State that has rendered more essential service than he has.

Mr. Cook has never received any favor at the hands of this, I consider him a gentleman of good integrity and worthy the appointment he seeks. Any assistance you can render him will be considered a particular favor to me.

Yours respectfully,

[Signature]
J. A. Mattson
Springfield
Ill.

Hon. S. A. Douglas
Washington City
D.C.
Springfield, Illinois, Feb 4, 1845

To His Excellency,
James K. Polk,
President Elect.

Sir, I take great pleasure
in recommending to your favor and notice, Peter Stewart Esq.
of Prince in this State. He is a gentleman of high standing in
the democratic ranks and possesses the confidence of his
fellow citizens in an eminent degree for his integrity
and business qualifications. It affords me pleasure to
bear testimony of his capacity to discharge the duties of any
office to which he may aspire. He has a large circle
of friends and acquaintances, who would be very much
grateful if he could succeed in procuring some appoint-
ment, within your gift for his State.

I am most respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

W. A. Richardson
Syracuse, Oct. 10th, 1845.

To the officers composing my staff.


J. R. McC. Dougall, & J. M. Hatch.

In retiring from the command of the detachment of troops, recently ordered into service to suppress the disturbances in Hancock County, I feel bound to express to the officers of my staff the entire satisfaction I have felt with each of them during our term of service. I consider myself to have been fortunate in procuring your assistance; and I have not been less gratified with the unanimity & cordiality, which have prevailed in all our consultations in reference to the movements of the troops and the course to be pursued, than I have been with the prompt and efficient manner in which all of you have discharged the duties of your offices. I have found you ever ready to share a portion of the responsibility in approving the orders and measures I have adopted; and whatever merit there might have been in our efforts to restore quiet and safety to the Citizens of Hancock, you are also justly...
entitled to share with myself. With many wishes for your individual welfare, I have the honor to subscribe myself respectfully yours,

John Hardin
Brev. Ind.
County Sheriff
Jth Robinson,

[Signature]
April 28th, 1862

To Major Douglas,
on retiring from
Command of 2nd
Volunteers.

W. F. Schollenberger

E. H. Gunther
December 10th, 1848

To Genl. John J. Hordem

In acknowledging the receipt of your note of the date, expressing to the officers of your stuff the intense satisfaction your love felt with each of them during our term of service, I would do injustice to my own feelings if I withheld from you the expression of my gratitude for the confinement in which your love spoke of my conduct as a member of your stuff, and my full appreciation of the measures adopted.

And course procedure by you during the campaign. I found you ever true to the honorable objects of the establishment firm, unflinching and inflexible in enforcing the influence of the Yours truly and
courteous duties devolving upon you as the Commanding General.
[Handwritten text in English]
New York Dec. 8th, 1845.

Dear Sir,

I have just held an interview with an intelligent friend in this City who came passenger in the steamer "Baltimore," from Boston, to he informs me that the Governor and Government of England are not only preparing for a war by reason of the Oregon Controversy, but that the lower orders of the people are expecting it and to clamor for it. He says they are united; judging from what he credibly learned on the other side. He thinks the President, moreover, will indulge a determined spirit on the part of the Government, which will lead to a preparation to settle some pretty much their own terms, or go to War. - He further states that the Bank were turning their faces against American Notes, refusing to discount their paper, or mentioned a Case, at Manchester, where the Bank then refused to take for a small amount, the acceptance of the largest American Notes in England - perhaps the world in the annuity English Endorse, which was obtained. - This course was induced by the apprehensions they entertained that difficulties with the U.S. was not to be averted. The many meetings of the Cabinet too, induced a belief that
the Corn Laws were not the grand subject of discussion it looked out in certain quarters, that there was great excitement in the Cabinet about the exportation to a strong home-felling merchant, and that their remonstrances met with such quiet success.

If England is in the state described by my friend, & if our Government has taken the stand which it is alleged they have taken, not now to yield a minute of that territory (if any) of course, as the Mediation of any foreign power is out of the question, war will be the inevitable consequence; more especially if we should succeed in acquiring California. In the course of further inflamed & better England.

If war should ensue what course of policy would this Country adopt?—I have framed the following plan recommended to me, which the interest to be affected by war would be by

- Cotton, Tobacco, & Wool, & the Shipping by seamen & others, which, it is supposed, that the agricultural & manufacturing parts would be benefited.

Let the U.S. Government, for the time being, through Merchants in their new agents, buy at fixed prices (by the average of prices for the last 3 years).

...all the Cotton, Tobacco, & Wool which on home markets did not want, allowing them at any time to buy from the Government at cost, if you please selling to Neutral Nations limited supplies at a uniform advance in the East, beginning with a large security of necessity that it is intended for their own manufactures to prevent England from getting supplies from foreigners, this course you see would not only satisfy the Plaints of Cotton & Tobacco grown of Wool, but would at once afford by major aid up the manufacturing interest to benefit the laboring & farming interest. The Neutral, we could supply the world, with all manufactured goods, while we should be growing more independent, other nations would be enriching in, with increasing tribute, to prevent the shipping merchants & others from suffering let us also purchase our fine wool. Ships & carrying the American wool, like on whole Coast, with these, this would keep our coast well protected to our Contingent trade would be carried on with little or no Retribution.

...By such a procedure it strikes me, the loss to Government in the result would be as nothing, because the debenture money...
instant could be promoted to a pecuniary point of view it would appear to be now our interest to go to war. In a moral point of view the effect would be bad upon the Oregon of course; but the signs of the time clearly indicate that sooner or later war must come, so I do sincerely hope that England nor any other foreign nation will ever be allowed own a passage way across the Con- 
 siment to the Pacific, tho' from she may yet acre 
e this, because so recently Mr. Polk offered to settle 
 at by when the second issue upon which he was elected 
 us, Oregon by Texas, in which the all the United Kingdom that 
 ing? has her eyes upon the prospective lucrative com-
 mune she could open with the Millions of inhabitants 
 China, competing successfully perhaps against us, if 
 she had a highway across our Continent. Give us 
 the smallest slice of Oregon to she with her steamers 
 in the Atlantic of Pacific, her Giant Railroad across 
 the Canada, ifOregon, could carry trade to unde 
 in trade in a short space of time from her Empire 
 to by a Magnetic Telegraph following the Railroad 
 the steamers, as before mentioned on either ocean. 
 England of China would be my 20 days apart.
Mr. Pack's come in offering to settle at 49. It is to be
unanswerable, Our Party here thinks nothing of it
however if one pleased with his Message, the Whigs
also hold up for Oregon to approve the President's
creed. I am glad that if all go on the
appearance is that we shall be united without
of our right - What is your opinion as to the cause
things will take relative to the subject? If you
have leisure time do me the favor to communicate
them, so if I can be of any service to you here it
will give me pleasure.

Yours Very Truly

[Signature]

C. A. Doughton
Washington, D.C.
Fort Towson C. S.
Dec. 13th, 1846

Sir,

The undersigned, a native of the state that you have the honor to represent in the General Assembly of the Union, prevails upon himself to address you on the present occasion, with the confident hope that the request he makes will be favorably considered by his distinguished but slight acquaintance.

Having served nearly five years in the U. S. Army, and being the whole of that period with his regiment in the field, (except a short time when it was in garrison and is at present,) he has not had the honor of becoming acquainted with any of the distinguished gentlemen from his state.

This together with the circumstance that it is extremely difficult for the line-officer to get an opportunity to make acquaintances that would guard his interests has led me to seek you as my nearest acquaintance having it in my power to serve me in my laudable ambition for advancement.
The undersigned has been respectfully to state that he served in the last active campaign of the Florida war; since which time, he has been in the discharge of the duties of Quartermaster and Commissary, and commanded a company for a portion of said time; and has the acknowledgment of the faithful discharge of his discharging duties from the accounting officers of the Treasury.

In view of the above facts I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to present my claim to the President for an appointment as second lieutenant, more properly for a transfer to a new regiment as a first lieutenant; these vacancies being original will be filled up by election, and the vacancy left by me in this regiment can be confused on some one of those who have just entered the army thus gratifying me in realizing a little advancement after 5 years service as second lieutenant.

If this should appear to hold on my part I would beg to state that not many years since, when the Florida war broke out many of the

...
Dec. 14

Hon. S. A. Douglas
M. C.
Washington City

D. C.

Paid

[Handwritten note at the bottom]
To the Hon. J. H. Douglass, Alburnus, Dec. 31, 1845.

Dear Sir,

I again trouble you with a few lines at the present time. Since I last wrote you, we have been visited by the U.S. Deputy Marshall from Springfield with writs for several of us issued by the Circuit Court of the U.S. in that cause upon bills of indictment found against us by the grand jury upon the oath of one Dock Williams. He searched diligently about a week, and then left without any of us. We searched our houses and every other place that he chose without resistance.

Gov. Ford very justly refused the Marshal the use of his troops to arrest us upon the ground that no prosecution for any offense committed by Mormons against another previous to the treaty of "Driving us off" should be instituted by either party. This was one article of the treaty.

This said Dock Williams was once a settler of our town, and we were so well convinced that he was engaged in making base or counterfeit coin that I with letters of the heads of our Church used a peculiar kind of influence against him by reason of which, he had to leave our city. You may recollect that the Marshals desired utter a bitter complaint against us for our treatment to a worthy citizen, Dock Williams.

Some of our boys said they found a bogus press which the Dock had used, and they ruined it, and then burned it so deep that they say it will never get a restoration. This is the reason why there has been so much hunting in our place for a bogus press. The U.S. troops have been in several times, searching for it, and
Truly have no learned for it, but it cannot be found and probably never will be. I will venture to say that as laborers in this world, by some of our boys, and those engaged in the labor of the vineyard, we shall be able to make our living in this business, and to be blessed with the fruits of our labors. This is the truth, as far as I am able to determine, to help you, God.

I trust that the President will not think it proper to cause any harm to any of us or think proper to suffer us to be injured or treated at all. Even if we were guilty, we have simply sinned for it, as you must well know. But we declare that we are innocent, and you can see men in relation to this matter. We need to be free to act and counsel our people to get away. Here is the time this people have now decided of our fate. This government is purely religious, and I trust the President will look at it in that light.

Very Respectfully Yours,

[Signature]
To the Hon. S. A. Douglas
Washington D.C.
O.O.

[Signature]

Dec 31

[Stamp]