General Land Office
Jan. 4th, 1858.

Hon. S. A. Douglas,
U.S.S.

Sir,

In compliance with your request of 28th ult., I have the honor to enclose a copy of Preemption Instructions, the book it is presumed which your correspondent Mr. Chamberlain desires, whose letter is also herewith returned.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obdt. Serv.

[Signature]

[Signature] Commissioner.
Earl Sand Office
January 4, 1858
Thos A. Hendricks
New York, Christmas, January 4th, 1858.

Hon S. A. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

I do not apologize in these political times, in writing to one whose face I know not, but whose character, learning, and political standing I well know. Of the acts of Congress and the platform of the Democratic party, I have kept respectfully well posted for 10 years past. Of the recent.

I am not going to treat at this time simply to say, that I have no doubt, your one right, and where you have been the last four years, time the Nebraska bill. The President is just where the Republicans have said he was, one-sided and pro-slavery in his acts, as developed by Parker, and his message - I hope you will not give up your part, it is the Democratic platform, and will be supported by the East, South, and West in every State, as a part of the slave States; the Democratic party is only a fifth of the free States, if the Portland people in his Kansas views - at this time.
19/20 of the democrats in Nt are with you, but Houck, you & the President Steeles to your position & with his consent hence will add to his strength. Enough at this stand perhaps one to give - The Republican God, forgive them, if I ask it, a promise letter act in future will go with you, and a party overwhelming be parties will spring from your position - if the President & his friends yield to be it, if not, let the split come & all will be well - Most of our domestic paper say you are right, but from time, but they do not publish your speeches, no Republicans letter - Forgive Sen. reef (a good old democrat) for the fancy reply to Walker, especially, that fact that assumes the English monopoly that can't stop to reply to a subordinate officer, and one the position that the President never entertained or favored the opinion, that any portion of the Constitution, but the slaves, classes should be refused to the people of; thus denying that he the ones, ever was for the election of popular Sovereignty - I wish you to send me copies of the article. Your speeches in a form for distribution - Also all future debates, measures & acts upon the subject the way I am, Hale, Clark, Laffan, or Coijn, will tell you. Send
Same, Herbert
Ramsey M.
June 14, 1858,
50 copies of
your late speech
collected for
distribution
"Methodist Book Concord" printing-office,
Cincinnati, January 4, 1858.

Hon. S. A. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

If you have a few free copy of what has been characterized as your "great speech" recently delivered in the United States Senate, which you will furnish me I will supply one of your personal admirers, who desire the speech complete instead of the mutilated extracts which are going the rounds of the press. I congratulate you on the position you now occupy for the civilized world— the most ultra champion for true democratic principles now living. It had not to come to this—the people either are or are not entitled to the right of self-government. If you prove as intolerable to the flattery as you have heretofore been to threats, your hold upon the people will be similar to that exercised by Andrew Jackson than whom a finer patriot never lived. Unless the democratic party of which I claim to be a humble member stand fair and square up to the true principles of the Standf.-Abroad bill, it will surely not elect the next President of the United States.

B. B. Holcomb.
W. D. Holcomb
Cincinnati Ohio
July 4 1858

Mute your speech of political
Near New Boston,
Henry Co. Tenn.
Jany. 4th 1858.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas:

Dear Sir:

I have recently enjoyed the great pleasure of reading your truly great speech upon that portion of the President's Message relating to Kansas and Kansas matters. Permit me, as an humble citizen of this great Republic, and one who has heretofore or before the Presidential election differed from you in politics, that I and with one host of others, of all political parties—permit me to say, that I most cordially agree with you, in the position and stand you have there taken in favor of submitting the whole Constitution of the Territory of Kansas, to the whole of the bona fide citizens of the Territory, for their approval or rejection, before submitting to Congress. Such has always been my own understanding of the organic law, the Kansas-Nebraska bill, as it is generally termed—that the Constitution of a Territory was to be submitted, all and every part of it, to the whole
people—to every bona fide citizen—tor
ratification or rejection by them—the
go to Congress; and that a
non-compliance with this—a sub-
mitting of only a part of that Constit-
tution to them—would be an infra-
tion of that law; and one too fraught
with evil consequences.

The doctrine or principle advo-
cated by the President, in his message,
or submitting only a single clause
of the Constitution to the people of
Kansas—the clause regarding
slavery—does look to me, not only
like a departure from that law, and a
palpable violation of it, but like an
attempt to force slavery upon the people
against the will of the majority—or
whether or not, whatever their senti-
ments or wishes may be! And it must
wear this appearance to every candid,
well-informed man, whether belonging
to the Democratic party or not. I have
no right to question the sincerity or mo-
tives of the President, upon this subject;
but I do very seriously question his
policy, in this particular, as I believe
that it is fraught with great evils to

Kansas and the country, and calcu-
lated to foment and keep alive that spi-
rit of civil commotion, political agita-
tion and internal war, which has been
doing its work which has threatened the
destruction of the Union!—while the
submission of the whole Constitution
to all the bona fide citizens, would
have been in accordance with the "let
the spirit" of the Nebraska bill, and
have put an end to all this.

Hence, I highly applaud the bold, fear-
less and correct stand you have taken,
and I believe that you will be sustained
in your course by the great body of the
people. You will have fearful odds to con-
tend against, but what is this com-
pared with that sense of conscious
rectitude which you will have to so-
lace your mind?—Permit me, there-
fore, to say to you, go on in the noble
course upon which you have entered.
You have risen above all party influ-
ences; and standing sublimely erect upon
the Constitution, the safeguard
and palladium of our liberties, you
have a sure foundation beneath you,
that will support you through the
great struggle in which you have engaged. The President may scowl upon you and scowl at you; and the servile minions of his power attempt to crush you to "beat you out of the party" and all this; but heed them not in such attempts. As long as you adhere to the Constitution, and the organic law, you have nothing to fear. Their attempts will but recoil upon themselves.

I stated that I had differed from you in politics. I had always been an "Old Line Whig," but now, since the party has been broken up by Know-Nothingism, I am more a Democrat than I have ever been—indeed almost one. I am a Know-Nothing, I never could be. My political brethren and friends tried hard to make me one, but could never get me into their councils. I can now look back at the escape I made when almost every Whig around me was going into the party and rejoice at the escape I made. I have but little to do with politics any way, beyond casting my vote. I shall be thankful to receive any public documents you may please to send me. My address at present is—Dr. John R. Howard, Conneyville, Henry Co., Tenn.

I am most respectfully, etc.,

[Signature]
P. S. As you are no doubt in favor of the Pacific Railroad, and endorse the views of Mr. Buchanan, in his Message, as I do myself most cordially, and I believe nearly the whole county, permit me to invite your attention to another great enterprise, which was considerably discussed some years ago, and seems now to be again attracting the attention of the Government and the public. I mean the interoceanic Ship Canal across some part of the Isthmus between North and South America. I regard this as a work of the greatest importance — not as the Panama Railroad, to our own country altogether, but, while we have a greater interest in it than any other nation, it is a work of world-wide interest and importance. England, France, Germany, Spain, &c., all of every commercial nation in the world — have an interest in it. The saving in navigation in distance, time and expense, would be immense — almost incalculable — had we and the rest of the commercial world this Canal. Our ships of war, merchant-men, and whaling vessels, as well as those
of the nations, instead of going having to go all the way of the equatorial route around the “Protuberance” of Brazil, and having to double Cape Horn—having to venture almost every point of the compass in making the voyage—including several hundred miles, or upwards—exposed to the burning rays of a tropical sun, and the rigors of an ant-arctic climate. These two extremes—to a long perilous, expensive voyage—could, by this Canal, be avoided. In a few miles and in a few hours, from the Gulf of Mexico, to the Pacific Ocean, and vice versa. Such would be its advantages—ample to authorize its construction, whatever might be the expense, and almost any vessel would rather pay a toll of $500, or $1000, or perhaps even more, to go through such a Canal. I hope that it may engage the attention of Congress, at the present session; and that the initiative steps towards it may be taken, in making arrangements to procure the right of way from New-Grenada, and towards inaugurating the commencement of the work. If we do not, we may lose anticipated by some other, some European nations, and lose the great advantages which we have it in our power to avail ourselves of! The subject is one of such great and urgent importance, that it demands the immediate attention of Congress; and deserves a select committee to sit upon, and report, setting forth its importance and advantages, that should be published, and go forth to the country. I trust that such will be the case. —That the enterprise is entirely feasible, has been shown by Commodore Perry, who, you no doubt are aware, under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, examined the route along the Panama Railroad, and has returned or made a most favorable report. It would be a good plan, to introduce the subject into Congress, and call their attention to it, to make a call upon the Secretary of the Navy for the information communicate to him, or the Department, to be laid before that honorable body. —I could say much more about this Canal, but this is perhaps sufficient. I beg that you will accept of these hints as suggestions,
made to you, in the spirit of that
defence and respect due to your
station, as a member of one of
the most important and august
political bodies in the world, and
to your transcendent abilities and
great experience as a statesman, by
you as an humble citizen of this
Great Republic—a mere looker-on:
upon the arena of political discus-
sion and public affairs. — And if
not deemed expedient or wise to take
up the subject now, I trust at the
present Congress, I trust that it
will engage your attention here-
after, at some future Congress.
But, "the sooner the better," when
all things are taken into consid-
eration. — From the notices I
have seen in the papers of your
highly estimable lady, please ten-
der to her my best respects and high-
est regards, which I trust will be re-
ceived by her, although from a stran-
ger, who may never see her or yourself
on earth. — Again, let me repeat that
I shall be truly grateful for any thing
you may send me, in the way of public
Document—addressed to Dr. John R.
Howard, New Boston, Henry Co., Penn.
New York January 4, 1858

Will you enable the liberty of an honest friend in saying that he would feel honored by being put upon your list of correspondents.

With great respect

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
Senator
Washington
Murphysboro, Jackson Co.
Illinois Jan. 4, 1838

Hon. S. W. Douglas
Washington City 16.

Dear Sir,

There is a tract of land in this county, consisting of part of the following sections (15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 28) in Town No. 9, Range 8 West, and embraced in Survey No. 449, which was set apart and reserved for the Black Hawk Indians and therefore none of the said lands are subject to pre-emption or sale. A number of years since one Robert Worthing made a large farm on said lands to live on Sections 15, 16, 17, 22, and built thereon a dwelling house and other buildings and resided thereon till the time of his death, in the year 1852, and died leaving his widow Rebecca Worthing in possession of the same. Since that time, one Daniel Worthing, a relative of the deceased, the widow, enlisting in him as the says, managed to get him off of it and got the possession of it himself. He claims to have paid her for it, she says not. Be this as it may, many people think not.
Some time since I wrote to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, on behalf of the said Rebecca Mowthin, to know in what manner she would have to proceed to get a title for that portion of it on which her improvements is situated. The Commissioner informed her that it could only be done by "act of Congress authorizing the sale of the land.

She is informed that said Daniel Mowthin will make an application to Congress this winter to have an act passed authorizing him to purchase said land at a fixed price. She asks you aid to prevent this. And further, that if such act could be passed in favor of any individual, that she may be authorized to purchase Sections 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, that part on which her improvement is situated.

In the event that such special act can not be passed in her favor, that the lands be brought into market, and sold to the highest bidder, but she thinks she ought to be permitted to purchase that part of said lands on which her said farm and improvements are. Your attention to this will confer a favor on the Widow, and will be doing no more than justice to her, and

that which a majority of the people acquiesce with the whole matter believe to be right. It being a kind of family difficulty, people do not like to take part in it.

Yours Respectfully,

J. M. Jenkins

The petition of Rebecca Mowthin will be sent by post mail.

J. M. Jenkins
Murphysboro,
Jackson Co., Ills.
Jan'y 4th 1859
A. W. Jenkins

Requests your attention to a contested claim for certain lands in Ills.
Pontiac, Livingston Co., Illinois

January 4th, 1838

Dear Sir:

I am well aware that you are often called upon for favors in the way of documents but as this is the first time that I have done so, I think the apology sufficient. When I say that I have always since Jackson's first election been an advocate of the democratic party, and am still, our county gave a majority for Fremont of 105 that was principally owing to a small paper started in Pontiac called the Livingston County News.

Since the Presidentiel election I have taken an interest in the paper & changed the politics of it at the November election. I was elected county judge by a majority of 74 votes, which was about the average democratic majority of the county.

Give my respects to Genl. Joe Lane, M.E. from Oregon. I had the pleasure of his acquaintance whilst in California near Shasta City since which time I have not seen him.

Henry Jones

Hon. Stephen A. Douglass
W. Jones
Pontiac Ill
Jan. 4/37
Wants Document
Portage City
Miss. — January 1st.
A. C. Ketchum
Wants no to be placed
on my document book.

Portage City, Wis.
Jan. 14, 1858

Dear Mr. A. Douglas,

I should be pleased to have you put my name on your list of your connections as our friends are both
Republicans. I am not sure if anything may occur
from there! I feel a deep interest in the struggle
that is now going on in Congress, and the Plattfield
that your counsel is afforded by the Democracy of this state
and the four republics. If you continue to work for Kansas
which a free state you certainly
will be thanked by the
American people,

In many respects,

Yours truly,

A. B. Kettenmae.

P.S. I should not trouble you if my old friend

Yours truly had done

thine
Charlestown, Mass. Jan. 4th, 1868

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Will you have the goodness to send me in the enclosed address envelope your autograph to place in my list, and in the granting the above request you will confer a favor upon

From O.T. Scool

Sylvester W. Laurie
Leesport, Jan. 4th, 1855

Hon. S. J. Douglass

My dear Sir,

As the prints of the Hon. Tom Bigler, in speaking this speech in reply to you, broaden east over this country, and none of you, I take the liberty of addressing this note to you, asking you to be kind enough to forward a few copies of your speeches as what I have seen of short, my views of what is Democracy, and right in the Kansas difficulty. Your friend, one of numerous and influential, once a few copies of your speeches my favor. Your future prospects and in some part respected an unknown friend.

Any document you,

R. J. Leesort

In due to send, direct to Leesort, Clarion Co.

R. J.
R D. Lawson
Lawrenceham Pa.
Jany 4 1858
A few copies desired for distri-
bution.
Gothen, Ind., Jan. 4th, 1858

My Dear Sir:

Knowing you must be over-run with letters I have abstained writing, but, whatever may be the result of our State Convention, I send you our local paper and shall close here with a copy of the resolutions of our county convention to show you we are all right here.

I have written to friends in nearly all parts of the state, and a majority of the county conventions that have expressed themselves, as near as I can learn, are with us. I have strong hopes, even under all the adverse circumstances of our State convention sustaining your course, but if overborne, many of us will at least die in the last ditch.

Hon. S. A. Douglas

P. Lowry
David McGrew
Alexandria, Ohio
Feb. 11, 1858

Very yours,

Cincinnati & Phila Platforms

New Alexandria, Ohio, this 4th March, 1858

Dear Sir,

I took the liberty to send you a few lines for the purpose of asking a favor of you, & desire you to send me your speech in pamphlet form. If you would send me one I can circulate them to your advantage.

Please send me a copy of the letter of resignation in pamphlet form, if you can obtain one.

I wish also that you would send me the Cincinnati Platform, that without the Democratic, American, and the Republican Platform in pamphlet form, if you cannot obtain the two platforms, please write and let me know where I can procure them.
we are almost unanimously
I suspect men here and the
Republicans are two and they
choose us for carrying one
of them and only want the
lub巴巴in ous
The Popular Sovereignty doctrine
is explained to you. If you are the
choice we always advocate
and do not intend to
deport from it at least
until we are convinced that
it is wrong.
any other documents of
important send me.
I have been corresponding
with Mr. E. though but cannot face
how he stands on this great question.
Therefore I have taken the liberty
to write to you.
Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
Senator. U.S. David W. Low
If you answer please send to
L. L. Griswold
Care of Bapte & Kent
Linton Ohio

Yours January 4, 1866

How S. A. Douglas
Dear Sir,

The first candidate
for President I ever voted for was Mr. Buchanan, I voted to vote for you for my heart, and because I have any particular love for you as an individual but because I believe you to be the best living American

nature of the Democracy in the United States. In the question you have taken on
the slavery question, except those who hold
positions under the administration, I believe.
That the whole State is in the State on [illegible] to [illegible] his election, and honestly believe he was sincere. When he said he was no longer [illegible] [illegible] (illegible)

If you will turn from me the position you have taken, I judge from the consequences I have every [illegible] the State of this [illegible] and you a longer vote than it has [illegible] every other good Democrat an answer to [illegible] in the party of my principles and the [illegible] who have [illegible] bound [illegible]

He was elected on the principle laid down by you in the '64 [illegible] tide. That the Cincinnati platform was made, and that has the receptacle doctrine of the miserable party down to [illegible] and consequently the proposed will of the [illegible] of the whole people of the land.

I was a supporter for [illegible] in all our State & county campaigns.
F. B. McGraw
P.O. Box 220
Knightville, Ohio
March 16, 1858.

political desirs
au answo
New Oregon Town
County Town
Jan. 4, 1858

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Can you send me a few copies of your speech on the Kansas question?

And obligeVery Truly,

W. R. Mead
Mr. Stephen A. Douglas

My dear Sir,

I am anxious to procure a copy of your speech delivered in the Senate upon that portion of the President’s message relating to Kansas affairs. I have as yet been unable to do so, and therefore I take the liberty of requesting that you will enclose one copy address.

I am Sir

Respectfully yours,

Wm. F. Meade
War:.
Meade
White Post Va.
July 4, 1858.
Speech
[Text not legible due to image quality]
Baltimore, Jan. 7, 1858
Hon. H. Douglas

Dear Sir,

You will greatly favor me by sending it to my address a copy of your speech on the subject of Kansas.

Very Respectfully,

George Mefford
36-38 Southwark St.
Baltimore
January 4th, 1858
Geo. C. Marquand

Wait speech.
W. Stenney
For Dodds
Jan. 4/38.

Write & consult
By opinion on
The Swamp land
Question

Fort Bragg Jan 4th 1838

How & A Dooly's line

if you will not
consider it an intrusion I
should like your opinion
on a matter in which I feel
somewhat interested which is
This will the Second State
where the Swamp lands
from its entry select a
return thereon any thing
from the Easement for
lands extend previous to
patenting of same Swamp
lands to the State perhaps
some time last winter I
as County Judge of Weldin
County State I have sent
the returns of the same sw-
amps lands of this County
to Henderson the Commissioner
By our eldest daughter when I presume you received it Mr. Hendricks informs me that the report would be made some time in May but which has not yet been done now I wonder like if it can be done to have this report made some time any thing you can do in the matter will be very opportune of the citizens of this county I wish you to write to me as soon as you receive this also write to the Hon. L.D. Pease now county and what your opinion is upon the questions here asked.

My best regards

William McCracken

[Signature]
Office Hotel International
San Francisco
Jan. 4, 1858

Hon. J. A. Douglas
U.S. Senator
City of Washington

Dear Sir:

Will you do me the favor to place my name on your list of correspondents, and send me such pub. documents as you may be sending out from time-to-time.

Respectfully yours,

The J. Nickolds
Mr. A. Nicholas
San Francisco
Cal. June 4, 53
Wants to be placed on list for Public Works
L. Odell
Cyrinville
July 4th. NY
Politico
Congratulations upon the noble position you have taken.

Cyanville, NY
January 4th, 1858
Mr. S. H. Douglas

Although not

enjoying the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, I yet

as a citizen, feeling a lively interest in the prosperity of our

common country and in the development of political truth,

take the liberty of congratulating you upon the noble position you

have taken upon the issues at

present pending in Congress.

I hear but one opinion expressed in this section of country upon the

subject, and that is a decided approval of the doctrine that the

people of the territory should be protected in passing upon

every section of their Constitution.
for themselves, without hindrance or molestation or interference from any quarter. Having taken up their position in favor of this doctrine, and contented for it through the entire struggle in which it has been made an issue, I had hoped that the contest was ended, and that Kansas would become a State under the free petition of her citizens without further trouble. I'm common then with the united voice of all people I cannot too strongly express the distress I have felt at the gross attempt that has recently been made to defeat the popular will and to which the leaders have allowed himself to become a party. Go on in the good work you have undertaken, and the people will rally up and strengthen your hands for the fight. Shame the brag, and rouse the spirit.
Columbus, Jan. 4th, 1858

My dear sir,

We are having long & exciting times here. A strenuous effort has been made & is being made to defeat the attempt of reconstruction. The influence of Federal officers, office seekers, congressional friends, &c., has not been enlisted to stifle the expression of feeling in reference to the Reconstruction plan. Moreover now the Senators are new and are sensitive about precipitate actions that may lead to separation. Judge Heman of this county was prepared with a certificate and intended to go to this meeting—but a joint committee has just been held at which it was decided to withdraw the certificate until a free conference is held. This was done last night. The Senators of the administration see that any change is at stake. So far it is certain that when brought to a vote they are not amenable to the reconstruction men on the other side. Every means is for Douglas & the members represent the President submits to be strong on your part. An outburst must be feared when the President's action is felt. He hopes the Senate to move & on the Reconstruction Constitution. Even the timid Senators, say that when their time is near a day will shake out.

Another cause has its influence. The reconvened Senate has a confidence to truly forward in the Senate and his period precludes any obstacles here. It is for further papers to what a few
May until they have some leisure. I have been surprised to hear
the announcement. Much to know, besides, to know the
Admiral is a man of tenacity, and one with that purpose must
be carried on, although they have sent you and are ready to be
made peace to the next highest bidder. That suits your purposes as
far as I have some peace from developments about you when I myself,
for hate

Dear

A. Douglas

P.S. Your query concerning an out-and-out majority and the effect of the breaches as for your
interests are great merit.
Columbus, O.
January 4, 18-8.
H. B. Payne
Political
Dear Stephen & Douglass,

Le’s just at this time as you are being阵鸣ed by the New York News & other journals as being partial in The position you have taken in denying the principles of the Cin
Cincinnati Platform & the rights of the People of Kossuth to the prior
- jurisdiction of the States over them in forming their Constitution & settlement of all local questions free from all outside or inside pressure of Government officials & expediency. Trust on the part of the Administration to hide around the responsibility which it owes to the Son of the nation to settle this question upon the broad American ground which have been marked out by your past President, Jackson, the principal among which all States can be admis
without creating just the kind of
disturbance in the Democratic Party
now if you have power enough to
plant this principal feature against
on the National Demo Party it will
be sustained & you through a tiner
or your Bureau be your political fate
will stand the most to up with
the help of the People I do not wish
I am not to protest on the expulsion of Dem
of these here. You will be sustained
but I believe you will not vote for Col. Brown. Corp. Price
Bruckner. I never had anything
with sentiments but now if the
issue is to be made in this question
and this is to be a break in the Demo Party I am by the principle of
Jefferson & Longfellow

Colen sent Edsma. S Perry 183
Erie & NY

I sent for 2 New York News & I think to the
expression of Demo here did not accord with this view
Norfolk No. January 14th. 1859.

Sir,

You will confer a great favor by sending me a copy of your speech.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,
Your ob. Sr.
William Preston
[Forename of Chicago, and one of your ardent admirers]

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
U.S. Senator from Illinois
Wm. F. Plumer
Norfolk Va
Jan'y 4, 1858
Spect