Attorney General's Office
May 26, 1858

Sir:

I have just heard that the appropriation of forty thousand dollars for expenses of defending public property in California against the fraudulent claims set up to it was stricken out of the bill to-day by a vote of the House. I have no right to complain of this, for my interest in the matter is no greater than that of any other citizen. But the communications I have heretofore made to the proper Committees and to the Speaker of the House will show, if they are examined, that the Government is very deeply concerned in the title of the United States to all their valuable buildings in San Francisco & Sacramento.
including the fortifications which constitute the only defence of the former, is disputed. One peculiarity has demanded public property, the value of which is estimated at from ten to twelve millions of dollars, and private property worth probably three times as much more. There are many other claims not much smaller & equally entitled to rigorous depreciation. I distinctly believe them to be based upon forged receipts & supported by the basest bribery. But then fabricated titles have been skillfully made & the false parties are sufficiently bold to demand so much of the worth East have found favor in the local courts. To expose & defeat them now will require labor, energy & talents which cannot be got without paying for them. The sum estimated is the very least we can get on
Je vous dis cela pour vous donner une idée de la manière dont je me sens.

Je suis très heureux de vous avoir écouté et de vous avoir donné une explication qui permettait de comprendre la situation. Je crois que vous avez bien compris ce que je vous ai dit et que vous avez pu en tirer des conclusions fondées sur mes explications. Je crois que vous êtes en mesure de prendre des décisions éclairées sur la base des informations que je vous ai données.

Je vous prie de me dire si vous avez des questions ou des doutes. Je suis là pour vous aider et vous conseiller dans la mesure du possible.

Je vous remercie de votre attention et de votre compréhension. Je reste à votre disposition pour toutes informations ou conseils que vous pourriez me demander.

Je vous souhaite une bonne continuation et je vous prête la main dans le besoin.

Vos souhaits,

[Signature]
will and not half as large as was thought necessary by others who were well informed. I hope it will be distinctly understood that I have no desire to control this expenditure. I would prefer to have placed in other hands. Thus far I have taken no step in the business without the direction of the President and conference with other members of the Government. But certainly it should be made the duty of some one to see that these stupendous funds are resisted unless the Supreme Legislative Power of the Nation shall think it wise and just to give up public and private property to be plundered by a set of unprincipled adventurers. In the latter event I most respectfully ask that this note and any other communica-
I have the honor to inclose you in this letter the official document of the House of Representatives as ordered by the President. The declaration of war and the necessary action to follow will be taken in accordance with the instructions given by the Committee. I am, therefore, by order of the House of Representatives, authorized to issue the necessary orders. I feel confident that the Union can be maintained and will not suffer from this action.

I hope you will find the circular letter of the California claimants satisfactory. The date of the meeting has been fixed for the first of next month. I shall cordially cooperate with you in the necessary action. I am, therefore, by order of the President, authorized to issue the necessary orders.
to well how to practice.

I am

with great respect,
yours &c.

P. S. Black.

Mr. R. M. T. Hunter

(signed)
West Haverford, May 26

Sir,

As I am making a collection of the autographs of distinguished men, I must ask you to do me the favour to send me yours. A book of autographs at the present day would be very incomplete without yours.

I remain your humble servant,

Thomas E. Campbell

D. I. Adressto Thomas E. Campbell, Care of Dr. Lyons, West Haverford, Delaware co. Pa.
Orallo Cow
Polo, Ill.

Polo, Il., May 26, 1838

Hon. I. A. Douglas:

If it be not too much trouble, I would like to have you send me a copy of the Report of the Smithsonian Inst. for 1836.

Resp.

Orallo Cow.

Santo James May 31, 1838.
S. D. Douglas,

Sir:

Will you forward to my address, your last speech on the Kansas question and the reports in regard to it?

Yours truly,

E. B. Emerson

Andover, Mass., May 26th, 1858.
J. L. \( \times \) J. R.

I am 

My best wishes for your health.

with affection.

Yours truly,

J. L. \( \times \) J. R.
Galesville, May 26th, 1859.

Honorable Stephen A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty to send you my card and at the same time to request you to remember me kindly in sending documents. As I formed the resolution to take an active share in the campaign next fall, and will contribute my mite to the support of that cause which I think the true one, and which is also yours, I would be pleased if you would place in my hands the means to act and write upon the political topics of the day. I mean of course the necessary documents. As Illinois possesses a large proportion of German citizens, they should not be disregarded. I doubt not, but that with proper exertions our good cause will come out triumphant.

I am

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

Lorin C. Hochhalter
Lewis Gottschalk
Galena, Ill.
(Confidential)

Chicago, Ill.,
May 26th, 1858

Hon S.A. Douglas

Dear Sir: I wish to call your attention to a practice inaugurated by the Chicago P.O. in reference to your documents, which pass through his office. They are generally laid aside for a "convenient season," to await distribution, and when the throws are distributed, they handle them so roughly that many of the packages are broken open, and consequently lost, as many of them are directed to the person or to the office on the outside, while the remainder of the packages...
merely contain the address of persons and not the post office. Therefore when several of the packages are broken open, it is a matter of utter impossibility to distinguish one from the other, unless the route agent is acquainted with the parties addressed which in many cases they are not. The above information comes to me thus: The route agent, and can be relied upon as correct. I would suggest that you have each package enveloped in good strong paper and addressed to the post office, instead of lying with trains as before.

I have lately visited about one-third of this state, and find from ocular demonstration that the disorganizers are making slow progress in dividing the party, although the abolitionists and republicans are setting them on the back to encourage them in their infamous scheme. You can rest assured that you will be triumphantly sustained in your opposition to the fracturing of the presidential election. I wish you God's speed and intend to place you in the chair which Buchanan has disowned, in '60. There is no mistake about it.
To assure you that I am no spy or inspector, some refer to Mr. Sheahan D. Price, (who know me well) and who will give me any recommendation desired telling me here lies very truly yours

E. M. Gray

(Sent Aug. Ref. May 31, 1858)
Will you be so good as to
favor me with your autograph?

Very greatly obliged.

Yours Respectfully,

E. W. Hale

Plato, May 26, 1858.

[Signature]

P.S.
Savannah, May 26th, 1858

To Hon. E. S. Darguey

I hear of politics. The state is rather a problem. I have not intended to visit Washington before the adjournment of Congress, but having public duties, I thought it necessary to learn what elements of Congress are present. Th[ey] are certainly in a very awkward position. They have nothing to lose, and they seem intent on losing everything while they have, or had. In the South there is really little party feeling as yet, as the party continues to increase and our limits are not yet seen.

I trust the anti-secession feeling can be subdued principled. I suppose that you will not support the admittance of New Mexico, and hope that a portion of the Senate will follow the precedent of the President. I was agreeably surprised to hear that, although I was so strongly anti-secession when we left home, as I was today, and [the editor] cannot be correct, as I suppose many are tomorrow.
to those behind the curtain, is that the complexion was intended to operate on the un Prep and initial elections to make the country nugatory. There is no alternation of colors in the movement, and of the way it has been carried on.

While all the complexion hold in this state, and all the balance of the Senate and House of Representatives in the county meeting and association, and the party of the fact, I think, to prevent the democratic in which they are living successful in the state, I attended a very judicious convention where I met with the able men of our party in our counties of the state. We had the number of anti-lincoln

top of everybody, and the number of friends of Mr. Douglas. I have been aware

that Mr. Lincoln was more wise, but he's right.

The general sentiment was that we should help no

northern. The administration was not

maintained in the North. Given the

incidents the new committee that the policy

of the administration is fatal in the

free states.
J. H. Harvey,
Louisville,
Ky.

5. = 256
√
Charlton Kimball  
Boston, Mass.  

May 26, 1858

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas,  
Dear Sir,

As a member of the English High School I am collecting the autographs of some of the most distinguished gentlemen of this country. I should feel myself highly honored to receive the signature of a gentleman who is engaged in a noble cause at yourself.

Yours, Respectfully,

Charles H. Kimball  
Boston, May 26th, 1858.

P.S. Please address C. H. K.,  
1138, Boston Post Office.
Mr. Douglas sir please to send me the patient office reports and agree yours,

George W. Lee

Direct to Dearborn Post office M. & Flory Co.

J.W.

May 26, 1858

3 Vol. McKee lent May 29, 58.
Geo W. See
Dearborn Hts.
Jackson Hand

Barstow

May 26th, 1856

Mr. S. J. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

Mr. E. M. Coffy

has a clause in his letter to express your own position. He thinks a fort such as the one you recommend

with him is now on his way to Washington to get a special action on it if he can that service.

Permit me to say to you that I have long been a political

friend of yours and would be happy

to advance your interests in Missouri

in any way that you may think it advisable to accomplish.

Very Respectfully yours,

Jackson Hand
Indian River Brevard County Florida
May 26, 1868

Dear Sir,

You will confer an additional favor by sending me your remarks on the Kansas Bill.

Remain with the hope
lest consideration
Yours O.T. 
Wm. F. Kessee
Inspection of Customs

Yrs. L. A. Douglas
This December
Wm J. Russell
Indian River
Florida,
May 26/58.
Workington Armstrong Co. Pa. May 26th 1858

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Could you oblige an old admirer of yours by sending me your photograph or daguerreotype? Sam three days and ten years old and in our remote locality can never expect to see your face.

Your friend,

James Scott

P.S. Your Speeches and other Anti-Leonard documents are needed here for circulation.
James Scott,
Worthington
Armstrong Co.
Pa.
May 26, 1858.

Wants Schuyler.

Sants,
Slaterville
May 26th, 1858

Hon. S. A. Douglas
Dear Sir,

I have read two speeches from your hands - the last one of March 22nd. I have read it carefully, and am pleased to learn there from that you have maintained your position from the first until the last.

The Kansas & Nebraska Bill caused a great commotion, but finally the whole Country are now settling down upon it as the only true principle. You have also discussed and sustained at length State rights, which is fully satisfactory to my mind, and I wish that every man through out the Union could have in hand this speech of 22d March - that they might read and understand the true principle of State Rights.
You have sustained true democracy. And I sincerely hope you will never swerve from the position you have taken. You had better go into retirement than to face back on what is wrong. But I am sure that such a thing cannot be. The people will sustain you.

My respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Ephraim Schutt
Statenville
Tompkins Co. No. 7.

P.S. There is a family residing in the place by the name of Belknap. The wife of Mr. Belknap was Matilda Douglas, a daughter of John Douglas. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yates Douglas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Douglas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebulon Douglas of Oneida Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robins Douglas of Pa.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Your father's name (Gates Douglas) Robin Douglas. You correspond with. He resides in Pennsylvania. Mr. Belknap's people claim to be related to you. Are very respectable people. Please send your late speeches, also a set of Patent Office reports.

To Amos Belknap
Statenville
Tompkins

And if you please a set to me of the Patent Office Reports. I shall feel very thankful to receive them from your hands.

End.
Pittsburgh, Pa., May 26, 1838

Señor S. A. Douglas
Washington City, D. C.

Dear Sir,

We are refund to you for the standing of the Harrington, Esq. Susan Rose Co. Illa, who has been clerk of the County Court for 8 years. He has lately commenced the Hardware business and wishes to buy goods from us. Will you have the kindness to state to us your opinion of said Harrington's business, character, trustworthiness, etc. Your attention to this will oblige you sincerely,

[Signature]

J. Chaffantle
Judge Douglas requests to

Dr. Young, Chalfont, Co. and

acknowledge the receipt of their

letter of the 26th inst.

Of Herrington family

of Virginia, he is highly respectful

and much esteemed. Their

circumstances, and moan at

responsibility, he regrets to say

are not, however, sufficiently

known to him, to enable him

to reply with certainty to the

inquiry as to the

responsibility of Jos. Herrington

of Washington City,

Washington City,

May 28/58.
May 20, 1858

Inquiry of
Miss.......
Miss...

Answered May 23, 1858