New York, May 15th, 1858.

Dear Stephen A. Douglas

Senator

Sir:

I beg you will read the following extract from page 20 of Senate Report No. 397, 34th Congress, 3rd Session, and ask your aid in the passage of an act of Congress for my relief.

And have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

[Signature]

[Text continued on the next page]
EXTRACT.

Brooklyn, February 2, 1857.

Mr. Alfred G. Benson, a merchant of New York, has resided in this city for more than a quarter of a century, during which time he acquired and maintained among his compatriots a high standing as an enterprising, honorable, and prosperous merchant, and we think we reflect the opinion of the public at large in stating that he lost his credit and became heavily involved in debts and liabilities, by embarking in a business which he was pre-informed by the Chief Magistrate of the nation was lawful, and in prosecution of which the naval force of the country was ordered to protect and defend him.

If, for no other reason than that in all future times the citizen should unhesitatingly confide in the promises of government, this one consideration alone would seem to be a sufficient reason for placing Mr. Benson in as good credit and position as he was prior to the year 1852.

GEORGE HALL,
JONATHAN TROTTER,
C. P. SMITH,
CONKLIN BUSH,
SAMUEL S. POWELL,
SAMUEL SMITH,
FRANCIS B. STRYKER,
EDWARD A. LAMBERT,
THOMAS G. TALMAGE.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing are the proper signatures of all the gentlemen now living, who have filled the office of Mayor of the City of Brooklyn, including the signature of Henry C. Murphy below.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of [seal]. Brooklyn, this fourth day of February, 1857.

O. FAUBOT, Assistant City Clerk.

I always understood that Mr. Benson had engaged in the Lobos Island business on the strength of assurances from the government, and think that any losses he sustained in consequence of such assurances, should be reimbursed him by the government.

HENRY C. MURPHY.

A. H. MICKLE.

Without any personal knowledge of the facts alleged relative to the Lobos claim, I cheerfully bear testimony as to the general character of Mr. Benson, which I believe to be good in this city.

NEW YORK, February 4, 1857.

A true copy:

JAMES S. WYCKOFF,
T. M. BRAINE.

FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.
John Cadwallader
Court House, N.Y.

[Signature]

[Note: May 15, 1862]

[Note: Handwritten date and text]

[Handwritten note on the right side]

Courtland Hall, New York, N.Y.
Mr. H.A. Hayford

If you have any Patent Office, I will send you a copy
of a recent speech on the Kansas question.

I believe D. Mann, D.D., to have been a
friend and associate of the late Mr. Hayford.

The Democrats have been more in line
with me in the past, and I hope will continue
in the future. The better portion of the
Republican party is in the direction of
Federalism, I suppose in the best light.

Ed. Abbot

May 15, 1862

Jno. Cadwallader
McMendec College
Lebanon, May 15, 1858

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir: Knowing you to have at your command many very interesting and valuable works, the student literary society have instructed me to respectfully solicit a donation of such books as you may deem fit to present to the society library—which now contains about a thousand volumes—and which we are laboring to increase by every possible means. The society numbers from sixty to seventy members—young men from different parts of the state. Any donations will be thankfully received, and duly appreciated by the members who are almost without a single exception, ardent admirers of your political course.

With sentiments of high regard,
I am your respectful
go[...]

(over)
JW Cavett
Corps Scout
Lebanon P.O.
May 15 1858

The Philomathic Literary Society

Mr. Heric College
want books

[Signature]
Franklin, Tennessee, May 15th 1858,
Hon. S. A. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

Will you be so kind as to send me a copy of your several speeches made in the U.S. Senate upon the Kansas question; also any other Public Documents you think proper and greatly oblige. Very Respectfully,

Yours Vb

J. H. Cowley

On the Kansas Issue I believe you are right; go ahead!
Bloomington, Ill., May 15, 58.

Dear Sir:

I hope I do not intrude on your valuable time.

If the Lecompton Constitution is published or printed by authority of Congress, or by any other authority so that it is accessible to the public, will you please send me a copy, as framed at Lecompton and as accepted and passed by Congress in the provisions of the "Emancipation Proclamation." So that we, here, may know what the people of Kansas are to be subjected to, if they choose to exercise the sovereignty of a sister state.

Sincerely yours with much respect,

J. B. Currier.

Hon. S. A. Douglas, M. C.

Senate Chamber.
Henry A. Harding

May 15

Worcester, May 19, 1850

Mr. Stephen A. Douglas,
Dear Sir,

It is with much pleasure that I address this note to you, requesting your autograph to add to the small collection that I now have of signatures of Douglas and others. It will be the nucleus of a much larger collection.

Very truly yours,
Henry A. Harding

Mr. Stephen A. Douglas.
Aly. Nepstedt
Central College
Ohio,

Central College May 15th

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Having a desire to know the exact position that you have taken on the Kansas question I would like to have you send me the speeches you have made on it the past winter. I admire your course as far as I understand it and hope you will give me a chance to understand and appreciate it. I would like to have you send me Mr. Breckenridge's speech on the same question if you will.

Yours, Alex. Hempstead
Central College Franklin Co. Ohio.
Chicago May 15th 1858

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

May I beg you will be so kind as to procure for me copies of the new railroad surveys to San Francisco to

oblige

Your faithful

Joseph Hartford

C.S. hoping you and lady are well

Enc.
Joe Hartford
Chicago, Ill.

May 15
Post Office, Washington City, D.C.

Dear Sir,

The registered letter referred to in your favor of the 20th ultimo was duly received on the 12th March last, and delivered to the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas by the messenger of the Senate, Arthur P. Gorman, who states that he handed it to Judge Douglas. I annex a copy of the receipt now on file in this office:

"Receipt for registered letter No. 137, from Peter Minor, Addressed to the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas."

Signed A. P. Gorman

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. Bourke, Esq.

April 25th

Peter

Minor
Washington May 15, 1863

I have called on Mr. Wise, he says that Judge Douglas has not paid to him the fifty dollar rent by Capt. Mel. of Providence, so ordered the rent to be charged to the Judge and the papers to be forwarded to the rest of names left in the office of the States.

Chas. H. Cook
Wheeling, Va., May 15, 1831.

To the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, Esq.:—

Dear Sir:—

I have the honor of announcing to you the fact, of your unanimous election as an Honorary Member of the "Union Literary Society," South Wheeling, Va. Your opposition to the gross fraud that has been committed upon "Popular Sovereignty," viz. "The forcing of a Constitution against the majority, who are opposed to it," has won for you an enviable position in the heart of the great masses of the American People: and even here, in this latitude, headed as we are, by our gallant opponent of popular will, viz. Henry W. Wise; there are hosts of young men ready in 1860, or whatever time it may be, to do battle for you, and I venture the prediction, "The Battle will be waged successfully, and your triumphant election will be certain," I speak, the will of our Society, comprising as we do about 30 or 35 young men, whose influence is boundless. The young men (not only in this section of the country) will rally round the standard Bearer of the Constitution, and will commit
to his keeping, our glorious liberty, and the perpetuation of our great name. Although the fraud, (which you opposed so strenuously) but which has been partially triumphed (still we have reason to thank God, that the people of the Territory will spurn the offered tribe, and resist the foolish threat, till the end. One consolation to the "opposition" of this district is the Representative, that is, his most ardent supporters are at war with him, and I venture the prediction again, that he will go out of office with greater force than he came at. Such is the feeling against him. The graves of deponents are dug, and all that remains is to bury them, and our hope is. They will be buried so deep that the soundings of the trumpet at the last day will awaken them. Three cheers for Douglas will be the war cry of the opposition, in 1866. With these outside remarks, Dear sir I will conclude by asking of you a rejoinder. Direct your favor to Union Literary. Let me hear from you. P. Riner Orley South Wheeling Cov. Secretary Va.
Geo. W. Salmon
Reading, Pa.

Reading May 1718

Hon. J. A. Wayland
My Dear Sir

Allow me to introduce to you my H. J. Drury, Esq. Mayor of our City and Col. S. L. Young, who is in your city on business, any civilities you may show him, will be kindly remembered by you.

Friend
Geo. W. Salmon
Salmon
Fredrick Mont. to May 15/58

Hon Stephen A. Douglas

My dear Sir: You may wonder who the writer of this was. I am a hard working Democrat of Deep Democratic Montgomery of the Keystone State. I have been watching your course in Congress from time to time and have one request of you if you please to send me some of your pub. doc. and speeches on the Kansas Question. You may rest assured that I shall be read with pleasure.

I am yours,

Aaron W. Scheffey

Direct Fredrick & Co.
Montgomery Co. Pa.
Washington May 1758

Hon. S. A. Douglass
U. S.

Dear Sir,

Please send me your speech on the Report of the Conference Committee.

Yours re,

Watson B. Smith
Charleston May 15th 1858.

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir:

If it is unnecessary for one old friend to apologize to another for troubling him with a line.

The convention that met at Springfield a few weeks since was all that you and your colleagues in Congress could have asked. It was enthusiastic and the term used in its spirit. But the resolutions were too tame—yet it is a thing as might be expected from Mormon and the farm men—I was not on the committee that reported those resolutions. If I had been you may rest assured I would have added a little more salt and pepper.

But you are crowded and sustained by the great Democratic Party of Illinois and that is enough for you at least, for the present.

You have passed the Rubicon Douglas, and you must return to Rome. You can not return to the administration without (enforce the word)
political infamy - the administration and its southern adherents have violated the pledges and principles of the "Kansas Nebraska bill." And for them to go forward preaching Democracy is the worst fine they can be thrown by demoralized the Democratic party. This is the first time in the history of that great party, that it has violated one of its declared principles - a principle too of such magnitude - once lying at the foundation of our free government - that it can never be forgotten or forgiven. And has let me see your my humble opinion - if we cannot reorganize the party - if thoroughly reform its ranks - we can trust to back that brand bravely will not move us. Your friends; that is the war party - the results come false may be relied on, and they will return us to the Buchanan family as long as they have a single sense to base on point them in a different direction - but your patriotic friends I must trust further than I could throw -

By the T.

Now Douglas it behooves us all to be honest with each other.
We will neglect you to the Senate if it is possible—though the prospect looks a little gloomy at this time. Lincoln's friends are moving heaven and earth to save him that place. You must tenure the state if possible, and I predict for you such a reception as no man ever had before. And when you come to Charleston remember I shall claim you as my guest.

If we can only interest you to the Senate, I feel confident we can throw over this miserable administration.

God bless you each other.

Yours ever,

N. P. Lincoln

P.S. Write me on the receipt of this if you have time.

With C.
Geo S. Ward
Cambridge, Mass.

Cambridge Mass.
May 15, 1858

My dear Sir,

Will you do me the kindness to send me a copy of your last speech on the "Constitution"? I want to preserve a copy in a more permanent and convenient form than that of a manuscript.

Respectfully yours,
Geo S. Ward

To Hon. S. A. Douglas, U.S.S.
Washington

DC
Mr. Henry, May 15, 1855

To Sir, Please

Send me a copy of the patent office report and oblige. Respectfully yours,

T. Mills

J. A. duce to Mr. Henry, Ill.

[Seal: Agricultural]

May 31. 1858