San Francisco Jan 31st 1853

Hon. T. A. Douglass
My Dear Sir: I had

designed bring at Washington at the opening of the new administration for the purpose of presenting my views as to California appointments, but I find it altogether impracticable, and as my friend the Hon. Hugh O. Murray, Chief Justice of our Supreme Court, has determined to spend some time at Washington, and look a little after their business, I have adopted him as my substitute.

I do not know whether or not I am acquainted with Judge Murray if not consider this a letter of introduction. He is a young man of distinguished talent and recent court in the United States, from whence he came, and I feel one of those staunchest friends of a young merit admitted in California, and I ask both on his account and my own that you extend to him all the consideration due one of our own friends.
An honorable gentleman, a man of talent
and a leading Democrat

Billy Sum

A.M. [Signature]

California City

Wabunac 1853
San Francisco Jan 28th 1853.

My dear Sir,

I have written to the President asking an appointment at San Francisco for Dr. H. L. Aikin. He is an intimate and a warm personal friend of mine—Mr. now Uncle at Stockton, but he has taken it into his head to come down to him with me at Stockton. He is one of God's people—a splendid gentleman and a friend—"one in a thousand." If you can or find any way to forward his receiving a respectable appointment at San Francisco, please on my account to take it. I want you to do something for my California friends at Washington—I know one will be well disposed, but my old friend I want you to do it.

Farewell.

G. M. Dana
San Francisco, Jan. 28th, 1853.

Mr. Stephen C. Dwiggins,

My dear friend,

I have written to me by

some of my friends that have gone to some that are

going to Washington letters of introduction and

recommendation. These letters have been given only

when I particularly desire assistance, I have

since known several friends that seek appointment

and they are all your friends — they are valuable

friends, and if one long after the other, we shall

soon anchor in California. They are my friends

previously to the recent Canvass but for being

defeated by those who claimed to be my friends

would have sent me a Deputation Delegation to

California. — As we do better again —

Judge Murray, Sam L. Molineux,

(a brother of the old days, I believe, as well as
does another that is his name) Mr. Boothwell, James

B. Mighae, Clinton McAlpin, Michael Rask

are not only my particular personal friends,

but they are the men above whom I cannot

count in this State. Murray wants nothing
He is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and has a superior reputation on the bench to any other judicial office in the State. We want to see that things go right — Morley wants the Post Office here or Stewardship of the Post — He is the best working Democrat in the State. Booth is an old Yankee friend & controls a strong influence in the Northern section of the State. Mr. Alpin is a regular Hon. Senior Democrat, a man of talent & determination and great personal influence. Ask for the most specimens of the "genuine tone" — I cannot come to help them, all of them, if I can — I will become a party of valuables devoted friends of some concern in their being heard at Baltimore in 1858.

This letter I write to some confidentially — I have jumped into the political arena & intend to stay in it — My friends shall be some friends & I intend to consider them — I intend to have been at Washington at the installation of the new Administration, but have found it impossible not being able I have recommended my immediate friends to you — Trust them sincerely, —

John, yours,

[Signature] J.A. McDougal.
Margaretta Jan 28, 1853
Homosassa P.O.

While you my friend are all the while engaged in the busy scene of washing on life, I am enjoying the quiet happiness of rural retirement and leisure. You know what I pass through and can form a better judgment of men and things than I can who am absent and secluded. But ye I continue a work of suggestion.

I have learned recently in the only letter I have received from Washington that Blight has approached you and hatched up a "grand reconciliation". It is well to be on polite terms with all who are not utterly unworthy of intercourse. But I wish you to be very guarded. He is your enemy. I know it, and you can never make him otherwise, for you cannot serve the purposes he indites. I refrain from expressing the opinion I have of his character, but am impelled by my interest in you to beg you to be cautious not to put it in his power to thwart the policy of your friends. The plan which should make our campaign a failure. The events in the Baltimore Convention turned the eyes of the country fully upon you. From the very cradle of your national popularity you had strength to crush all the old combinations and organizations, and to open the way to the dynasty of a new generation. Your course since then has been meritorious and manly. The heart of the Democratic Party is warmed towards
You have multiplied friends everywhere and in all respects; your progress is gratifying to those who are solicitors in your behalf. Now what I wish to say is this. You stand well with the State right men— with New England, with the South, with the party at large. The Northwest has always been true to the Republican cause, and not only true but serviceable. The N.C.W. has always been true to the South and serviceable. The N.C.W. is powerful in numbers, wealth, and influence more so. The N.C.W. has never had a President. Her weight in the Union, her service in the party, her fidelity to the Constitution and the country, her friendly bearing towards the South, her connection with the North, the good terms she is upon with all sections, will give her strong and if well presented, insuperable claims to the Presidency next term. If the Northwest unites upon you, and asks your nomination, the standing you have now amongst the party everywhere, will bring an instant and acclamatory nomination. The policy I have been looking to has been first to warm up the feeling of the party towards the N.C.W. by frequent and deserved reference to her fidelity and services, and to consolidate that N.C.W. upon you, so that she may either by a separate convention present you to the Country, or by a united delegation at Cincinnati ask your nomination. If the N.C.W. is divided, and has therefore no distinctly claimed candidate,
your chances will depend upon your successful rivalry of the pretensions of all the various candidates throughout the land, of which there will be many—especially with N. B. if Penn. is pressed for the hand. If the N. E. is united, his claim will be yielded to at once, and your nomination effected without contest.

Now why do I say all this?—That you may be ready on your guard. Bright will defeat this despicable "sorcerer's" of the N. E. if he can; and he will be the more likely to do it successfully if you cheer yourself to him, and give him insight to your views and feelings—thus enabling him to mingle with your friends in the garb of sympathy. He does not mean that you shall rise if he can prevent it—and his pretended friendship will be more dangerous than his pretended enmity.

As I have been in hand, I will add a few more words. I will say that if practicable, Pierce's cabinet offices from the North West should be your reliable friends; and none of his cabinet should be your enemies or your rivals. If you can have a friend in the Interior and Treasury Departments, it will be important. The Interior dept. holds the land & Indian systems, has great influence in the West. The Treasury is particularly potent in the large cities. I gave or rather sent to B. D. Meyers, a letter of introduction to you. I wish you to pay him particular attention. If you have not done so, seek
him out. He is the bearer of the electoral returns from Florida, and you can learn his whereabouts from Judge Brutus of whom he is a connection. He was one of the your advocates in Florida, and his continued adhesion is important. He wished to make your acquaintance. you will not do amiss to assist by your influence his recommendations in respect to office in Florida. His recommendation will not unluckily conflict in several respects with those of the delegation. But you will be safe in talking freely with him as to Florida is concerned.

My address is Homassa, Hernando Co.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

To\n
Hon. S. A. Douglas.

Gov. Duval writes me that he will be recommended by some of his friends for Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Support him, he is your friend.
Brandon, Va.  
Jan. 25, 1853.

My dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of a very pleasant evening at your house and was much pleased to see you. I am informed that you are well and that our friends are well.

I am sorry to hear of the death of your dear friend, Mr. Pitts. He was a true friend to me, and I shall miss his society.

I hope that you will continue to enjoy good health and that your family will be happy.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
yourself, Stephen, and do the like. I shall see you in the spring in the course of things, and the nearer time I hope to see you. Reu the best wishes. Your truly,

Thomas Ritchie

Stephen A. Douglas

My dear Judge,

Nothing can exceed the excitement here as to the man who is to go into the Cabinet from this State. It is thought now that every thing is open. Dickerson is to head the in a day or two a Certificate signed by 16 members of the Assembly and 67 of the late Supreme Convention! It strikes one that now is the time for you to take some steps or have them taken to get a man in who will be both and that man of all other is Frank Gooding--he is not at the head in the middle or at the tail of any clique and is fresh
and vigorous with his sympathy
and tendance, all with me - If
his name occurred in your Con-
versation with Hunter, I think bey-
any doubt if the latter gentleman
is in a Condition to advise
W. Wilson - he can by Cutting's
election avoid these old cliques
of 20 years standing and give
me a fresh start, so take
hold of this. If not is in -
then Blain, Bentinck & Van Beren
are in - If many then this
Albany clique - If Dickinson
then the D - I know also -
Take Cutting and then the whole
thing is avoided and we have
then - I have not consid-

with him at this point but if you
tell him on a line that this any
thing can be done this W. Wilson
will do to
Consider this a matter of
great importance to you &
hope you will agree with me.

I have the Brandy which will
send you - also a barrel of Broome
County Potatoes of the finest quality

W. Wilson is attending to this
Done, the matters - I expect to see
the Woman in a St. weeks from
now - I understand you to give
up the idea of a housekeeper
in the first period you remain in
Martin - If weather was delightful
with the conversation I had with him
I beg to journey - I attended fully
at the Bright affair. Let me hear
from you in the first subject of this letter
Always yours, E. C. Went
Confidential

Nashport, Jan. 16, 1833.

Mr. Stephen A. Douglas,

Dear Sir:

I read with great pleasure your address on the unveiling of the statue of Jackson. It was eloquent, classic, and beautiful. It will both yourself and your great subject honor. It was fortunate that the choice fell upon you to do the work of his equestrian statue.

I suppose you are fully posted to Washington with regard to the cabinet and the policy of the new administration. I know nothing about most matters in New Hampshire. I mean we outsiders. But now there is a circle to whom the attention of the President elect are known, but I do not happen to be in that circle. since it became known that you were my first choice for the Presidency, and that you must be confirmed.
vote, for you in the Baltimore Com-
mittee, I have been under the
bope of a custome oblige a New
Hampshire, Lords, Newfand,
there nothing to do with the
inadournzation which is
about to accede to power, ex-
cept to join it, as much as prac-
tically, as every earnest tooltips
bound to do, that I shall, if
bitter as, and will patiently
wait another, contended by new
demonial influences, that success
it.

I infer from the speculations
of the newspaper, that the committee
be made up of all flavors of
the Democratic Party. The Hurst
of New York, now to close, are to have place
in the Senate of old Big. And it also
appear, that the ultra states right
were of the South, are to recognize
as the only New branch of the
Democratic Party in New Section
of New Union. Whether such a con-
stitution of the committee will be
more acceptable to the country,
St. Louis, Jan. 17, 1863

Dear Sir: The few intimations which we have in the papers as to the probable composition of the Cabinet give not much insight into the views of Gen. Pierce. If you have any information upon that point, I would be glad to learn what is going on. A few days ago I took the liberty of writing to him generally, concerning the obvious demand of the Country that sectionalism should be discouraged by him, both in his measures of public policy and in the appointments. It seems as if the Van Buren men are insisting upon having John A. Dix in the Cabinet, such an appointment would be very injudicious. The position of Dix in the Campaign of 1848, and subsequently forbids his being trusted in a high and influential position. It is always worse than useless to make a Missouri cabinet—without unity or consistency of views or action. It must
lead to disastrous results. I hope
Gen. Pierce will escape such a car
.energy, that he will make a straight
but consistent and energetic Cabinet.
He can afford to disregard
the clamors of those whose connec-
tion with the Democratic party
is doubtful - whose complaint will
injure no one but themselves.
I have been importuned for letters
by various persons desiring office, and
have refrained from giving them one
in a very few cases. I have written
in favor of Mr. George M. Weatherby
receipt of the Land Office at Jackson,
Missouri, but that is the only recom-
mendation I have made. Of the
proper course to be pursued in this
mockery, the persons to be selected,
and the persons to be selected, I
will write you fully in a good line.
I think that we should ask the Peers
due to overlook the Benton man entirely.
So much is such office, as easy
and influence it would not permit
be put into the hands of Bentonians
be used against the National Democracy
They may probably receive a due share of
appointments, but nothing more. But
this, however, more in detail, will be
written hereafter. Judge Beach has
dissued a letter of introduction to you
which I have given to him. I can
imagine that he visits Washington for
an office of some importance. Judge
Harrison can inform you directly
with regard to Judge R. and his expecta-
tions. You are aware that I think
the Secretary of Interior should come
from the West of the Mississippi, but
that I am not able to suggest a name
of sufficient weight. Judge Tufts
of this State, the late Chief Justice, would
fill that office well. He has a clear,
methodical, and logical mind, and is
as inflexible in his Democracy as
Sam. Jackson.
The follies of Hayner and Clay at
the 8th of January Meeting here, you must
have seen. The more of such folly
they exhibit, the weaker do they become.
Now few Democrats of this City think of
attending such meetings or care what
resolutions are passed.
Permit me to congratulate you
...
upon your re-election to the U.S. Senate, with so great enthusiasm, I think that there will soon be more unanimity in Missouri than there has been for years. If the incoming Administration is correct in its policy, it will contribute largely to the Union and success of the whole Democracy.

In haste,

Yours truly,

[Signature]

[Name: S. D. [illegible]]

[2 more lines of text]
Chicago, 18th June 1853.

Honorable Dear Sir,

Having been informed that my friend, Rev. Dr. Charles C. Wise, is to deliver a course of lectures before the Smithsonian Institute, I take the liberty to introduce him to you as a gentleman highly deserving your kind attention. Permit me at the same time to recommend to your favor his brother in law, Mr. Chas. E. Benson, who is at present an efficient & faithful Clerk in the Custom House of New York, hoping that through your influence he may be retained in office under the new administration.

Dr. Wise is well & favorably known in the D.C. I will deem it an honor & a great favor to have your acquaintance whilst any attention shown him will be gratefully acknowledged by him who has the honor to be with great respect,

Yours devotedly in C.

[Signature]

Hon. S. J. Douglas -
W. S. Senator - Washington City.
43 Pall Mall Place
London January 28th 1853

My Dear Sir,

There is no danger I presume of Congress rising without making appropriation for the usual outfit for a new minister to this country. An appointment will naturally be made before the year is out. The conversation you were so kind as to have with me on our journey from Washington must form my apology for the present appeal to your friendship. You then I think intimated an opinion that I ought not hastily to throw up my commission on the arrival of the 4th of March but retain it, say for about a year from the time of the appointment and then submit to the President the nomination of a successor. We both of us regarded the event certain of the election of General Pierce, and feeling towards him like sentiments of personal regard and esteem...
The highest character, desired to shew out a course that might be perfectly agreeable to him. His inauguration is at hand. Allow me to ask of you the favor of an opinion for the future. I have no desire to detain the place a moment beyond the wishes of the New People. At the same time I should be most unwilling by any early movement to manifest distrust, and especially to give ground for a suspicion that I am not proud to serve the country as it will be administered in its national affairs in the early future. Whatever is most useful and becoming I shall be most happy to do—and feeling that desire, and desiring earnestly to carry it into exercise I shall believe that your suggestions are wise. I will at an early day place in the hands of a friend a paper to be used whenever the proper time arrives and the occasion may call for it. In the mean time and always believe me

Faithfully and respectfully yours

J.R. Higgins

Mr. Stephen A. Douglas