The Presidency

But a few days more, and the Charleston Convention will have met and completed its labors. I mean what I say when I write it down that no event, since the establishment of this government has been so big with interest, as the acts of that Convention will be. This government has arrived at a point in its career, where now can find a solid reason to doubt, that its future strength, harmony, and even its perpetuity, is suspended by a single thread. The contest now is not on the common-place issues of Banks, Tariff, a question of that nature, that create an honest difference of opinion among the people North and South, but the issue is rather upon that most perilous and momentous question,—that question so much dreaded by the fathers of the Republic,—by Washington and his confederates,—by Jackson and that invincible host of Democratic partisans who rallied to his standard,—the formation of sectional parties, distinguished by geographical lines,—drawn up and marshaled upon the question of American slavery.

It is a question of Conservatism and Ultramanship; and it thus becomes a question affecting the very integrity of the Union. The Anti-Slavery agitation has reached that point in the North where it cannot longer be trifled with. Its promoters and adherents feel confident of victory; and what a victory would it be,—a victory over the fundamental principles of the Constitution,—a victory of sectionalism over nationality,—in short, a victory that would outlaw fifteen States of this Union! Contemplating this subject in this light, can I not right in saying that upon the action of the Charleston Convention,
depends greater consequences than have hung upon the decisions of a similar body in the country. For to the Democratic party, and to that alone must the country look for a way of escape to be made plain, from the awful consequences that must inevitably flow from the success of a sectional party in the next Presidential campaign. What then is the duty of the representatives of the Democratic party at Charleston? Plainly, first to lay down a platform of constitutional principles, for if the day has really gone by when a party cannot succeed with such a platform, it is time that the country understood it. The Union in that case is worth no more than a rope of sand. Let that be the paramount duty, overshadowing all else. Let us know where we stand and with whom we are to act. Let there be no shuffling, no evading the issues that arise on this question. Take the Constitution and the past policy of the government as the guide, shirk no responsibility, and looking to the future of the country and this question as well as the present.

After such a platform shall have been laid down, then comes the next question, and one equally as important. Who shall be the bearer of the standard? If a man can be found with whom we can be certain of success, and be honest and capable, let him be the nominee. It is time now for temperance, no time to play a game of chance. Place the man upon the platform, who can command the most votes, other considerations being regarded, and the tide of sectionalism shall be rolled back.
Head of fanaticism shall be silenced. Another defeat of the Black Republican party will destroy their organization. It will dissolve like mist as did the God-father the Know Nothing party.

It must convey that my attachments, political, personal and social are strong with the distinguished statesman of New York—I need not mention his name. But looking at the matter in the light already referred to—consulting the popular pulse as an inductive guide—can there be any other conclusion arrived at than that Stephen A. Douglas, above and beyond all others, will bring more strength to the Democratic ticket than any other man that can be nominated. Go wherever we will among the masses of the people North and we find the one voice, the one sentiment, with him we are certain of success. Surely the South has more to gain in this coming contest than any other choice of men. Her manhood, her equality, her rights, her equities, as an integral portion of this Confederacy are at stake. The man sinks into comparative nothingness in the presence of all these. The nationality of Mr. Douglas she cannot question—why not then give the Democracy of the North and Northwest a prestige upon which to enter the campaign? Why not give us the opportunity to struggle now and for the future this formidable sectional power, that is deposing the foundation of constitutional principles in our midst, and submerging them beneath the billows of a sectionalism as blind as it is unreasoning and
Juxtaposed? It seems to me that this is the true policy of the South. Crush out Black Republicanism first and settle our own little differences of opinion on abstract questions afterwards. With Stephen A. Douglas our triumph will be complete and overwhelming, the defeat of our opponents disastrous and irreversible. Let us come together then upon a platform of principles that shall be sound for the present and the future, and inaugurate their supremacy by a pronouncement that shall carry with it the certainty of success. Thus shall the频睡 days of the Republic be restored.

Pennsylvania
Political Essay

Agreed, "Pennsylvania."  
Shall be a

Complimentary NC.
Pleasant Ridge
Green County, Iowa

The Honorable
Abner A. Douglas U. S. S.

Dear Sir,

Political predictions,

along with no personal acquaintance, United
without so little of keeping myself informed over
the prominent political topics required by many of
the day resplendent to solicit at your hands such
documents and congressional matter as one in
your high position has in his power to select
and transmit by mail. I live in a comparatively
ignorant community, parched of many deep
prejudices with little desire of being enlightened
and limited facilities. I feel much interest in the
ensuing presidential canvass and as your own
name has been widely connected with it and may
be still more so, I would feel highly flattered to
receive from you whatever is interesting or instructive.

Up to this present moment, I have remained comparatively in the dark as to the history of the government
or controversy of parties during the past winter.
Should you find yourself disposed to comply with my desire and it did not intrude too much on time which must be invaluable in your position I should be pleased with other things to receive such matters as would establish a connection with former months of the past transactions of congress with the present and future deliberations of that body. With sentiments of high consideration I subscribe myself

Yours etc.

[Signature]

Hon. Thos. A. Douglas
United States Senate
Washington City

A. J. Barrell

[Signature]
Monroe, June 16th

To Hon. D. Douglas

My dear Sir,

Will you have the kindness to mail to my clerks copies of the District State Coast Survey Reports for 1848 & 1849? I assure a knowledge of the former's, and would greatly elicit the latter's services.

Yours truly,

J.P. Davenport, MD
Ellenwood,  
Mahoning County, Ohio.  

[April, 1860]

Dear sir:  

Your will much oblige a true friend and admirer of the declarant,  
John de Koldy amaducees, truly attached to the above address  
dance of John Yecche.  
If none convenient please send the above letters of the same  
“strip.” — Your cause lights  

Yours truly,  

James D.  

[Signature]
James M. Dickson
Ellsworth, Mahoning Co., Ohio
April 1860

Speeches for distribution.

[Handwritten text in cursive]

[Handwritten text in cursive]

[Handwritten text in cursive]

[Handwritten text in cursive]

[Handwritten text in cursive]

[Handwritten text in cursive]
S. T. Dunke
Troy, New York
April 1860
Asks for autograph.

Troy April 60

Hon. S. A. Douglas Esq.
Dear Sir,

As I am collecting the autographs of the most distinguished men in the Union, and thinking that my collection would not be perfect without yours, will you please to oblige me with yours?

I remain
Yours very truly

J. T. Dunke
Troy N.Y.
New Bedford, Lawrence, Pa.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

Sirs,

I wrote some weeks since to the P.M. at Chicago in reference to the establishment of a Democratic paper contemplated in Illinois, but have not received an answer from him. Could you recommend any place in that State or give me the names of any persons to whom I might write concerning the matter?

Respectfully,

John M. D. Nesbit

New Bedford, Lawrence, Pa.

P.S. Please get these down.
H. S. Runyan
Concord, Morgan Co. Ill.
April 15th 1866
asks for 3 sets of
Patent Office Reps. &
Speakers of House.

Leonard Nov. 1866

Hon. S. A. Douglas
Member of the U.S. Senate

Sir: will you if you please take
the trouble to send me the three volumes
of the "Patent Office Reports" that
entreat on "Mechanics" and their

Yours
H. S. Runyan

Leonard
Morgan County
Illinois

(Inside)
Ps.
Mr. Douglas will you please send me some speeches delivered by yourself and others.
Yours, H.S. Rangi.
My dear [Name]

Yesterday came a letter from [Name] last day to ask me to advise you to give your consent to one of your friends as a delegate from this resigning in his stead. I told him that I had no objection provided he gave me his word that he would stick to you to the last. But he
Belmont wishes to go to Charleston as a delegate, etc.

Remember that a majority of the delegation filled the vacancy and that the delegates had the power of transfer and that I had declined accepting such transfer from the district individuals as it might be of vital consequence for all your friends to be in hand to fill the vacancy and that I should advise you to recommend a friend or your presbytery to Charleston to fill the vacancy was made one of the returns from Mo.
next day—\ I hear

sir, \--believe

it a frequent

of duties, are

selling out—We

are safe as we
can and been

appointed to any

trusted of any

not being made

until we all arrive at Charleston I

see how we shall

are that to any

our friends—

your friends

To these with whom

you correspond or

had better give this

order.

Edw. W. S. Logan.
G. W. Lamberts
New York—Monday
April 7, 1860

My dear Mr.

A. P. Ware is here—

you said, if he came up to

Charleston to mind

two weeks longer.

I should like it.

Can't you ask him

a job at Hanes to

in your name, also

I will Hatter & Co. will

Eva Habeck &

E. H.
[April 1860 ?]

Lydenstrasse

My father intimated addressing a second letter to Lord Melbourne in which he wants in which he wants to show the impress small strength of the first conquest under the next causes of the States. That will sufficiently demonstrate your at Charleston. He thinks this an important fact to be brought strongly but before the Congress. It will show that the years of the past administration and how to resist upon the course and strength of the House.
The States have been added

Missouri

Iowa

Wisconsin

Minnesota

Indiana

Missouri

Iowa

Texas

Give me a table of all

The States have been added

On many that I mention

That I show you

The death of

Is not a surprise

as it is a necessity

And in fact be about

Two things more the

New causes. She has

this great task leaving

The one written for

The name written for the

Moreover of the

In the state of

Taking and apparent

Yours
J. W. S. Sanders

asking the strength of the Corps, & delegation, from States after the next session, from States that will support Judge D. at Charleston, for the purpose of it being incorporated in a letter to Gov. Magoffin &c.

The letter with the

see the New York Times.

To Gen'1.
To: Stephen A. Douglas

Subject: Messengers and nominations.

April 1860

Dear Sir,

Hearing no personal acquaintance with you, having received an account of your teachings, I think you might be a man that could oblige a Jackson Democrat. I am sure the year 1824 I have written to you on a particular and situations, but have received no answer as yet now. I will write to you and try what you will do. Now if it is consistent with your way of doing things, please send me all or any public documents you may have for distribution, Franklin. The petition for 1878 of all kinds, messengers and documents, thank to

W. Vinton

Direct to Capt. W. Vinton
Bethany Harrison Co. Mo.
Capt. W. Vinson
Bethany, Harrison Co. Ky.
April 1862
ask for speech of 8.00
or Patent Office Dept.; or
any thing Judge S. has
for distribution.

[Speech of May 15, 1860 read]