Naples Scott County 21st December 25th 1886

To the Hon. A. Douglas,

Honoured Sir: It is with feelings of excited pleasure, I congratulate you on your honest and patriotic conduct, you are proving to the whole community that you are what you have always professed to be—a honest, upright, strong forward and uncompromising advocate of Democracy, Truth, and long may you live as a true exponent of the Right of self government, even the abolition are getting to be your admirers, it must be truly pleasing to the political and Moral Patriot, to know his public conduct reflects nothing but approbation and public approval, then must our the go on working out the great and universal Right of self government, it is a demonstrated truth as man arrives to a true knowledge of his natural dignity he aspires to better ends, and also the demoralising Dogma of Natural depravity has its terrible effects upon society, self-government being dispensed to the People, it truly helps to improve Men, and you in your present course are helping to mature this effect that your end, and will gain for you the suffrage of your fellow citizens, which will place you in the
Position of our great and glorious Republic. The man who depends entirely upon his celebrated popularity, no matter what his triumphant career may have been formerly. If he makes a willful error and stumble against the rights of Man, he is gone—he is lost—and his boasted glory will depart from him like that of Job’s old—therefore most honourable and worthy—there is hope in your old and long standing friends, that you will March on without a falter or a mistake in the good old Democratic Party, and their most sanguine expectations will be realized of you—and that is that you will be the Chief Magistrate of this prosperous and great Union. I remain your disinterested friend, most respectfully,

John A. B. F.

If I, it is hoped by all true democrats that Mr. Buchanan will act with you relative to the Kansas Constitution.

God to you ever be—which I hope you will be the Democratic Nominee, I will do my best for your election, amongst my fellow citizens—who like my self were born in England.
John Abbott
Naples
Scott Co., Ill
Dec 28/57
- Scratchory -
Canton Stark County, Ohio, Dec. 25th 1857

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

Since the opening of Congress, I have scrutinized with no ordinary degree of interest, the progress of the triangular Combat between yourself, on the side the Civil and搞定 government, and an undivided alliance of Northern doughfaces with the Slavery of the South, who has undertaken to make the Democratic Party stand godfather for the dissemination of the accursed institution throughout this entire Nation—And Sir, I only abridge myself in this way upon your notice now, because I am a Democrat, wish to assure you, that this band of false—the bone and sinew of the Democratic Party, in their "Beggars", together with the knot of Manhood, Approbate the noble effort you have Made in the Senate, in favor of the right of the people in Kansas to approve or disapprove of the Constitution under which they are required to enter the family, Circle of the mighty Union—We Democrats here think that the manner in which you have sustained yourself in opposition to the compulsion of the Lecompton Fraud has warranted the ring of the battle of Old Northern in that it is just, fair and right, and as for consequence it is Democratic—We hold that Slavery is the creature of positive law, and that it cannot be carried beyond the jurisdiction of the law-making power that gave it existence to such a hideous monster.

It is therefore idle for Mr. Stearns to suppose that, under the dictatorial, political rulings of an embargo, if not a corrupt Court, the Slave Oligarchy can force the "Antipathetic Democracy of the North, to accept and relish" their peculiar and domestic institutions.

If then, the Administration and its supporters by the power and patronage at their Command, are successful in imposing upon the people of Kansas, Dictator Salmon's Constitution, there will be such a grand Swell in the State North of Mason & Dixon's line as will overwhelm all Compromise against Popular Liberty, and it may be, terrifyingly endanger the government itself.

Wishing that you may be triumphant in avoiding...
the evils which I imagine will inevitably flow to the
Cause of Democracy and the nation at large, by adopting
the inexpeditious and Anti-republican course of admitting
Kansas into the Union in defiance and against the wishes
of 75% of her bona fide citizens, permit me to subscribe myself
your fellow Democrat. Well wisher.

James Anderson.

James Jackson
Canton, Ala.

[Signature]
Lockport, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Dec 25-4 1868

Hon. S.A. Douglas, Dear Sir:

Please send on
of your late speeches on Kansas affairs
please express pen & writing your R. E.
Jonathan W. Babilt

NB: Direct in care Bragg, C. Lockport, N.Y.
Jonathan R. Hale
Rockport, NY
Dec 25

waits after the need

Sent
Gallipolis, Ohio Dec 15th 1857

From Stephen A. Douglas

Sir, During the last presidential campaign when a Buchanan Club was formed I in this place had the honor to preside at the ever its deliberations. I am now fully of the opinion that nine out of ten of that Club would have opposed the election of Mr. Buchanan if he had then taken the position on the Kansas question which he now occupies. I know not what course our U.S. Senator will pursue. I know not what course our Representative from this district will pursue but I do know what is the opinion and what will be the action of their constituents - I do know that more than three-fourths of the Democrats of the State of Ohio will stand by the principles which are set forth in your speech on the Kansas question and I also know that any man who shall take another the opposite course from the principles
contained in that Speech will
will find himself politically dead
you will favor me by sending to my
address a copy of your Speech as I have only
seen a Newspaper Substantial Publication of
it.

Yours Respectfully
Daniel D. Benedict

Kaitlin Benedict
Lancaster, Ohio
Ashland, Boone Co Mo
Dec 25, 1857.

Mr. Stephen A. Douglas,
US Senate
Sir,

Some extract
from your speech on the Secompact Constitution
having fallen under my observation, I desire
to perfect an official copy of the same. I am
extremely well pleased with what I have read
of the speech, knew my duty to obtain a copy.
I trust you will pardon me for saying I always read
your speeches with great interest. In my native city
(Ontario, N.Y.) I became familiar with your name and
position and have noted with pleasure your strong
advancement in public favor. I was educated in
the Democratic faith and felt attached to it, principally
and with that or any other man could adhere more closely
than if we sometimes do to its true principles. We are most too lavish in promises and pledges
before elections, and too prone in one way and another
to expense ourselves from their faller to the other.
But wishing for the best and soliciting your favor in enclosing to my address each public document of interest as may be convenient for you. I am very truly,

Yours,
Thaden Brooks
Theodore Brooks.
Ashland
Boone Co. Mo.
Dec 25/87.

Sandatory
- Mount. I'ness.
New York, N. Y., Dec. 2d, 1857

Hon. S. A. Douglas

My dear Sir,

I see by the daily reports from Washington that some of the Democrats are trying to get up quite a disturbance, because you propose to differ from the President in one particular—while it matters not how much they may differ on other questions, they are good Democrats (in their opinion) and all those that happen to differ with them in regard to the Reconstructor Constitution—must be made out of the party (I think the “out” will be the largest party) unless you can call those to you the only I believe.
the question of reading out will be left with the people; and those Members that are trying to set up such a fad about 
nothing, reading out the by-laws and themselves made out of office by their 
constituents — for I believe there is 
no one that understands the true intent and meaning of the "Know all before you decide" better than 
your humble servant. And I am hereby 
glad that you have the distinct expectation of the Hon. J. Baldwin in your brother stand 
of course in, with many others, subject to this change coming the leading men of the party, also that to ascertain how it 
does for to have taken a little different 
course in the Magazine in regard to the 
hiring of the Union.

But the course you have taken will be sustained 
in the old Grange State. and I hope it shines 
throughout the whole West. For it is the only true 
course to pursue and if we cannot do better 
under that doctrine then let us be 
absorbed that your course is approved in this section by all good Democrats. 
And I have strong faith in some 
that can may be able to reclaim the 
State at our coming New 

E. B. Brown

This day, November

"Your old man"
E. P. Brown
Nathan Mt.
Dec 23/54
"you shall not be read out"
"shall be sustained"

[Signature: WD]
Nashua Dec 23 1857

Free

Hon S. A. Douglass M[e]r.

Washington D.C.
Montoursville, Lycoming County Pa, Dec 25th 1857

Honoréd Stephen A Douglas

Sir, Permit me to

As a humble member of the Democratic
party & citizen of the Territory of Kansas to
thank you for the glorious stand you
have taken in favor of the rights of
the people of that territory.

I have resided
at Lebanon since the 1st of June last
having left that place a few days ago for
the purpose of making it my
permanent home in the spring

I was present at the June election & attended
the sessions of the Constitutional Convention
& from personal observation must say that
its action thus not calculated to advance
either the rights of the people or the
interests of the Democratic party.

Many of the
members of that convention did not pretend
to be Democrats without Democracy would
serve their purpose.

The true Democrats of
the Territory those who have always
stood by. The Administration has been willing to concede all their just rights to the South and almost to a man oppose to the
Lexington Constitution and will resist the attempt to force it upon them at all
hazard.

Sparing the liberty which I have
taken in addressing you but as I feel
a deep personal interest in the action
of Congress in relation to the Affairs of the
Territory I could not let the occasion
pass without having to give that your
course is heartily endorsed by the major
ity of the Democratic Whence I have been
and your enemies are at last
forced to do you justice.
I am Most Respectfully
Your obedient servant,
D. W. Bruner.
7. F. J. Bruno
Hawkeye

Montonvile, Pa.
Dec. 26/57
Address queried
Mr. S. A. Douglas

LIE THE Minds of

The Democrat of our Town and Count

have not Changed any since my last

{to you a few days since all is

right no mistakes} Doct Elvis Harnard

is soon to start to Cuba. I wish you

would be so good as to give him

a Letter of introduction to our Council

at Cuba. He is a reliable Democrat

and a warm friend of yours.

a Souvenir of mine

yours truly

Joliet Dec 25 1857

Abijah, Caymus.
Abijah Caymiers
Decr 25/57.
Joliet Ill.

Gentleman,

Wants letter of introduction for his friend D. Ellis, Henwood to隼sell to Cuban.
Peter May Virginia
Dec. 26, 1797

Dear Mr. Stephen Douglas,

My dear Sir,

I trust one day you will esteem a stranger for writing you so often. I have never felt so much concern on any other subject as I have all along I still feel in the issue of the Kansas affair. It has been brought to my attention from the start and all the events that have taken place from its first appearance. Not yet can I extract its true meaning. It is true that I have not yet felt at any moment that the Union has been seriously endangered by it, and the only excuse of my being apprehensive in that behalf is not that Kansas, or all it can ever be would be of sufficient importance to for a single pillar of the Union, in any possible issue of Kansas, but because the agitation was likely to so attract attention as to
bring respect to the business of the country which so much needs the forbearance of government. I have no doubt you feel all that to be true, and I have no doubt - if I can cause you to see - that you understand the whole so far as anything is a principle of duty. When I go to see what I have written to you, and say truly thought constituting my opinion which I have induced to write to you, is, that it is what a better one can sometimes see in others where it is seen. I have a superior who is in the fight. There are some for a different thing. To help you to help so much. The ground you occupy, to which and second - the right of self-government - that is that in opposition to the doctrine of non-interference which the people not only campaigns, yet Congress should see to it that the people of the territory are in making their constitution. Have that fair play, that they are not cheated that representation ought shall not about the abstract idea of popular governance. But, I think, make it all, have your oppor-

ments (Persian of eligible) for instance) who have agreed with its meaning, improperly in violation of the Kansas act. They themselves are a local political point. They say they will intervene in case the election of 21st shall turn out not to have been fairly conducted. They say that will vote to admit Kansas into or without the slavery clause. The issue of the Kansas candidates and the danger of the elimination of the slavery clause. If the people have a fair chance to give their votes in that clause on the 21st. Can those gentlemen fail to observe that it is no more important to the people than they should have that you play the 21st in that behalf, than it was that the people of all the election district should have had this play in electing delegates to the Kansas constitutional convention, and that it is an immense importance like the other Kansas. Congress, to let itself up or the judge whether the issue election on the other way, constituted fairly or otherwise! Pity the mind. Then the submission of
The slavery clause was not in a fair or
or honest way, and all that which you
have already so well done—not that
may be agreed to the hold of the popular
mind—far the people are honest and
I know of many Democrats, as thorough
going part men as ever lived—almost
blind—who can agree with you.

If there was any good reason and
sufficient to satisfy many that the people
do not assist to the present war can the
time, it might be well to admit them
as an exception that the people have
did not vote and satisfy it—but it is
not all of there is sufficient reason to
know that the people do not assist—it
is obvious that the whole thing is thick
with Grant also. That any one in the nation
state of Massachusetts & Madison should
fail to respect the contrivance with in-
superable indications! The fraud is
for patent, for any legislation—such condi-
tional admission—to be practised if it
much less to be grounded on its Pro-
cut-of-proof is proven—yet professionals
with opinions,

R.R. Collier
P. R. Collier
Petersburg
Decr. 25/57 Va
advice to men on Kansas question
Dec. 13, 1837

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 10th inst. made me apprise of my appointment by the Department to the office of Solicitor General in the District of D.C. President is at hand. You will please accept my sincere acknowledgments for your kindness in placing me in this situation. I shall not fail in my duties to the Government, and will use all honorable means to sustain that principle which placed me in your hands, the doctrine of Equality. Southerly, which you have so ably vindicated in your celebrated Speech in the President's Message.

I remain your most Respectfully,

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Address]

[Location]
Sewin B. Collins
Pavia
Nov. 25, 1857.

Thanks for his help as mail route agent, etc.
Chicago Dec. 25, 1854

 Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
 Washington

 My dear Sir,

 We have long been under the impression that a popular, well written volume of your recent "Life and Select Speeches" would be a real much sought after work, and are confident that such a publication would prove a success. We would ask your opinion in regard to such an enter prise and in case you we understand it can we rely upon your assistance.

 Every one who is the right man to perform the labor?

 We are near almost wholly recovered from the disastrous effects of the recent fire, and are now fully under weight in our new store in Pritchams "Portland Block." Our friends
thinks our new house an un

Your friends are watching

Please let us know from you

Our regards to Mrs. Douglas,

M. C. Cook, uncle.
Dear [Name],

I received your letter dated [Date] and was pleased to hear from you. I hope this letter finds you well.

I am very interested in learning more about your experiences and the things you have done. Please feel free to share any information or stories you wish.

Looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]
Dr. Cooket Co.
Chicago Il.
Dec 25. 1857

Wanted to publish your life.
Can you lend the speech to the names below?


Dear Sir,

As I am one of the very few of the old Democrats of our region which is "Dead in the water" and our district is represented by an effete man, I take this liberty of saying that in case you could favour some of us with some interesting documents such as Patent Office Reports then perhaps it may have a good effect as well as remembered as a favour. We have here several new converts in this part from the old woolf ranks and a little encouragement to them might be quite beneficial. I will here state you some names.

Clarkson Hill, John Coker D., John Coker Jr.,
John Wagner, James Main, Byrum Main,
John Morrow, Alexander Martin, George Martin,
Nathan Martin, John Morrow, Andrew Wilson,
John Hepler, Daniel Hepler, Jacob D. Rairden,
R. W. Graham, Wilson Graham,
James Rairden, Andrew Rairden. (New in the cause)

Old Democrats — Smith Patten, John S. Frasher,
Henry Wilson, Richard Brewster, Thirum Jane
George Duve, William Glendenon. William Cal
Col. William Crow.
Thomas A. Grosvenor, Abraham Heterick, David Ramsey, James Cunningham, John Barkhurst, Calvin Braven, Isaiah Randolph, Charles Morrow, Jesse Morrow, Mr. Money, John Bachelor, Sr. Not forgetting you humble servant, Isaac Kinkead.

The opposition voters in this part have been much supplied with documents for some time, and the Democrats left without any. A few documents as far as we are would be quite encouraging to some.

The Mails on our Route No. 9203, from Athens to Marietta, has been very irregular and many failures. All of which seem to be by the opposition, charged upon the Democrat party. —

If anything could be done at the Department in the way of remedy we will be glad. — The contract office of the Department, of course is the branch which has jurisdiction over this matter.

Your most obedient servant,

Isaac Kinkead.

P.S. — All the names above mentioned reside within the delivery of Bartlett, Washington Co., Ohio.
Warren, Dec.
Jan 3/58.

Dear Judge:

I send you a list of the Legislature now about to meet in Columbus, Ohio.

It would be gratifying to each one to have your names under your own hand.

With respect,

J. E. Cox.

Please have your Secretary direct them all to Columbus.

I send herewith anther letter with a list of names. Can you send to them? S.E.C.
Hon. S S Coly
Jan'ry 3 1858

Washington City

[Signature]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]
Webster Monroe to

N. Y. Dec 25th, 1819

Honor A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

I hope you will pardon this uncivil and unceremonious introduction; when I assure you of what I doubt not you are already aware, that the Democrats of Monroe Co. and I may add of all Western Ky., are extremely anxious that your late speech, or that part of the President's message relating to Kansas, should have a wider circulation than it is likely to get through the columns of the "Rochester Republican and Union" (our political organ here for) in this County. That paper refuses to publish it, because it seems to take an opposite ground from that occupied by the President. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Such a position while the Rochester post office remains to be disputed if it be the most prominent candidate. My object in this is to solicit a few copies of your speech and any other documents you may deem of interest to circulate among my personal democratic friends.

I know this will offer an unsolicited demand but may not hope that in view of this most important period of political history we may be permitted to share with your kind immediate constituents in a remembrance of yours at your hands.

I scorn no flattery but you can hardly be aware of the intense interest with which you are now looked upon. Your remarks on Monday last in reply to the Senator (I read from the 3d Times) allow me to say, scarcely touches the whole truth. Not "ministerial twenty-fifth" but the whole northern democratic party is weary. I don't ask acknowledge the wrong but still the
wrong course", oh how humiliating.

But pardon me for a letter. I only write as one of the people to attest you of
their ardent devotion to a great principle
that they think ought not to be spirited
away at pleasure, no man or body of men

Blessed be your warmest
friendship & confidence

Yours,

C. Nelson Curtice

Hon. S. H. Douglas
Washington
Sunbury, Ohio Dec. 24, 1819

Dear Sir: I feel pleased that you have taken the course you are pursuing in the Kansas question and should like to have you send me some public documents and direct them to Sunbury, P.O. Delaware to this.

Truly yours,

Moses Decker

As the same to Mr. I. Mower.
Where do you live, Mr. Decker?

February 3rd, 1857,

Congratulations to the girl and her home document.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Willaughby Lake & Big
Cove 25th. 1857

Hon. S.H. Douglas
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Please forward me with a copy of your last speech in the United States Senate,
and any other Democratic speeches and public documents will be thankfully received,
and read and circulated with pleasure.

I would like a bound copy of the Patent Office reports.

I remain

Truly yours,

J.J. O'leary.
Levi Smellie
Cazenovia, N.Y.
Dec. 25th
forwarded
for immediate

treatment.

Speech Debts.

W

Cazenovia, New York
December 25, 1887

Hon. S. A. Douglas
United States Senate

Dr. Sir:—May I ask
the favor of you to send me such public
documents as may be designed for
distribution. I take this liberty with
you partly for the reason that this
locality is not properly supplied by
those who are near immediate represen-
tatives.

Any service you may do me
in this particular will place me under
great obligations, and shall continue
to hold the day ready advice where it
shall be in some suitable manner re-
quired.

Very truly,

L. F. Smellie
Suspension Bridge, Dec. 25th, 1857

Hon. S. J. Douglas,
Dear Sir:

Will you please instruct your Secretary to send me about 100 copies of your speech upon Kansas, for the benefit of the democrats of this region. I will give it great pleasure to have them properly distributed among your fellow democrats in this locality, and in places more distant where I have acquaintance among prominent members of the party.

When I wrote you some days since requesting you to give notice of a Ship Canal Bill, I did not suppose you would have quite so much to do in Kansas matters, hoping and believing that you would come out of that contest of principles, justice, and right bearing the banner in harmony and you victorious. I withhold for the present that request and remain

Most truly yours,

[Signature]

John Frick
John Fisk
Suspension Bridge
NY
Dec 23rd 1857
Wm. T. Ross
conveyer of
freight

[Signature]

[Number]
37 East Capitol St.
Mr. Stephen A. Douglas,
My dear Sir,

Will you permit me, a private citizen, exercising but little, if any, influence over the great political movement that now agitates our common country, to address, for a few moments, to your valuable time with sincere congratulations in view of the political position you have assumed, and with some suggestions touching your own political future.

I knew well your reputation before I ever saw you. I formed your personal acquaintance when you first took your seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, and at once became not only your warm personal friend, but your political admirer. I witnessed with much more than ordinary satisfaction your statesmanlike efforts and gladiatorial skill on the floor of the House, and even then I let you down in my mind as one of the "Men of destiny." My opinion has never changed. Your political opinions and my own, on some questions may not have coincided, but never, for a single
moment has my perfect confidence in your purity of purpose, or in your statesmanlike abilities wavered.

You were, as you will know, my favorite candidate for the Presidency of the United States in 1852, and but for the imprudence of some of your friends you would, in my opinion, have been nominated. You remember the struggle at Baltimore—I was there, and though without a vote, in a position where my influence was something. I found it very soon that neither of the prominent candidates whose names had been before the public stood any chance of receiving the nomination, and I believe I was the first one to suggest the name of Franklin Pierce. He was nominated and elected. Soon after his election you and I had a conversation with each other, and the noble and honorable sentiments you expressed toward the President-elect whom I then thought my friend went to my heart. I communicated those sentiments to him—I ought as well have written them on ice. The coldness of that man's heart toward me, who would have faced death in any form to serve him, has ever been to me a mystery. I shall never seek its explanation from him.
1313 French,
Washington City,
Dec. 25, 1858,

Political
From the moment we held that conversation my mind was made up to do all I could to make you the successor of Gen. Pierce, but this course toward me drove me into a position where I could do nothing.

Sincerely desiring that Kansas might be a free State of this Union, when the Republican party was formed I affiliated myself with it, in order that I might aid in making it free—but I have ever said, say now, and shall always continue to say, that I would go as far as he who goes farthest to protect and defend the South in all her constitutional and legal rights.

I was a member of the Republican Convention which nominated J. C. Fremont as a candidate for the Presidency. I opposed, with all my power, that nomination, but, being a member, I could not, honorably, oppose him after he was nominated, but I avowed my purpose to my friends, there assembled, not to take any active part in aid of his election, and I did not. I knew the Democracy better than they did. From that day I have considered myself pretty much outside of the political ring.

I have never swerved one iota from...
The principles of democracy in which I was born and nurtured - unless declaring Kansas to be a free state is doing so - and I am at this moment, as much a democrat as I ever was. No man advocates the right of the people to govern themselves with more sincerity than I do. I listened attentively, I wrote deeply interested to your speech in the Senate on the 9th. I agree with you entirely in your views as therein expressed.

With this preamble and explanation, let me say, that in my belief, the people will be ready in 1860, to elect upon the next President of the United States, if you are a candidate, and continue to hold, as I doubt not, you will, your present political position. I shall be able probably to do something to bring about such a result, and I acknowledge myself to you to exert all the power I can to re-establish your election, if you desire it. This is a voluntary act on my part, and I make it because I regard your election, in the present aspect of affairs, as almost the only thing that can save the Union.

Those this letter will be received kindly by you it is written, I solemnly assure you, with the purest motives of friendship and
and a sincere desire to benefit my country.

With sentiments of very high regard,

Your friend & Dr. Lews.

O.P. [signature]

1805-3
B. B. French
Washington City,
Dec. 25, 1857.

Political
No. 1100 Lime Tree 25 December 1857

My dear Sir,

I have the honour to make use of this opportunity of informing you, as appeared in the newspaper, the announcement of your arrival in London, with Mrs. Douglas, and your other relatives. I beg to state that I am to meet them in her name to express the hope that you will enjoy the comfort of your company here every evening at 8 o'clock. You will join my family and your friends and relations with only a few of my intimate friends, who pay New Christmas with us, and it will be a source of particular pleasure to us to be able to have among

R.M.
Dear. With yourself, me whom we have so much desired for an event. Very pleased to hear, for us both, and accept for yourself our best wishes for many a happy Christmas.

To save you the trouble of writing your favor, I have requested my favor who was put to wait for your answer.

Very truly yours,

Henry D. Gilpin

The favor:

Stephen A. Douglas

[Signature]
A voice from Illinois  

Mr. Dolley Co. 56th  
25th Dec. 1857  

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to congratulate you on the bold stand you have recently taken in Congress in behalf of State rights and Republican principles. You have struck a chord which is always strong to vibrate in the bosom of every Patriot in the United States.

I rejoice that we have some men on the floor of Congress who are not afraid to counteract the wishes and exertions of their own friends for the sake of our country. It requires no great stretch of independence for a man to thwart the wishes of his opponents, but when his duty as a public servant demands a position against his own friends and the Administrators of the Government of his own choice, the powers of his patriotism are fully put to the test— I saw the President’s message before your remarks upon it came to hand and I was truly pleased with the main features of it except that part relating to a full voice of the people on state constitutions and I am induced to believe that he will ultimately be all right on that matter.

I am as great a whig as there is in Illinois, and yet I pretend to be as firm a supporter of Mr. Buchanan’s administration as there is in Illinois, although at the time of his election I cast a vote against him, fearing that the weight of his influence would be thrown in favor of further extension of slavery otherwise he would have received my vote. I have the fullest confidence in his ability and energy to discharge the duties of his office with an eye to the best interest of the country, and he should by all means have the full support of the people in all lawful measures. His long and extensive experience in various official stations ought to be a sufficient guarantee as to information and qualifications for the position he occupies. For myself I can truly say that I look for satisfactory results from his administration and I shall cheerfully render him all the support in my power. The things in which my whig?
principles turn in protection of American industry and equality of rights as to use your own phrase—
"Popular Sovereignty"—you may rest assured that your position will be sustained by every lover of Republican government and it will doubtless enable us to behold now and then a champion for aristocracy and other anti-Republican measures. I avail myself of this occasion to assure you of my distinguished consideration.

C. Goodsell

Hon. D. A. Douglas
Jacksonville December 25 1757

Dear Sir: I believe I have not written to you since 1750 during the contest of that year when the leading Statesmen of the old line Whig and the leading Democrat united and acted together to prove to the world that they valued the perpetuity of the union of this great Republic more than mere Party differences. I thought it nothing a miss to drop you a line at that time as a personal friend opposing your cause. In fact the manner in which the leading men of the two old Parties in that struggle had had much to do in doing away my party feeling. I was very glad to have an interview with you not for any gain on my part; neither do I know that it would be of any advantage to you. I feel that I have been an underfoot in this country for no good reason. But looking at all this there is no man that respects the American soil that feels more interest than I do in maintaining our Institutions in their useful and quiet virtue as they were handed to us by our forefathers.
I have read the President's message with much care and much interest. I have read your late speech with equal interest. I have read Governor Walker's late communication to General Cass. In fact there has been no meeting before the American people, since my recollection that I have paid more attention to them than the canning test. I intend to be brief. In the first place I regret and think it to be regretted by all true American men, that Mr. Buckman held the same mind in that part of his message in relation to Kansas affairs with the acceptance of that part of the message it contains by is a document worthy of an American President.

The doctrine you lay down in your late speech is that that will govern your old personal friends in my vote and influence what ever that may be. I think Walker has taken the course of a bold and true Statesman. I think from what I can learn you will be sustained in this Regen of the Country. The decided stand you have taken I think will bring many of the old line Whigs to the support of the doctrine you have laid down in your last speech. In conclusion I hope and believe this difference will be settled without any material difference between two men to this great Confederacy.

[Signature]

John Henry
John Henry
Jacksonville
Dec 25/87.

Approved.

Hope the matter will be settled.
Belvidere, Dec 25, 1857

New S. A. Douglas

I have waited until personal of the Authentic Copy of your Speech to express my opinion. Admitting (which I don't) the Cardinal principle of popular sovereignty, its conclusions are unanswerable. And if that name (Cardinal principle of the last campaign) is to become the set this policy of the party, its opponents compelled to submit to it, in God's name let the founders of the doctrine keep to the spirit of this article not falsify pledges, betray trust on the first trial for a delusive triumph, and a victory which leads to defeat.
For if the Administration party do force this miserable subterfuge upon the people — such an accounting as they will have to render hath not been seen before. Subterfuge, evasion, fraud are the virtues of mean men, of all kinds, such men cannot do battle in the collision that is coming. With gallant exceptions of those like yourself, for all attempts to give fair utterance to the clear voice of the people — all such men are bound to go down in the storm, and if no exception is desired to stay your patience the worst enemy to the worst, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have fulfilled your duty to the unqualified respect even of your political antagonists.

On my own personal behalf that of Independent men of all parties let me request you to receive as sincerely as it is given our gratitude for the part straightforward and dignified you have taken as the Senator from Illinois.

It may possibly be that all friends of popular rights, all opponents of unconstitutional or Presidential usurpation, all lovers of the Constitution shall yet be drawn to forget minor things and stand together for the right.

I stand fast — the heart of the State is with you — of all claps and all parties.

Fondo Rush
J. P. Hubbell
Mt. Morris, Cyee Co. ILLs.
Dec 25th, 1857
Hon. S. A. Douglas U.S.S.

Dear

Sir, I take the liberty to drop you a few lines not having the pleasure of your personal acquaintance. I deem it sufficient to know that you have ever been one of the luminary lights of the glorious promoters of Democracy. Which I too have advocated and maintained for thirty years in Maryland, first and the last two years in this place and as we have partisanship here in all its various forms to combat and in order to be more fully posted I desire you to send me some documents when convenient to the last Potter office.

Respectfully yours, Humble servant.

Geo. P. March.
Geo. H. Meade
McMorin
Osceo. Co., Ill.
Decr. 25, 1857.

Wants speeches.
Coltsworth December 25 1859

Dear S. O. Douglas

I acknowledge the receipt of a copy of your speech on the President's Message with regard to Kansas. Which I have read carefully and am since to transfer the

you have taken the true Democratic line

in that matter. The People is women and

should have the power of deciding for their

friends regard to the mode of establishing a

ruler which they wish to have. The

course and stand you have taken meet

the approbation of every body that I

have spoken to here. I have not been

a single misunderstanding. Speak against me

on the Congress you have taken and

it makes your "One Man" paper in them

even you are advocating the True Democrat doctrine--think of that

A Gunman was arrested at the near a day

or two a go that inner some of

Kansas was killed. But I learn the

not true. I was in hopes it wasn't

but I am disappointed. He is

one Indian scamp. Great. More effort

than all the rest of the damned abolition
Kansas Militia & militia leader.

I know that I have been a member of the Democratic party for 20 years. I have honor many times and many in the Canvassing Board and never had, and have been re-elected by the party of the party or the party. But I feel that I am one of the very few of the old line of the party of Lincoln. I have been a year and a half since the Republican made me live for me, but I am not to judge them. I know that there is much in the demands that I have. I am I have given to the help in the time of danger to Kansas, and in the time to help in the crisis and that, when I was in the policy, I was that I am to some rep and had the

But I feel that I am not in Kansas and not that I am in the policy or that I am in the policy or that I am I want to be. I am not satisfied to be

Then I am not to be

Hope you are well and

Wm T. Match
M. J. Kurtz
Columbus
Dec 25/57
Like you talk
What you want
an aptt in Army
New Orleans Dec 25, 1857

Hon S. A. Douglas
Washington

My dear Sir,

At a moment where your friends in this quarter are so silent I can not forbear sending you a pebble token of my personal regard for you last to express entire approval of your recent course on the Secession of Southern States. I have to beg that you will remember that wherever you wish a word written here in your behalf I will always be glad to do it. As a Southern born—Southern bred gentleman invested in the very fullest belief of the great doctrines of State Popular Rights I can not forbear telling you how completely I admire your course. It may be matter of more surprise to you to know that I do this though I am
to hold an office from Mr. Buchanan. I hope
the simple present I
make you will reach
you safely.
Can you send
me the Campbells Speech
of Mr. Riggs & Cobb read
last fall in Pennsylvania?
If I can get the La Conner
to publish it, I will try
my hand at a defence
of your course.

Yours most truly,

Lyman B. Knight
Sogan M. Knight
New Orleans
Dec 25 37

As Southern born
Please approach your course &
Wants &
A Cobbs Speeches in sales of 1850 in
Dear a.
N. Y. Melton  
Phil.  
Decr. 25, 54.  

Shalada, Dec. 25, 1857

Dear Sir,

Presenting that your speech delivered at the opening of the present session of Congress, on the President's Message, is now printed, I request that you would send me a copy at your leisure. From the short extract that I have seen of it, I admire your ideas of the subject at issue and am anxious to read the speech entire. A compliance of my request would be most obliging.

Yours most respectfully,

J. H. Melton.

Her. Stephen A. Douglas
Senate W. S.
Please direct:

J. H. Milton

Care of:

Lee & Walker

Phila.
Geo. Moore
W. W. West Union
Adams Co., Ohio
Dec. 28, 1857

Approve -
enclosures
of Adams Co.
Democrat
of 1800 voters.
enclosures - note
not do not endorse
your position.

West Union
Adams Co., Ohio
Dec. 25th, 1857

Hon. S. A. Douglas,
Dear Sir:

I am under obligation
to you for a copy of your
great speech on Kansas
affairs. The enclosed
step from the Adams Co.
Democrat will give you
an idea of the feeling
of the Democracy in
this county.

Yours truly,
Geo. Moore
P.M. at
W. W. West Union
A. C. O.
To Mr. Stephen A. Douglas,

Sir, I hope that you will pardon the liberty that I thus take in addressing you, but at the same time I think that you will applaud the motive that prompts me to write these few lines to you; you are aware that it is a common thing with members of Congress to circulate important documents among their constituents; but I have the misfortune to differ in politics from our Representative in Congress, and it is well known to that same as a Douglas man there fore I incur his displeasure, and when I want any important speech I have to seek a favour from some one else. You sir have delivered the greatest speech that I have ever heard, and you would confer a favour by sending me a copy.
of it. Sir were I a Scholar I would thank you for "shen" Jackson. Thant you a few years ago, when you said that he did not violate the Constitution in New Orleans, knowing neither you are tolerated by similar cords. Dependence to this. I shall refrain from writing any more at present hoping that you will confer the favour requested by yours, honourable servant.

Tall Pike, Dec. 25th 1857
No. 14 Siavon St.

To Mr.

Stephen A. Douglas
Washington District of Columbia

March 20th 1858

Mr. Lincoln

Submit
Cleveland, Dec. 23/39

My Dear Sir,

Yourดำe of the 13th ult. is at hand. You may now in the past struggle is observed with increasing sympathy and administration. I have been laboring to prepare the mind of one party for the emerging and in my intercourse and correspondence thorough the State have sought to impress on my friends with the importance of being ready to take their stand on the side of conserving our rights.

I find few who do not declare your just views the right one, but are desirous of peace and amicable relations with the party. On all hands I am besought to interpose and pursue a spirit united & becoming evinced then it can no longer be honored he avoided. My plan has been and is to keep one State united and harmonious to bring she into line at the
perfect time have long been in reserve
and an attempt here or anywhere in this state would be a public meeting and pass
revolution to issue call out of the state for
the purpose of supporting the israelian
barring but there it was premature and
impracticable and were a great majority of our
best men say we must not wait until we hear
the march of the electric of the 21st and see
the process to be which the question
is to come up. Thence the progress
clause be adopted and the Constitution
eternal stand before congress the times
may not be used to argue they are to be
themselves. Thence the united
clause may be adopted but a large portion
not be pacified against the whole co-every
will have in due train an expression from
these that are chosen & substantial gain.
I have agreed to be present at the organ-
ization of our legislature and was here
to get the perfect resolutions pass at the
earliest practicable moment. Not prepared
the 4th of the session that would
be expected too much. Some drinking
sentiment must be anti-holier especially
therefore one delegation or any other be done
and I. To prevent this I have reserved a seat too
in Washington being strong and to so by both sides. I want to write them
it possible and then prevent a harmony as
true at Columbus can be taken on.
I shall be no Washington on Wednesday and
shall have enough to consult alone.
Please that prevent personal attacks and doubts
be made on you and their minds come from
other homes than Bingham & Scotts. You must
must be punished into any very intermission
a passion in the discussion but pursuing
you announcing a set of facts which are all
opposition & the power of justice & justice.
Well not the consideration made of
Scotts and notスーピー. Benjamin such
as their is when this manner evidence is to
end! It is a significant fact that they don't
participate in the debate. Franklin added
immortalize history & be sure every
arrangement forever chill in the name of the
Fourth demands our heart and soul over
mission to a popular vote. By the
Fourth would lose another, but...im
imminent and soon compel the
national Democracy.
and remember and realize that truth.

The telegrams that many bring
the party's intelligence that Rich
Thurber have been nominated for the
Senate. Advice for one week.

Yours truly,

A.B. Payne

From J. A. Dunham
Norfolk.
Pulaski, Dec. 25, 1854.

Hon. Judge Douglas,

Dear Sir,

A few days ago I received a pamphlet copy of your speech in the Senate, on the 4th inst. It was franked by you, but I presume was delivered by some friend of yours in Illinois, for I am not flatter myself that you have ever heard my name.

But to business: ever I am indebted for an authentic copy of that speech. I do most sincerely and warmly thank him.

The brief and very important Refute of it in the newspapers, is the only version that has reached this section of the state.

Having no favors to ask of any member of Congress whatever, my motives will not be mistaken if I venture to speak to you with unreserved frankness.

I will say then, that I feel the most perfect assurance that in taking your bold and determined stand in
the question of slavery as a very
trifling one compared with the ques-
tion whether the people of Kansas
shall be compelled at the point of
the bayonet, to submit to a state gov-
ernment in the institution of which
they have been permitted to have
no voice.
I have always been an advocate of the
"Fugitive Slave Law," for it seems to
me simply an ad of justice to the
owners of that species of property,
and I regard slavery itself only in the
light of Political Economy. I believe
as firmly as you do, that in forming
a state government the people have
a right to decide all questions in
relation to their own domestic institu-
tions, slavery included.
I very rarely meddle with civil poli-
tics, though I claim the right of
my country and opinion freely on
all subjects in which the American
people feel an interest.

The defense of the sovereignty of the Ameri-
can people, you have planted your feet
on solid ground. Senator Pajker has
not answered you, nor can any other man
living do it, for your position is
impeccable. No principle is more
dreadly denounced by our countrymen
than that all governments derive their just
power from the consent of the governed.
Our Revolutionary patriots resisted to blunt
the payment of the very trifling amount of
duties upon tea, glass and a few other articles,
simply because they had no voice in in-
vesting them.

I venture to predict that the people
of Illinois, to say nothing of any other
portion of the Union, will stand by you
on that question with a unanimity that
they have never felt on any other.

I confess to you frankly that I
have hitherto opposed your
speech in
relation to Kansas, because I
misunder-
stood them till very recently. I regard

But I am losing sight of the purpose that I had in view in writing. It is to ask you to have sent to me a few copies of your speech. I pledge my honor or in such a manner as I think will do the most good. I have not asked you for more than a dozen copies, but I could circulate fifty if I had them.

Respectfully,

John Russell.

Hon. Judge Douglas.

[Handwritten note at the bottom of the page]
Mr. S A Douglas.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I flatter myself that objection will not be made that I have taken the liberty to address you.

Dr. Mary Bingham made her application last winter for some arrearage of pension, under Act of Congress passed 7 July, 1838, as the only Child of Putney Depoist, widow of Rolet Depoist, a pensioner at his death at $56 per annum, under Act 1838. The pension was granted in June last by Commission, but retained the certificate, until the Attorney General settled the rights of the claim. The Atty. Genl. has since decided that he can find no law to pay the children of the Revolutionary soldier, and refers the case to the Secretary of the Interior, who in turn refers to order the payment of such claim. notwithstanding you and it has been the settled principle of the Pension Office for the last 20 years that the absence of pension under the law is a victory over the claim of the Pension to it accruing to the children, hence if you think so to Mrs. Bingham very
much solicits your aid in the case to have introduced in Congress. A resolution declaring the Revolutionary pension laws. the benefits thereof to extend to the children, upon the death of the soldier, and for the Commissioners to be so directed to administer them, which is done. The certificate will issue to Mrs. Brown. and without it she will have to lose the sum of $100. the costs of which are a hard tax on so many thousand dollars has been paid to such children. under these laws. she made her application, even since the day of Paul Gardner; it has been the prevailing sentiment of every administration, down to the present time, to pay these sums kind of claims. I now at this late day when these cases lie but few such claims. So happy it looks, indeed when the claim is right you assistance to have the resolution passed will be greatly remembered. The act of 1838, old law, refunded some bills to legiti.....

act of language from 30 July 1852, in case of pension from 1st March 1848, to 31st July 1853. For the purpose of now fully ascertaining your attention to the claim. you are referred to the 2 acts upon which the court judge of those claims. 29th July 1848 and act of 1853, is to be found in 3rd volume pension laws Page 434 etc. the act 1848 page to all issued pension, that was unissued to regulating soldiers, before 1855, come first. the act of 1848, first, no date. but simply declares that all such widows married after 1840 shall be pensioned in the same manner as those married before that date. of course the expiration of the last act fixes the act of the pension to commence it made 1838 a responed by the act of 1848. If you think the court decide correct as I am trying to save some of the claims. for such widows. they have direction of some to this address you can so assist you aide in this behalf when the claims are called upon. for which they will greatly appreciate you. I am advised that very many all such widows in this G. Han writ to the expenses to take these claims before the court. if that be so I think you
will come into use that they can be no use in the passage of a
general law to pay the claims as a general law would keep many
of them out of their money for near or quite 18 months, as all would
have to file a new declaration. If a new certificate would issue to
each wherein if the money is appro-

riated by Congress according to
the opinion of the court a draft
would then issue for the Treasury,
department to each widower, which
would carry but little delay.
This will greatly oblige them as they
are generally poor and much need their money. The shortest way
is to do it, they would greatly
prefer ideal. I am Elliott we know
me and to whom you are referred.
I hope you will pardon me for trouble you with such a lengthy
communication - I would like
please to receive a line from
you.

I am dear Sir
July 11th, 1846
Alfred Smith
Mt. Vernon Ky
Dec. 25/57

H.

Mr. Douglas: Your Speech on the 9th in the A.M. on Kansas, if in pamphlet form (or newspaper) send one to me. I can't think any primary electors of Thompson will go for the Kansas Constitution. I am a strong man, but let the people vote on it. The whole Constitution. Tell primary electors of Thompson. It is no asset the discredit of a large majority of the people to Mr.

Respectfully,

E. Smith
of Cuba.

Agenda: debate on and on

Hence the liberty of co.

S.

D.
Mr. Green 14th A. D. 4

How? J. D. Douglas

Washington, D.C.

Mail & City

E.itch

Mr. Green

[Handwritten text in the bottom right corner is not legible]
Chicago Dec. 25th, 1881.

My Son,

Believing that in this crisis in our political affairs it is the duty of all democrats to express their sentiments, though in a more or less strong manner, I add my little voice to your address. It is painful for any democrat to differ from those occupying a high position in the party and filling the executive office, and I can understand what you feel are the present position of affairs.

But the stand you have taken is a noble one. It is the position which alone can be taken in this crisis. It is the one which the map of the Democratic party occupies and will occupy in spite of Executive and all his office holders. It is the voice of the Kansas and Nebraska at which elected the late Senator, Lincoln, President of the United States, and in the fact that Calhoun,
you and every other Democrat stands pledged to the Union at large. A pledge which we will, I venture to say, faithfully keep. And I know that I speak the sentiments of the Democrats of Chicago and the South West when I say, we are with you one and all in this matter. So far as you can begin, take back nothing, stand by the right of the people to regulate all their domestic institutions as the last and free out the consequences. I voted for James Buchanan because I believe him to be a Democrat and to hold the Democratic doctrines you have so ably contended for in your able speech. I shall only believe that they are true, that holds different opinions when they in an official form shall so declare. I should not vote except they will read themselves out of the Democratic party, and not your own friends. I will recall a speech of yours last delivered on the stump in which
H. J. Waite
Chicago
Dec. 25, 1857
Yours right soon

Wo
Leavenworth, Kansas, Dec. 25th, 1857

Dear Mr. Parker & family,

I am more confirmed in the opinions of my letter of yesterday. To-night I had a conversation with Sheriff Jones — he & others from slavery state had a conversation last night with Gen. Brown who has just arrived. But notwithstanding they were forced as to the views of the administration. The fact that the Republicans are going to take State office — rnd out all other considerations. They do not want the Constitution under these circumstances. Sheriff Jones told me to stay he would go himself to Washington to defeat it — if he could they close — all members of Congress must see that the action of the Republicans is going to ruin us. Lane & Robinson are to be Senators. One reason for rejecting the Constitution is that but very few authorities
We refer - This is work - to meet of time to
Group reading while - And a copy - the
Schedule provide for the system of voting
That cannot be carried into effect - without
Assuming powers - Please remember it you
Write that the way is by ballot - yet
The poll book where - which contains - in
the third section is to be returned to President.
A Mr. And his bear joined with him -
Mr. R. Lane commander in chief
Also an election law - their
Take again at earliest occasion. But
Of one thing be assured - Our slave - now
Real freedom - reach a few - commissioners to
Present plan of submission - down the agency
Of the Constitution - an account of the determi-
nation of the Republicans - etc. for State
Office

Yours truly,
Miss

[Signature]
[Handwritten text]
Mr. Nee
Corunna N.S.
Nov. 28, 1837
Political

[Signature]
Fowell Dec 25/57

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Allow me as an humble member of the Democratic party to congratulate you upon the position you have taken, in regard to popular sovereignty. You have touched the theme that will awake the sleeping millions in your behalf and they will arise in their majesty and help you along in the good work you have been laboring for three years past, and it is with regret for the man that has been elevated to the most distinguished position in the gift of the American people to serve from the principles of the Democratic party to go against the sentiment, the wishes and even the platform itself made by the National Democratic party in Convention assembled at Cincinnati in June 1855 and proclaimed by him in his letter of acceptance of the
same, and his instructions to you, Walker, to them and all those and recommend the LeCompton Constitution as the Organic act of Kansas, notwithstanding first submitting it for their approval or rejection. For these things I am joined, the Democratic party will not follow suit, they will go back to their first love, the Popular Sovereignty. And hear I may say that the Democratic party, the Whigs, the Free Soilers, and the party (I do not of course mean those that have to do with the Administration. To the will and pleasure of the Administration, the man that does the voting, the men that can be relied upon in every case of emergency. They are the ones that now look to you as Mr. Champion of their rights, and it is with honest pride that we behold you as our Standard Bearer, The Democratic party in this State and I believe in all the free states are with you in this good work. It is good doctrine. It will take the wind out of the sails of our opponents and leave them ship wrecked on the quicksands of disunion, and the theory of smallness of the White & Black races will only live in the brains of those who wish for some fanatical ideas to rise into power, We say to you go on in the good work, we are with you, you have our sympathy, you shall have our support. Wishing you health and prosperity and all your good speed as the Champion of Democratic principles. Yours Truly, Emile H. Young.

[Signature]

Congressional Documents thankfully received as all our Senators & Representatives are all on the other side and do not favor us as they should, or is in duty bound.
Coch P. Young.
Lowell, Mass.
Dec. 25, 1867.

Gratulations
Wants Speech
2 documents.