Montrose, Iowa, Dec. 21st, 1857.

Sir,

You recollect that Congress passed a law granting to some land to soldiers engaged in the Mexican War 160 acres was given to those who only served one month, and those who served six months received the same time that Congress passed a law granting land to those who served in the War of 1812. But it appears by that law or act, injustice was done to those who served in the War against Great Britain. For those who served six months in that was received but 80 acres, and those who served for a longer period received but 60 acres. Those grey-haired men who are but few in number at present, should surely receive as much as those who served in the Mexican War. For they have waited near forty years. This would be nothing more than justice and equity, and Congress should so amend that law that they should receive the land at an early day of the session, perhaps it was an oversight at the last session. I have heard much complaint from those gray-haired men for say they it would cost them more to locate 160 acres of land than it was worth after being located, and there is no member in the Senate of the United States who has more influence than you, sir, which is the reason of my addressing you wishing that you may receive the nominations for the next session.

Yours with great respect,

William Anderson
Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
U. S. Senator
Washington, D.C.

[signature]

[additional handwriting]
Morris, Grundy Co. Illinois
December 4, 1861

Dear Sir,

I should be pleased to be remembered when you are distributing your public documents. The Census statistics and the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the Finances and Debts of the United States would be particularly acceptable.

In making these requests they must be addressed, because I am to you a stranger, and I am also a stranger in the State. I came from Ohio in May last. In the Presidential campaign of 1860, in connection with Messrs. Dayton, we published the only Democratic paper in Cincinnati; after our sale of the office to the Democrats I retired from the paper but I still retain my political feeling, and when next fall comes I anticipate doing service again in the cause to which I am attached. ADemocrat of good repute and not associated with the party of the present administration, I solicit your attention to me with the fullest appreciation.

Yours very respectfully,

Geo. Fisher

To Hon. S. A. Douglas.
Fisher George
4 Dec. 31.
Doc. wanted.

[Handwritten note: Lent]
Portland, Me., Dec. 21st, 1851

Sir,

Any favors in the way of public documents, speeches, and congressional proceedings will be gladly received and appreciated by myself.

Though personally a stranger to you, I have taken the liberty to address you in this manner, as you are not a stranger to the Democratic party in this part of the country.

Yours truly,

Charles B. Merrill
Hon. S. A. Douglas
U.S. Senate.
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir,

I take the liberty to write you a few lines for the purpose of asking you to send me some rub for me to read. I am confined to my room with the Rheumatism and the dirt says that I will be until warm weather comes. I want the documents to read to keep me alive.

I am in hopes you will be able to keep your friends within bounds, so that the whole field will not get against you. I want to see you the chair at all, and then all will be well.

If there is any one that you would prefer as a delegate from up this way, if you will let me know who it is I will do all I can for him. You can refer to me plain as an Am'man. Any thing that is necessary will be as secret as in your own breast. I believe a good deal will depend on the confidence and direction of the delegates from this State. All will soon move, and I am almost ready to Hallow Hurrah for hog. I will wait a little while I cant long. I am in hopes that you will be able to do something this winter for the Ex Registers and Reissues in the land Warrant line. With an M. I. H. D. T. Douglas yours respectfully Wm. Jackson.
Jackson, Wm. M.  
4 Dec 37.  
Doc. wanted.
Charleston, Ill., Dec. 6, 1851.

Hon. S. A. Douglas, M. S. S.

Dear Sir: You will pardon the liberty I assume in addressing one who is personally a stranger to me, and I to him. But as a public man and a statesman your name is familiar to every man, woman and child throughout the length and breadth of this vast Republic—one whose name is ranked with the tallest of the age. But pardon this digression. My object in addressing you is to ascertain if you would be so kind as to loan me $100 or even $50 to enable me to replenish my printing office. I am too poor, and our democratic friends in this region are not full handed enough to do much. The Whig press in this place is backed by the wealth of the community, and are now setting up their concern for a big fight in the coming presidential contest, and I wish to be enabled to hold my own with them. The signs of the times point strongly to you as certainly being our next presidential standard bearer, and God send it may be so. In that
event I want the Malash Valley to give a good account of herself. I believe that we can roll up for you 50,000 sq. in. the Sucker State. As soon as I get to work, which will be about the first of January, and possibly before, I wish you to dispose of any articles confidentially concerning yourself, which shall be attended to in the strictest confidence. I will further them as official. In that event, much good might be accomplished in Indiana and elsewhere. However, you must be the judge of this matter.

In regard to the other matter I spoke of, if you can do anything for me I shall esteem it a great favor. I do not ask it as a gratuity, my sir, for alone that I only ask it to give me a start here. Whatever the amount is advanced, my note shall be forwarded you.

WM. B. D. Sticklin can give you all the information you want of any concerning me. Mr. J. L. Lohman has withdrawn from the prep and is going elsewhere to locate. I am respectfully yours,

J. J. Brown
Hon. S. A. Douglas, U. S. S.
Washington City
D. C.

June 1861

[Signature]

[Red seal stamp: Charleston, S.C. 1861]
Warsville Indiana
December 6th, 1851

Dear Sir,

I have just returned from Indianapolis, where I have been the last month in attendance on the U. S. and Supreme Court, which have been holding their sessions there. I went up a week before to attend the "lame dinner." The girl being a neighbor and friend of mine—and for his service rendered the country in the late Mexican War, I felt it my duty, for my position to do him all possible honor. On that occasion he behaved nobly and well, and for his patriotic defense of the Indiana troops, at a time when the general opinion of the country, induced by the report of General Taylor, was not only against them, but adverse and should receive from our State funds. He placed in the matter in its true light—and from this was decimated by the Tariff Administration. His whole history and works I know so far as he is concerned is to have justice done him by a democratic administration, when it comes into power, by reinstating him in his former position, as Governor of the State.
June 10, which he intends to make his permanent residence, and which would be at a time of the first session of Congress, which I have no doubt will be the case on the 4th of March 1853. I have never taken part in any of the proceedings of the Senate nor in bringing forward any measure for the Union. And I may add, with truth and sincerity, that he has taken no part in it himself. The Senate in which he has been placed has been one of his own making, and I have no reason to believe it is one which he expects. But as he is now in power, there is but one course for his employees and that is to remain perfectly inactive. Knowing that to those who have forced him into present position upon him, the sport and to act in the matter as they deem right, and leaving it to time and events to settle his nomination by the State Convention which meets in the 22d of November, as may be deemed politic or impolitic. The by that Convention, or looking over the whole proceeding, I can not pretend to give any advice or commit myself. I can only say that if I were to give him a compliment at all, coming our delegation at the Baltimore Convention after being done so, to act on the question as they seem right, and annulled by any further instructions.

Should the Thirteenth Amendment be adopted, it will be at least for jellying the present State of feeling at the head of Government among our leading politicians. I have not a particle of doubt that the vote of the Union will be given to yourself as our first choice. You have been my first choice ever since your name has been presented to the American people as a candidate for the first office in the Government. The Union I supposed to be one of the leading political parties in this, in the Union, and all in the cause of a compromise in the Union. The party and the propriety of depriving you of the same in the present State of affairs a policy, I think, at first hand, in the Union, and the Union in becoming here at least to be consistent in the constitution. As I have been for it greatly inspired at the cheap with the use. This has been going on in the State, the leading men in the throwing out of the Union, and in the whom I have had some intimate change of opinion with. The last month has been daily coming over to my side of the question, and I feel more and more in saying that more. Just such, out of the question. You are the only, the first choice of the people, and that of the Constitution, I think, King. Our whole delegation of Baltimore is with you.
The only fear I have in the matter is — that from the
influence of your friends — you may be precluded to
prominently before the Country, in the first instance, and
then becoming the dupl. of fighting and alarming to
the other prominent candidates — they may combine their
forces to defeat you — This should be strictly guarded
against — The individual whoever he may be who comes
before the National Convention with the greatest strength
of the party at first — be voted all the names on the roll
by far that Convention are presented — and each has
as he would have some friends there, in the least likely,
to be ultimately elected — Things are so lining well now
let the friends of each candidate present his name — Like
this if the pleasure give his first vote to my old friend
Allen — First and a T. Lane — Let him in to yourself select
etymology to help me to Buchanan and so with the
prominent candidates of the party — one true or true eter
Then one choice out of the great ten — on whom would they naturally
Connect? Can there be a doubt — That on the fine at struggle
The State now comprising 20 old North West States having noted
so for you — the other thing is to find out for whom these States had
first voted — I think not — Which States in the Union are more
Conservative than one own? If a candidate from a free State
Must be selected by the Slave States — Who more likely to com
and then vote than one from the North West in States? In all
questions deeply affecting their "peculiar institutions", we
have done them justice — What States have lined up to the com
provinces of the Constitution more strictly than ours? let
the late majority of upwards of 90,000 majority in Indiana
The separate clause of our new constitution submitted to the vote of the people on the first Monday of October last, "excluding free negroes from the State," answers the question—"I doubt whether such a majority on such a question, submitted directly to the people, could be obtained in any other State of the Union." And the influence of this patriotic vote and of these generous feelings which prompted it are I have no doubt highly appreciated in my State South of the Potomac. A leading man, and one of the most prominent of the Whig party in Kentucky, observed to me shortly after the vote was published—"That he was a strong party man, a slaveholder, and that he would vote for any prominent democrat, qualified for the office of President, living in Indiana, than to any Whig candidate in New England." I mention this as an evidence of the good feeling towards us in a Slave State.

But I have not read the letter to a most unalterable length, and will conclude by saying that with my best wishes for your health, I am truly,

Your friend

S. M. Hayes

S. A. Douglas

March
John Law
Evansville
6 Dec 51
Ft. 8th. 1857
Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
Dear Sir,
You will please send me public documents and oblige your humble servant.

Arthur McEler
Mr. Giro, Arthur
8 Dec. 31.
Por. Doc. wanted.

[Signature]
Lackford Mill Co. Iw
8th 1857

I am further indebted to you for any Congressional documents you will forward me during the present session.

Your Friend,

[Signature]

[Address]

Washington
Sorrento, [location]
8 Dec. 37.

Doc. wanted.

[Signature]
Springfield, Ill., Dec. 6th, 1857

Hon. S. A. Douglas
U. S. Senate

Sir,

Permit me to avail myself of the permission you granted me some time since to ask to be remembered in your distributions of the President's message and accompanying documents; if it will not be putting you to too great inconvenience I shall be exceedingly obliged by receiving any favor of the kind you may feel disposed to grant.

Hoping that your efforts and those of your distinguished fellow-laborers in the Senate may be crowned this Congress with the same signal success that marked your efforts of the last session to promote and perpetuate the healthiness and integrity of the Union—and that they may lead, if possible, as greatly to your good fame I remain

Yours truly,

D. I. Snow
Ed. "Ill Regno" or of the "Illinoians".
Hon. S. A. Douglas
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have been informed by Mr. G. F. Harwood, V. S. & R., that Mr. C. C. Sanderson has arrived from his trip to the Western States, and that he has with him a great many books which you would be pleased to have. I am therefore to acquaint you that Mr. C. C. Sanderson would be very happy to have you visit him at his residence, No. 83 North 5th Street, and that you will find the books very interesting.

Draw N. Y. & Philadelphia

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
MLUDIAN, NY
Dec 8, 1851

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

I am
induced to apply to your courtesy
for public documents & should
you do me the kindness to put me
on some list of persons I will ever
feel my self bound to return to any
favor in my power & should it not
be convenient for you I am nevertheless
your friend & a friend of the
kind would be received with much
gratitude.

My P.O. address is as above
but this letter will be mailed at Elgin

Zones With Fidelity

T. B. Dimby

P.S. I would like a copy of the late court ruling.
Sent
Agg. Koss.
Compl. Pat. Rep. 60
Carneal signed Dec 9th 1851

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
My Dear Sir,

When you were here you promised to favor me with some Pub. Docks, as I have as yet received none. I trust you will not forget me in future.

I have a friend here, Mr. John H. Morse, to whom, I should be glad to have you send now them or.

My respects to your lady.

Most Respectfully Yours,

John A. Royden
Boydew, Inv. A.
9 Dec. 37.
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Scrip. 1st
also to
John H. Morse

[Handwritten note]