PRIVATE

New York

May 16, 1858

My dear Sir,

The enclosed will appear in the Journal of Commerce on Monday evening, morning.

Let me know how you like it.

Don't let any human being see this until after the paper reaches Washington.

Yours truly,

Peabody.
Butternuth
New York
May 10, 1858.
Mert Urbana, Ill.
May 16th, 1858.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find proceedings of the preempts and other of Champaign County. As Chairman of the Corresponding Committee, I am instructed to write to you and obtain your opinion in regard to the following points in time to lay it before the State Convention. First, what would be the proper course to pursue to secure our claims? Second, would it be proper to petition Congress to pass an explanatory act? Third, on what conditions will you engage to carry up a case to the Supreme Court of the United States for us? Fourth, what person would you recommend to us from the State of Illinois to assist you in preparing the case if you should need such assistance? By replying to the above at your earliest convenience you will greatly oblige many preempts.

Yours Respectfully,

[Signature]

Chairman of Preempts Commt.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
Washington City
April 17th, 1858.—Pursuant to a call, a goodly number of the Pre-Emptors and others feeling an interest, of Champaign county, met at the office of A. M. Whitney, in West Urbana. It was

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions to present to the meeting in the afternoon.


Resolved, That all who are present be requested and are expected to notify in person all of their neighbors, who are interested in pre-emptors' rights, to meet with us, on next Saturday, April 24, at 1 o'clock, in West Urbana, at J. J. Eads' Hall.

Adjourned till 1 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON.—The meeting was organized by calling Aaron Bennet to the Chair, and appointing L. T. Eads Secretary. The committee on Resolutions then offered the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, in the case of James C. Walker and John R. Smith, vs. Jacob Hendrick, [appeal from McLean] determined at the last sitting of said Court at Ottawa, that the reserved sections alternate to the sections granted to the Illinois Central Railroad were not subject to pre-emption [Judge Skinner dissenting;]

And whereas, we the pre-emptors of said lands, and citizens of Champaign County, feel ourselves deeply injured by the late, and unjust decision of the Supreme Court of Ill in relation to the aforementioned lands,

Resolved, That we will unite together to defend our rights in the premises.

Resolved, That we take active measures to call the attention of those immediately interested, and those of our neighbors, who are adverse to the right, in this outrage, attempted to be forced upon us.

Resolved, That we feel ourselves bound together by every consideration of honor and honesty, to do all that is honorable and legal, to maintain our brand that we have settled upon, and claim.

Resolved, That we believe that all good citizens will feel disposed to commence us in resisting this attempted outrage.

Resolved, That we will neither spare money or time, in defending our just claims to our lands.

Resolved, That we constitute a State Convention, to be composed of Delegates from each County.

On motion, L. T. Eads, John Clements, and John Roughton, were appointed a Corresponding Committee, to confer with Committees which may be appointed in other counties, and report at the next general meeting.

It was moved that a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be sent the Central Gazette, Urbana Union, and Our Constitution, for publication—carried. On motion, the thanks of the meeting were tendered to J. W. Scroggs, for the interest he has taken in our behalf, and to J. J. Sutton, for the use of his Hall. On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet on Saturday, Apr. 24, at 1 o'clock, p.m., at Sutton's Hall, in West Urbana.

AARON BENNETT, Pres.

President.

Saturday, April 24.—Pursuant to adjournment the pre-emptors of Champaign Co, and others feeling an interest in their behalf, met at Sutton's Hall, West Urbana, on the 23d inst. The meeting was organized by calling A. J. Stewart to the Chair, and appointing L. T. Eads Secretary. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. On motion, the corresponding committee, consisting of L. T. Eads, John Roughton and John Clements, were continued. On motion, the meeting was constituted a County Association, to act with other associations which may be appointed in other counties, and to act with the State Convention, if one should be appointed. The Association then went into the election of officers, which resulted as follows: Aaron Bennet, Pres.; L. T. Eads, Sec.; C. Cars, Treas. On motion, Lewellin Powell, John Clements, and John Roughton, were appointed an executive committee, to act for the Association until the next meeting. On motion, it was resolved, that we strongly recommend a State Meeting, to be held at Onarga, on the first Monday of June next. A poll tax of one dollar was then levied to defray contingent expenses. The question of petitioning Congress was then taken up and discussed. Speeches were made by N. L. Seaver, J. W. Scroggs, and others. On motion, the question was submitted to the executive committee.

On motion, it was resolved to print 1,000 circulars for distribution. Adjourned until 3d Saturday in May.

L. T. EADS, Sec'y.

N. B.—The Pre-Emptors throughout the State, within the six mile area of the I. C. R. R., will see from the Minutes as above, that a move is being set on foot to make a rally in defense of our causes. Let all come up to the rescue, for our enemies are strong; but we are stronger; we have right, we have equity on our side. We have bought and improved our land, under instructions from the Government officers, and have them we will—have them we must. Organize in every county along the line of the Railroad—send your delegates to Onarga, on the 1st Monday in June. The victory shall be ours.
Pana Ill May 16th 1858

H. S. A. Douglass

Dear Sir,

I would be pleased to have your succinct on the passage of the "English Coquette" at your former seat and when you review the whole ground, I would be very thankful for any document you would choose to forward. That you would choose to forward that you may be an inducement among your constituents.

I am very respectfully yours,

Thomas Finley
Jonesboro, Monck's Dell May 16, 1858

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

dear Sir,

I want to ask a favor of you and it is this: I want you to send me one or more of these constitutions of Kansas as we are making a strong party here against Le Compton and are meeting with glorious success. John St. John & John Allen have been here for the last week & made 3 speeches anti-Le Compton, and have buried old John Douglas so deep that he will never be resurrected again on earth. They have shielded him alone. He came down from Washington City, and commenced making speeches & charged that all those that went with you on the Le Compton trip in 1854 were Abolitionists, renegades, Vampires, Spaniels, & Papists, and you ought to have heard them skin him. The Nite was never known. I hope you will not think me
Imprimis I take the liberty of writing you for I assume you think my whole slate is with you and that even so.

I am with respect,

Your sincere friend

G. W. McChesney
Polo Cyle & Illinois May 14th 1858

Mr. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Please send me three volumes of your mechanical books and one agricultural, and I will be very much obliged to you.

Yours truly,

Alexandra Henderson

Let Mechl rent May 20th 1858.
Lecompton, May 16th, 1858

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to trouble you with a request for a favor lent him of no latter day, for me. I want your lot reading upon the Kansas question. I have lent them until I have now, I wish them for files. Can you do me a favor also to lend me the seven days, of Senator document.

"Excerpts of Surveys for Railroad Plant from the Missouri River to the Pacific." I have not heard them by you. I can lend them without it lend yourself not be displeased.

As you are aware the formal amendment and with you wi
all your efforts to has the city of country from the designes of violating our most cherished principles that I to long cherished. There is a great curiosity existing in the minds of our opponents as to what Cauman plan will proceed. I told them that if they did not have a democracy was not an honest man, then would be no curiosity. There is no one who cares for such a man in the State that I go along with maintain his integrity at the heart of the party. I believe the party of our men claims nothing that attaches to my friend's business. I am here, my thanks.

for several reasons, I hope some day to be personally acquainted with you. I have not been able to see you at any time due to my illness. With kindest regards, yours most truly, D. Reddick. To D. D. E. R. Reddick, lover.

O. I am possibly may think it strange that I ask you for accommodation. Dear. I am to ask of you of my political friends, John. I amadena of the others have an affair with me at all in a political.
I understand the great excitement in the state is no laughing matter and that a reality of what is produce a great disturbance and long...

ED

May 16

F. R. Redding

Mr. F. R. Redding
Keokuk, Ky., May 16, 1838

Messrs. Stephen A. Douglas

Sir,

I presume to write to you in a very hurried way on the 14th, and sent it to the head of the road. If my friend feels disposed to send word about the writer, I refer him to Col. James W. Folin—He is an old and well-known member of the department in Washington City. I wrote to him that the citizens of Kansas City were making arrangements last January to start a weekly paper, and appointed a committee to select an editor and publish it. Before the committee had time to find one, a young gentleman from Cincinnati issued a prospectus for a paper to be called "The Clarion," which was to start on the 17th of April. I have heard nothing more of it, and it is suggested to me that it will not start. If it is the scheme of any of your friends to start a paper, they immediately it will have a name. A majority of the citizens think it would do best. I will not disguise the fact that...
She is the terminus of the R.R. from St. Louis to Kansas City, a new road from Kentucky, a new road from Galveston, from Fort Smith and others. Eight in number, some
are located in the middle of the United States. Capitalists cannot do business
anywhere, there is but one paper published in the place and it is Washington
paper, and the wealth of the place and it seemed to me that a million out of
every twenty of the citizens and anti-slavery. There is a large amount of advertising
done in the paper also for work and many fine laborers will not advertise in the paper of the place.
I believe the place will number 25,000 daily in 5 years. More than people and making the place their headquarters.

Some believe and are afraid to send to 200, so sure and they that the state will be free in a short
time. I have no doubt of it myself.

I expect that a large paper will publish in Kansas City - Kansas City is in the
centre of one of the best farming countries in
The World. No Man is questioned
on the subject of his religion or politics in the place. The emigration from the South to N. is steady, and public rankment underlying in change. The truth of all this depending statements I hold myself as a gentleman responsible.

Yours sincerely,

F. W. Rice, M.D.
Dr. F. A. Rice
Kegsbury, Ky.

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May 16
Geo. M. Sauman
Reading, Pa.

Reading, May 16th

Hon. J. H. Douglass
My dear Sir:

I have given to-day a letter of introduction to Maj. A. J. Quincy, a re-mayor and railroad lawyer. Sam. J. Strong, both prominent members of the bar in this city, and both very learned anti-Lee men, the Democrats, and friends of yours, and bitter enemies of J. G. Scamly Jones. They go to Washington to-morrow as part of a Committee that was ap-
I expect him at my house this evening, to have some talk in reference to the manner he shall be put in the field — see this Committee that visit Washington are opposed to Jones but one of them — they will likely all visit you — take some care of them as they are politically and every other way a valuable man to have in any County.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Note: The recipient's name is not legible in the image.]
Alton Ill. May 16 1858
Hon. S.C.A. Douglas
Dr. sir

Having moved my place of business from Madison Wis. to this place, I would like to hear from you here. Buchanan stock is much below par here. hard to find a man that will stand up bold.

Yours Rpts. B.C. Stanley
B O Stanley
Alton, Ill.