Confidential

Springfield Ill. Feb. 8th 57

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Sir,

The contest here about the location of the site for the U.S. Court House & Post Office has become quite animated; and although, originally, in view of my experience and (perhaps) interest, I would have preferred a location of those buildings south of the public square, I am now in favor of a location upon Lapham's & Walker's lot. My reason for this preference and recommendation is that, the defeat of L. H. T. under the circumstances, involves must have the effect to modify their personally and to discredit them politically. But I will probably he
Please cede the jurisdiction of
their end of the naval lot of
Major Isles. If you can do any-
thing to relieve Dr. W. Sand
Driggs I O.W. from the embarrasing
consequences of defeat I hope
you will do so. and I think
a large majority of the Democratic
members of the Legislative Syn-
pature will be in this respect.

John A. McComb

John A. McCum and
John A. McCownard
Springfield, Ill., February 8, 1857
Confidential
Plains, Hauguerke, Ca. Feb 8

Dear Sir,

I am preparing for the "N.Y. Journal of Commerce" a series of "personal sketches of the distinguished statesmen of our Country" which I have seen and heard and having heard you on several occasions— and being a great admirer of the boldness and independence of your character and the patriotic plans you have taken in the councils of the nation, I desire to take up and in a portrait of yourself, and I write this note that I may elicit an authentic account of your early history which is generally read with more interest than any other part of the life of our great men, will you be so kind, Sir, as to give me some of the more striking incidents of your career up to the time of your entering into politics? By complying with the above you will greatly oblige.

Yours truly, Henry E. Payton

New J. B. Douglas,
Henry E. Peirce
Plains Va
Feb 21st

Wants to some of the starting incidents of your political career before entering the Senate.
Madison, Feb. 8, 1837

To, S. G. Longstaff

My dear Sir,

Having come into a large purchase at Muscatine, I think of making a trip home for a time at least. I am here learning the embarrassments of the Democrats of the State to an application for the Registership of the Land Office at Muscatine.
I have the embarrassment of the Barlow & his friends, the State Central Com. The subject to Cincinnati & must here in a day or two also the recommendation of the Legislative Caucus. In short a general Party interest. The only competitor in the field is an old man well in the party claims no party interest & particular education. This is that he is a Whig man, once knew Mr. Buchanan & no, beguile

I wish to beg your kind office in my behalf coming out here as I shall think there ought to be no difficulty in securing the appointment. I must not say that I feel it a matter of importance to me that I have esteem that as a favorite & one to be remembered if you will hear the name Mr. Stair Make a point of the matter. Mr. Stair for legacy in the land Department can without great trouble be what March 6 stolen.
that a delegation be allotted
of the incoming administration.
May I ask that you will
request him to attend to this
for me. - Most Resps.
Sincerely
F. Ruth Spencer.
Windsor VT 31st Aug. 38

Hon. G.H. Douglass.

Dear Sir: Will you be so kind as to send me the Patent Office Reports, Mechanical and Agricultural for 1855-6, also the Exploration of the Red River of Louisiana, and that of Great Salt Lake of Utah, also the Compendium of the United States Census 1850, and the Report of Finances 1855-6 and any others you see fit to send will be thankfully received. If it would not be too much trouble will you please inform me when I can procure some of the Chinese Sugar Canes said. Some of my Free Soil neighbors have received
a number of books from the Senator from our State you
probably know them better
than I do. It is generally custom
and I suppose to write to the Senator
and Members of the several
states which these are from but
we address, but as it is I choose
to write to you each as you
know our Senators are both
True Friends. If you send
them you will greatly oblige
your obedient servant
J.B. Feneon,

P.S.
Please to direct to J.B.
Feneon Jnr. as I shall not get
them.
Respectfully yours
J.B. Feneon Jnr.
L.B. Spence
Middletown WA
Feb 1857
Wants Some Books
Memphis, Tenn.
Feb. 8, '57

Dear Judge,

I returned from Little Rock a day or two since and was surprised to learn that my second note for $2000 and int., had been protested in my absence. I returned there was certainly no necessity for it, as I supposed it would have been presented to Sam Walker. However, if you will have it returned I will attend to it.

Your friend,

Knox Walker
P. Knox, Walker
Memphis, Tenn
Feb 8, 1887

Ref to his note. Says if you once return he will pay it.
Sainton, Feb. 9, 1857.

Judge Douglas.

Dear Sir,

Being exceedingly anxious to obtain a government proof of the "Ordinance Report," I should be infinitely obliged to you, if you would hale the same to my address.

Hoping you will pardon one for trespassing upon your time, I remain your humble servant,

E. Butler.
E. T. Bates
Hartford Ave.
Feb 1857

Naval Ordnance
Report
Cambridge, Mass.
Feb. 9, 1857.

My dear Sir,

I have you a Mrs. Douglas an apology for not having paid my respects to her, after the kindness and hospitality with which I was received by you. The bough is done, made on Saturday; the weather was bad, and I was obliged to leave Washington for home Sunday evening. I have just strength enough to see home; as since my arrival, I have not left my bed until this morning.

I take the liberty of sending by the
per, a little book—L'oeu Barlowe: Diary.—while I beg the Douglas to accept, with my kind regards, You probably have found Barlowe somewhere in your travels. As it was, her Diary you are a considerable part of your route. As much, no further, to produce distinguished memory, custom as natural character: but it is the best prime of a cultivated gentleman, written in an effective style, are not done up afterwards to produce effect. You will not in therefore I have added to the American edition a few notes and a number of illustrations. Perhaps, it may serve to amuse an occasional hour of repose from the cares of state, or fashion as the labor of the heart, i.e., Mrs. Douglas, may like to look on the book, half an account of the universal interest of the sea, one hand in which the Seme is lain, one hand because it is to some extent a reflex of your own "travel history."

Thank you came this way, in will give me much pleasure to see you at Cambridge, or, in the summer at Naphine, where with my family, I usually have the honor. I cannot give you the delicious Sciponian but I will borrow an excellent character, with tolerable character, and a view of the Ocean wholly unmentionable to you listen. I will make
to talk with you at great length, a
Greek in a Oriental affair. I believe an
Army may do herself a benefit, gain to
herself great power, and secure a lasting
influence among the Greek race through
the Eastern World; and I am entirely beset
its race is eminently worthy of our regard
and sympathy. Much too may be done in
science and letters, which has not yet been
done by European Scholars in concert
with Greece, by judicious stimulation and
investigation. But I have not time to
strength to hear them distinctly now, nor have
you time to listen to them.

Please present my kindest remembrances
to Mr. Douglas, as believe me, Dom

Yours much obliged.

the H. A. Douglas. L. L. Seluin
Executive Office M. S.
Saint Paul Feb 9, 1857

Dear Sir,

I perceive that a movement is being made in Congress to enable the people of this Territory to form a State, yet, giving us a western boundary from the N. W. corner of the Iowa line to the mouth of the Red River of the North or to the British possessions. Also giving us an apportionment equal to double the present representation in the Legislature.

I deem it, perhaps, my duty to say, that a north and south line for our western boundary is very obnoxious to a large majority of the people. The Legislature now in session has demonstrated against this division, by a vote of 20 to 10 in the House Rep. and of 11 to 4 in the Senate, and the Memorial has been forwarded to our Delegate.

I have heretofore felt favorable to a N. & S. division, but it is manifest that such a division will cause the rejection of the Constitution by the people. The large majority of the present Legislature do not
favor the Congressional apportionment either.  

It is manifest that our people are resolved to have an East and West line of division from the 4°30′ to the Missouri on 4°30′ or 4°46′ N. Lat. Our Legislature has passed through the Senate a census and apportion-
ment bill, and it will probably pass the House tomo-
row by a large Majority. This bill authorizes a Con-
vention to meet in July to be, carefully providing for 
all the details. I think the better policy is to let the 
people here proceed under their own act. It will 
seem harmony and a prompt admission with an 
East and West division, and as your personal and 
political friend, I advise you to pass no Congressional 
act on the subject, unless you set our people elect 
between an E. W. and a N. S. division and leave the 
apportionment to this Legislature.

The political parties in the Legislature are each by 
two thirds for an East and West division, I mean 
Democrats and Republicans. I have kept perfectly 
guilt on the subject. I am for favoring a N. S. 
division, but the people are clearly opposed to this view. 
If our people are left to form their Convention and 
constitution as they deem proper in their own time 
and way, our party will be a unit when we need it; 
but if divided, by forcing us into this unnecessary 

contact, we need not expect any concert or unity of 
action, except perhaps about this city. They (I mean 
a majority of both parties) have resolved to reject a 
N. S. division, and thus you see we may be delayed in 
coming into the Union, and our party cut up into 
fragments. The Democracy must avoid this issue if 
possible.

I trust that Mr. Rice will not press any bill on 
the subject, unless it goes the convention the right to 
elect between a N. S. and E. W. division, and leave the 
apportionment to delegates to the Legislature of 
Mr. Rice had not moved for a N. S. division. I think 
the Legislatu would have been for an E. W. di-

vision, but his friends in part fell in with his action, 
and if it is pressed, a total wreck of our party is inevi-
table. My friends and Mr. Rice have been and are 
now acting cordially together on all party measures, 
and will do so, unless they have forced on them a N. S. 
division. I should be glad to hear from you.

Yours, as ever your friend,

W. S. Gorman

Hon. L. A. Douglas

U. S. Senate

Washington City

D.C.
Your letter of the 25th of December last I received...

1857
Galena, February 9, 1857

Dear Sir,

Our mutual friend, James C. Grifith, desires that you appoint him of United States Marshull for Northern Illinois. Mr. Griffith is prominent, moral and political friend, and wishes Champaign a law for the sole purpose of securing a nomination for the Presidency. He is an active and vigorous Nebraska Democrat, of which our city is proud.

Any assistance you could render him in this behalf would be desirable and acceptable to the Democracy in this part of the State. And especially

Yours faithfully,
Of this City and County permit me to inscribe
and present his name to your favorably
consideration for the office within
my recommendation. For his appointment
Mr. Martin, can be done.
I have to favorably known to me and
will oblige me.

Yours very respectfully,

[Signature]

Hon. S. J. Douglas
Washington
J. F. Howard
Galena Ills
February 9, 1857

Recommends W. McGuffey
for Marshall
Galena Febry 9 1857

My dear Sir,

Mr. W. H. Clayton
To the Postmaster at
Elizabeth post office
is just named - I think
been absent from the city
at Springfield; since you
sent the letter. We have not
received our correspondance
now due, Bridges carriages gone, snow
and ice blockades on
rail roads. Will attempt to
write a day or two and inform
as to the political career of
Robert Todd.

[Signature]

Hon. S. A. Douglas
[Signature]
B.T. Howard
Malena Isles
Feb 9 1857
about the P.O. & I.
Elizabeth
Conservatory City R.I.
July 9th, 1817

[Signature]

Dear Mr. Stephens,

My dear Sir,

I have not forgot

It occurring to make the consideration

of gentlemen in your positions, bu-

ning my proposed removal, and

that you have written to me, except

in reply to letter

To Mr. Pierce in the Senate and

to two gentlemen of the House, I have

made a statement of the facts in

reply to letter, writing it

I sent to you now, not knowing

what views you may have maintained

upon the proceeding, and

presuming that some friendly dis-

position has been made of it.

If you shall have accorded to

your confidence I have sympa-

thized with you in the great injustice

done me. I take occasion to assure

you of my most profound thanks,

I to congratulate you for a particu-

lar part in a noble act of dili-

gation of the independence of the

public. If in the other hand, you

shall have felt justified in contin-

uing a correspondence made to with

and me, under circumstances pre-

venting the above remark, I fully assure

you that I too highly appreciate your

personal character to mean to have
satisfied as to any thing that was
with reason if it has been political
cause against the present, and
determined influence toward
the incoming administration.
This may not apply into much more to
the extra-constitutional for my removal.
The case, in particular act of leaving
me have been intended, I say intended,
Mr. Monroe's in the great
me, as well as to the policy. Such that they
might be judged. They can not, to
any prejudicial mind, indicate a dis-
position to favour slav. In point of
fact I felt no such disposition beyond
that which existed in any case with
means of feeling. I felt in any way
prejudicial conduct to the suggestions
of humanity, I shuddered at things done
any men call great issues with for
a prejudice in any time position,
whence required him to deal with the
American citizen. My right to hold
in their case, in fact, I had to be
perfectly clear. That I received the right
into my position, I believe
that I have not done a fault from
prejudice in any case in no life situation.
But happen to reject him, not only to
one but to one that the amount I have
lawfully done, it against the right, and
it follow that I should have been emma-
med? I appointed this upon the
supporting that my judgment was infallible? Has no judge heretofore acted erroneously? If we have restored our system of appellate tribunals.

But suppose even that feelings of some party had forcibly impressed my judgment, has that been accounted without incurring the charge of corruption?

Suppose whatever you may suspect I act in common justice, and justice to those whom I heard?

Suppose whatever you may doubt a judge's prowess prevails without a serious diminution from the great body-guard of judicial independence?

Would I have been writing the conclusion of the people, if I could have endured, gladly, to publish to common treason or President by pronouncing not more but their judgment?

We came, I, sir, have been writing of that confidence. Would I have failed to express to those whom I had other to gratify one or another party?

I thank God, sir, that I feel proofs in the assurance that I have preserved the respect and confidence of these who know me, and that I know that I have neither done a failed to do any thing by which I ought to have lost these.

Those only who have felt the impossibility of gratifying every body's expectations, in a position under circumstances like mine can feel how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to be so.

It is at the wrong only
that I feel annoy'd as to its place it annoyance are at least equal to its pleasures.

Here is my dear sir, that I have troubled you with so long a letter, and thank me with the respect deserve.

Yours truly,

Sara B. Leavitt
Sam. D. LeCompte
Leamouth, Ky.
Feb 9 1837

Relative to his
Comite as a Judge.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
U.S. Senate
Washington.
PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Spencer Sl.

July 9, 1857

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Sirs: Have you

accepted being a candidate for

the election to the U.S. Senate? If

you have not, it is proper you should

continue your efforts at once;

honest means of which I shall not

reprove but in case of failure I think

justified the conclusion

that you have accepted in

favor of Genero Matson

Permit me to express in the

conclusion of this enclosed

note—

and the like. Future

Announcements from my part may not

affirm upon the character of your

ability. Whatev3r may occur be

treated with strictly confidential

respect as not adding, that if Matson

is not your choice, you responsible

vote at once decide upon your prefer-

able choice.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Confidential

My dear Sir, I have been at Springfield for three or four weeks, it may be indebted perhaps to my firm belief of way for a pretty intimate insight into the workings of things in the State, so far as the demonstration there may be regarded as a type of political affair. I have been impressed with the belief, that it is important to you to look to the appointment here cautiously. To consult materially, the weight of character your candidate, chance to have. The office holder, experienced or may exercise a great deal of power. I am at a juncture here. I think, when it would be in the hands of very positive inclinations. Of reputable men. Who will speak it. To some purpose. Those are fit for your leaders.

The most prominent office seems in the judge of the people down there, to be the post-office in this city. Upon it, every measure will be employed by the people whom you may well distrust. Of some of them appear to be your coadjutor.
friends - I know, they are not reliable. But every instance necessary to leave your favor for the time being will be played off. Their purpose is to injure upon you a man in their own counsel of interest. I had a long talk with Carpenter while he was in Springfield, and have I think substantially persuaded them that their interest lay in another direction than the post office - that he should close apply himself to his profession - that his friends will aid him to win at that - he is really much more for your man to a better man than I have given him credit for being, partially misled by the counsel of ignorant friends of yours. To keep the least of them but Carpenter & Cow certainly withdraw from their influence, it will be entirely controlled by the advice of one or two friends, he will not embarrass you - who all may be candidates for the office I don't know of course - for you know I don't mix in politics - but from what I do know there's, I do know I think when your interest hence the interest of the party in the State his to respect both.

It seems to me that all your real intelligent friends at Springfield agreed in the opinion - that you should insist upon this taking that place - whatever he may have said, I know he will take it. If you ask it - indeed I think since my return from Springfield I think he is certain inclined to it. He is the next, the most devoted and faith ful friend you have here. Some other shall like him - Nor can I return in my observations. Whilst others happen I am paying no attention to them. Nonetheless, to what is going on. You will give character to the place. I hold an influence by near if it was the whole State, which I think it is important you should be aware of. May not think the observation - since you will readily credit I am influenced only by very sincere sentiments. I am in a condition that I know to speak very frankly, since I would only like to aid you - not detain you - just going back to Springfield tonight. Write you in great haste.
but I thought before I left you I would
unburden my mind to you a little on
this subject. Believe me yours
very faithfully and respectfully
Yrs. Friend

D. Smith

Chicago, 9th Feb. 1857

Hon. A. Douglass

Dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

P.S. By this you may have
a letter from Eugene on a subject of some
importance to you, which from my own
peculiar position I could not write you
about— but he knew all I do about it,
that been busy investigating it—I think you
had better give it your attention— perhaps
yet the sale contained by order of Justice
D. S.
Concord Feb 9/57

Mr. Stephen A. Douglas

If you should be so fortunate as to have a copy of the Japanese Editions which you have not aphotized, will you be kind enough to lend it to me by so doing you will greatly oblige. With much regard,

Very Respectfully,

Your other,

[Signature]

W.M. Taylor
New Orleans, Febry 9th 1824

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance and favorable regards my friend Dr. C. A. J. French of this city. The Doctor is a most ardent Democrat and at good humor. It is object more particularly in going to Washington at this time is to secure if possible the appointment of Surgeon of the Marine Hospital of New Orleans. He is well fitted for it, being a thoroughly educated physician and graduate of the first College of this place and France besides he has a good practice here. He visited France and Germany last year and on his return home had the pleasure of being a fellow-passenger and companion of Mr. Buckman. Now if you can consistently help him to secure the appointment. You will do me a favor. Now Wright and all the family join me in wishing you a great deal of happiness in your new manage.

And believe me,

Your Friend,

J. Wright