Naton House March 1st 1853

My dear Sir,

Please examine the enclosed document and inform me at your earliest convenience, what portion of the same (if any) meets your approbation.

And oblige yours,

M. Bidwell

Mr. A. Douglas
Washington
Points by A. Berdan of Chicago, Illinois, regarding the Patent Office and Suggestions for Improving the Method of Conducting that Branch of the Public Business

1. Plan and Original Design of Patent Office Buildings

The magnificent Office at Washington now occupied as the Patent Office was originally designed for that specific purpose and for no other. The building was commenced in the year 1836 and 270 feet of the south side of the block finished and occupied within 4 years from that time. The whole when completed will form a Quadrangle 118 x 280 feet with an open Court for light air and other conveniences.

The original design gives a splendid Hall 270 x 65, oppositely intended for the display of Models, and two smaller rooms communicating with the Hall 85 x 65 feet intended for the same purposes. The rooms in the Basement of the building were designed to accommodate rejects, models, models of a coarse and heavy character and to furnish shops, laboratories, furnaces engine 85 in four the number rooms of the Institution. The gallery was designed for the exhibition of Specimens of American skill and ingenuity as developed by the Patent Improvements contained in the principal story of the building; and to meet the requirements of the 30th section of the Patent Law of 1836, as other minor parts of the place were to comply with other requirements of the same Law.

2. Increase of the Business of the Office and the Diversion of the Building from its proper use.

The number of applications in Patents is increasing annually in an extraordinary ratio. In the year 1790 they numbered only three. In 1836 the number was 219 and it promises to reach near 3000 the present year. The applications are in most cases accompanied by models averaging at least one cubic foot in size, furnishing a present aggregate of more than 20,000 models deposited in the building. This makes a constant increase in the demand for room not only for their display, but for the housing of the models themselves.
accommodation of the increased number of Examiners Charles,
Draughtsmen, Machinists, and other Officers requisite to carry on the
increased business. According to the list of increase in all these
respects the whole building according to the original plan much of
which remains to be completed will be required for the legitimate pur-
poses of the Patent Office within 26 years from this time, making it
much to be regretted that the Architect did not select a larger site
ground for the site instead of as has been represented than being an
unnecessary amount of room.

Then the fact a large part of the building already constructed
has been diverted from its legitimate use. The vast lobby in the
Edifice has been occupied by a Cabinet of Curiosities while the models
of Inventions which it is of the utmost importance should be so
displayed that they shall be accessible and open to inspection, are
served or a scandalous confusion into the basement rooms of the
building where they are not only rendered useless for the purposes
for which they were intended but where they are also exposed by the
humidity and liable to be entirely destroyed. A large portion of these
models are entirely unclassified and all of them badly so, so that the
site of the Examiners is consumed in upholding searches and the whole
economy of the administration impaired. Besides this and going on in
the same wrong direction a deliberate design is now entertained to perpetuate
upon the interests and rights of Inventors a gross outrage which con-
trasts of no justification nor palliation. In 1846 Mr. Ellsworth then
Commissioner of Patents appreciated the great evil of the want of classifi-
cation and proper exhibition of the models and there being then no
other receptacle for the National Gallery of Curiosities recommended the
completion of the East and north wings of the building: the recommenda-
tion was renewed by Mr. Tower. In 1849 Congress commended this enlargement
by appropriating $50,000 out of the Patent fund, the accumulation of fees
paid by Inventors and applicants for the erection of these Wings. Strange
enough Mr. Adams the late Commissioner reported that the additional
amount to be furnished would not be required for the purposes of the
Patent Office and Mr. Stuart taking advantage of this statement of Mr.


announces to Congress in his report of January 1851 that the two wings of the Patent Office be appropriated to the Department of the Interior, by which means a single day of Citizens not generally overburdened with wealth, the Inventors, will be saved to the extent at least of $144,000 for the purpose of furnishing the government with offices for a new department with which they have no relation more than other of the appropriation of the building as once made it may be and probably will be impossible to restore it to its proper use for many years after it is urgently wanted for those uses. It is an experiment at all events which ought not to be tried, inasmuch as the additional room even now will only help to make a more perfect and intelligible classification and system in the business of the Bureau and will at a very early day be absolutely demanded. Indeed the transaction can be characterized as little better than robbery and the proposition has aroused a feeling of much indignation among Inventors.

My plan would be then to restore the Patent Office and return it to its original and appropriate use as the Temple of the Invention and the Inventor of our Country.

My next proposition would be that the annual reports which are now very meagerly and incongruously mixed up with the reports of the Commissioner of Patents be printed as a distinct report and that the collection of such species of information and perhaps Commercial statistics also be entrusted to a distinct Bureau organized for that purpose. By that means the duties of the Commissioner of Patents will be reduced to a proper attention to matters relating to inventions and the way will be prepared for the following proposition which is.

That the Commissioner's reports instead of being an annual volume of a single volume be issued monthly in the form of a Journal containing full specification of all the patents granted; illustrated by appropriate Engravings when applicable and carefully and ministers, indeed, it might be provided by law that the engravings...
Brooklyn, March 16/55

Hon. S. R. Lengler,

Dear Sir;

When recently on a visit to Washington, I took with me a letter of introduction from Dr. Vanderwyck, Bishop of Chicago, in which I now enclose: Of which the object is to desire you to use your powerful influence with the incoming administration that my Brother-in-law, Mr. C. S. Benson, may be retained in the position in the Custom House of New York you had, at that time, been visited by a domestic calamity which prevented your appearing at public, and I could ask consequently, present you the letter. May I hope, dear Sir, that you will interest yourself in this case, and you will confer a great favour upon the Bishop, even well upon your humble servant.

Charles C. Pete D.K.
Executive Mansion,  
Raleigh, March 11, 1853.

My dear Sir:  

Major Crow W. Caldwell of this state  
would be gratified to procure the appointment  
of Superintendent of the branch school  
at Charlotte. He has held the office, and  
resigned it to go to Mexico to defend the  
rights and honor of his country. He is eminently  
deserving and his appointment would be  
hailed with satisfaction and pride by the  
Democratic Party of North Carolina. May  
I beseech your good offices in his behalf.  

Providence has again sorely afflicted us  
by the death of our dear sister Sallie Rebecca  
Little, who departed this life on Thursday last  
in this city.  
Your friend  

and servant,  

David S. Reid  

Hon. S. A. Douglas,  
Washington.
My dear Sir,

In relation to the title claim I had upon the new administration in which you held important your assistance, I have forwarded a copy to Hon. Shields who has promised to hand

Then in my application backed up by recommendation signed by the Democratic members of the Legislature of the State, General Smith, the judge, concerned to present my claim and as I was unable to hang on support, any of the other parts of my partners,

I solicit your cooperation. It would oblige

I must if you were the speaker to the general

and it if he not already handed in

my application regard him to the general

I fear that will be many more important

I send you the application to the important

by the opportunity yet without I trust my

and the claim may not pass unnoticed

When I you think the matter opportunity


Judge Douglas

M. D. Bailey
March 8, 1853

My dear Sir,

I desire to send in my papers to clay, and if it would not be inconvenient for you to send your letter to me by my friend and relative Mr. Stevens, you would greatly oblige me.

I had a conversation last evening with the Hon. R. B. Walker in reference to exploring the Northern Line and I was most truly gratified to learn that in his judgment, I had not overestimated its importance.

Yours truly,

Isaac Stevens

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Washington, March 8, 1853
Philadelphia March 9th, 1833

Hon. J. A. Douglas
Sir,

A resolution having passed the Phila. Literary Association "to this effect." That our Secretary be requested to communicate with the Hon. J. A. Douglas, and ask his permission, to have the honor of enrolling his name, upon our records, as an Honorary Member.

I am extremely happy, Sir, to be the instrument of communicating the wishes of my associates, and sincerely hope a favorable response.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Jerome B. Buck

No 12 Mercantile Library
Phila.
March 11, 1863

Dear Judge -

My cousin's application for reinstatement in the Navy is before Mr. Bobbin, and will probably be decided today or tomorrow. The two vacancies will at once be filled. Mr. Billings' prospects are every way favorable, but still something else remains to be done.

I am exceedingly anxious that all should be done that can be done, and earnestly wish, therefore, that you and Mr. Shields would do me favor. Mr. B. himself as to call upon the Secretary of the Navy to day, and do what you can consistently in support of the application. I feel an unasked degree of interest in this matter, or I would not make of you so troublesome a request.

Judge Douglas.

Yours ever 11th Mr. Biddle.
Washington March 11, 1863

My dear sir,

I told our friends that you said I did for me yesterday, and I was very glad if you could have heard their expressions. You were kind enough to say you would speak to the President in my behalf. Will you permit me to make a suggestion? That you point him to me as as deserving as being peculiarly qualified for duties in the Mexican American State. You can do me much essential aid, for which I am grateful you shall never have reason to regret. If you lay me before the President in a strong light, & shall be successful, you truly

[Signature]
Hampden Sydney College, March 12th.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor of informing you of your recent election as an Honorary Member of the Philo-lectic Society of H.S. College. This Society was instituted by the students of H.S. for their mutual improvement intellectually, morally, socially, and is seeking, effectively, to promote these objects by creating an honorable emulation among its members in the pursuit of knowledge, and by the additional stimulus of a well selected, very valuable, and annually increasing library.

The regular members of its society are elected from students of our own institution only, but we feel it would be both an honor and benefit to us to include amongst our Honorary Members the names of gentlemen whose views are in harmony with our general objects; and especially of those who have already reached public distinction for their attainments, their genius, or their virtues.

You will gratify us much by accepting, kindly, this testimonial of our esteem, and authorizing us to place your name amongst our Honorary Members, and will confer a still greater favor by allowing us to enjoy, at your earliest convenience, the pleasure of your personal presence, and the advantage of your friendly counsel.

By order of the Society,

Wright C. Thomas
No. 154490
Thomas Kelly’s Case Pension Office
March 16, 1833

Sir,

This application for Bounty Land under the Act of September 28, 1850 is hereunto returned for the filling of the blanks in it and the signature of the Claimant.

It is necessary for him also to file his affidavit that he has never applied for nor received Bounty Land heretofore and is to his knowledge entitled under my former Act of Congress.

For other evidence required see Circular (No. 4) enclosed.

I have the honor to remain

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

Hon. S. Douglas
U.S. Senate

P. C. Johnston
for Gen.
(No. 4.)

PENSION OFFICE,

Sir:

The regulations of this office require, that in every case of application for Land Bounty, under the Act of September 28, 1850, the original certificate of discharge be presented and filed with the claimant's declaration. If lost or destroyed, or if the claimant never received a written discharge, or if discharged in consequence of disability, or if he was in captivity with the enemy, the facts must be stated, verified, and authenticated, just as in the case of the declaration.

The discharge of Thomas Kelly not having been received, nor its absence satisfactorily accounted for in his declaration, filed by a further examination of his claim is necessary suspended until the regulations referred to above are complied with.

Very respectfully,

J. E. HEATH,

Commissioner of Pensions.
Washington, Mar. 15/53

Hearing:

I see by the news from Central America that there may trouble spring up in the central American question.

I am fairly persuaded, Clayton could have made a far better treaty than he did. If he had made a true guaranty of no British occupancy at all in Central America, or no treaty, but you will fail in your purposes in the Senate, if we are to stand off, and attempt to drive the British from the Bay Islands colony. If we expect to succeed in keeping the European powers from colonizing, or getting a foothold in America, the foreign policy of the govt. must be materially changed, and we must write by treaty stipulations that the State Department, that is, we must make an alliance with these small powers, and agree to protect them ourselves from European appraisement. Now, before
the country is precipitated to an utmost have some caution and prudence, and so leave the matter, I would advise, in the method.

Instruct Your Majesty to make a treaty of alliance with one or all of the Central American states, to sustain them in their opposition to any permanent colonization by European powers to independence of Central America.

Then send a small squadron to the coast, and you will fully succeed. I have only one word: if you succeed in this, I think it will not be well treated, here and elsewhere, in his ministerial relations, and the nation, by what手段 from the Treaty. What I say now, I am acted on by the weight of my other duties. I do not wish to see any British occupation here, but I think the only effective plan is to treat on the terms I have just written.

Yours respectfully,

[Signature]
Private.

Boston, March 16, 1832.

Sir: I am informed that the nomination of E. C. Bailey, Esq., has been sent to the Senate, as Post Master of Boston.

I spoke to you in Mr. Bailey's behalf when at Washington, and but now repeat that this nomination is a good one in every respect and perfectly satisfactory to the great mass of the merchants and business men here. May I again solicit your aid and influence in securing an early confirmation of Mr. Bailey. If there is any opposition to him, will you please inform me?

This is an appointment on which Col. Greene of the Post, feels a deep interest.

Very Res. yours,

J. Holbrook.

Hon. S. A. Douglas.

P.S. Your late speech in defence of Clayton, is universally admired.
My dear Sir,

I have called two or three times to see you relative to an friend Dr. Ames. Believe you understand my position with regard to him. So long as Dr. Molony, Gen. Shields, and other of his friends, suppose there was any chance of his obtaining the governorship of Minnesota, so long was I steadfast in my support for that office, but after consultation it was concluded by Dr. W. that it would be safer to withdraw his name, and urge him for the secretarship. I am devoting all my energies to accomplish that end, and would be glad to withdraw all application on my behalf for the first office named, if I could thereby secure Dr. W.'s elevation to it. I did not wish for the appointment per se, and have to tell all my friends, but I have consented that my name be proposed, simply to exclude an outsider of possible from being placed over us in the Territory. Judge Ames and Molony both understand my feelings toward Dr. W. and my sincere desire to leave him, and I have taken the liberty to address you this note in order that you may be apprized of the state of the case.

Very respectfully yours,

W. L. Stockley

Hon. S. P. Douglas
U.S. Senate