from a renewed sense in Washington, beginning
whether there were any hope left of erecting the
honor of civic war and preserving the Union, to
which I reply as follows:

Washington, January 8th, 1861

"My Dear Sir,

I have only time in reply to your inquiry,
to say that there is hope of preserving peace and
the Union. All depends on the action of Virginia
in and the border states. If they remain in the
Union and aid in a fair and just settlement
the Union may be preserved. But if they decree
under the false illusion of a reconstruction,
then that all is lost. June Benjamin and
we will lose the Union."

Here you lose the spirit and substance
of all I have said and written, in
preference and for the public, in respect
to that line of policy which professes to
reunite the Union as a means of saving it.
Russellville, East Tennessee, Jan. 31st, 1861.

Hon. D. A. Douglas,

Dear Sir,

As a loyal citizen of that government designated by the United States of America— the Federal Government— I ask to trouble you with a short letter. As you have seen, the Legislature of Tennessee has passed an act requiring an election to be held on the 25th of Feb. for the purpose of electing delegates to a convention to be held on the 25th of Feb. and at the same time, to vote for or against a convention. I will not trouble you with any comment on what I regard as the disunion trick of this confounding two things in one election. I have been placed in nomination by the Union men of my county (Jefferson) as their candidate for delegate to that Convention. Under some strange revolution soon takes place. I will be elected & there will be a convention.

As to the important inquiry comes up: What shall I attempt to do, to give peace to the country, save the Federal Government & thus save human liberty?

I have thought long and anxiously on this point. I have an opinion as to what would be best as things now stand, and I
I have not believed that Members of Congress would do any thing to quell the agitation. But, I do not believe the northern people are against an adjustment.

If there were a convention, I have thought, for the purpose of presenting an ordinance of secession, or an ordinance submitting to the people of the state a convention to frame a new Constitution of the United States with the Crittenden amendments, or their equivalent for their adoption. Send a commission to every State in the Union with the Constitution so amended asking the States to submit to the people this plan for adoption. Let us put the people in their places, meet us in the spirit of paternal love and settle this treaful question.

I have no hope that at first any of the cotton States, or any of the New England States would adopt such amended Constitution. But I do believe that all the free States west of New York if not New York herself and all the Southern States except the cotton States would adopt it. Kind of so is not the Government saved I will not hinder when he reconstructs? Is this all a vain dream or a reality that a reasonable man may point hope for?
of course, I understand my proposition to be revolutionary. Yet, being in a revolution and all constitutional doors closed and guarded by politicians, I feel if it can be done, that we are justified in taking the step—especially as it will in my opinion, put a stop to the most peaceful revolution a bloody war ever yet known.

If in your opinion you think this letter is worthy of notice, by calling on Gov. Johnson or Hon. T. A. R. Nelson you can learn if you desire to do so, who the writer is—

Yours truly,

[Signature]

My address is Russellville, Tenn.
Pottstown Jan 31, 1861

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Would you be kind enough to send me a copy of the Congregational Globe of last session bound as I would like to have the debates of last Congress.

Respectfully yours,

Daniel Gilbert
Daniel Gilbert
Pottstown, Pa.
Jan 31/61

Congregational Globe of last year wanted.
Instructor of

Vincent Jan 31st 1861

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Will you be so kind as to furnish me with a copy of your late speech in the Senate.

If you could send me 15 or 20 copies I know it in sketch which from I would take it as a great favor as a member of my friends want to get it. I had one copy of the Globe which contained it but I have loaned it to so many persons until it is defaced. You have explained the causes of the adoption of the Know-Nothing question in a clear and satisfactory
Manum. More so
than any man in the
Senate——You have been
much abused for being instru-
mental in the repeal of
the Missouri Compromise, but
I find some Republicans who
have read your speech, are
now willing to admit that
they have done you injustice
as they see your plan very
clean to lower that line
extended to the Pacific
Ocean.

Respectfully

J. J. Haldeman
J. G. Haldeman
Inspector Office
Cincinnati, Ohio
Jan 31, 1861

15 or 20 copies of late speech for distribution.
New Orleans January 31, 1861

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Though you have probably forgotten me, or even if you recollect me, you doubtless prefer not to be annoyed by the views of obscure men in regard to the present Público. But to turn for yet I cannot resist the inclination I feel of saying a word to you in relation to them.

As this is no time for ceremony, I will, without further preliminary remarks, say that in my opinion, there is now indeed one but the question—where should engage the attention of American Statesmen, and that, whether the present unfortunate condition of things shall be followed by Peace or by war—All other questions are as I think utterly insignificant when compared with that great question which fronts us all, which must soon be decided in one way or the other.

As I wish to be as brief as possible, I will merely give an outline of my views, leave it to your own good sense to fill out the picture.
A very short time ago the question was, whether a state had the Constitutional right to secede from the Union. That theoretical question is merged in the startling fact that the states have deliberately exercised that right—a decision of which an eight will soon follow. These states, whether lawfully or not, have thrown off the Federal authority and are preparing to defend that act to the last extremity.

Thus the question of Union or Disunion belongs to the past. The vital fact of Disunion is now part of our present history.

In like manner the question of Adjustment was but a short time ago, the abstruse one. It ran not a few old men lingering when the stage book an adjustment with some hope. I advise them patriotically, no—but permit me to say that such a hope is never to be realized—certainly it cannot be in the present temper of the public mind.

All attempts at an adjustment have latterly failed by Northern votes. The position of the Confederacy, though excessively liberal to thevary, has met with but little favour from officials in that quarter. I now there is but little reason to expect that it will ever receive their hearty approval. And here permit me to say that in my opinion the proposition would have been promptly rejected by the latter states even though it had not the support of every Democrat in Congress. I wish it had been satisfactorily to me but not as I believe to the people among whom I live. But were here any doubt on the subject, the doubt is has been removed by the decisive refusal of the North to adopt a measure so painful in its nature and so liberal to it.

The latter states taking this now new opinion of hastily on the part of the North at one bound a deep ear to every scheme of adjustment. Now, the N. Gov't not only claims its right but will try it at very hazard—of my I think there can be no doubt.

Just here it may be well to say that my opinions are not coloured or modified by my feelings or my wishes. God knows I would give my right hand my life to, if such a gift would restore the glorious old Union as it was in the better days of its History. But that can not be—be may try if it as the Poet said, "poor Art" after its "fruit."

But a short time ago America was charmed...
As a conservative State — how there is not one feeling — but one sentiment here — the State must be defended by the blood & treasure of her sons.

Many intelligent persons believe that the Revolution now at work is not attributable solely to a fear of aggression by the North whom slavery — many believe that S. Carolina has been a restless member of the Union for a quarter of a century & that for years she was ready to decide whenever she could do so with safety — that she has ascertained the practicability of the other New World & Boston route to the South & that free trade would give to Charleston the commerce & wealth where for years has been monopolized by Northern Ports — if this be true — if S. Carolina under the influence of idea that don't has precluded the Revolution how can at once see how wise it is to attempt an adjustment having slavery for its basis. But if this as it may, it is enough for my present purpose to point you to facts about where there can be no dispute — that Distinction exists — 2. That an Adjustment & reconstruction is now im

[Incoherent text]
present itself; shall it be followed by Peace or war?

In the nature of things one or the other must follow—Which shall it be? War may increase but can it repair the keen? Do you not know that the first gun fired at a southern city brings every slave state to its feet? Then begins the most fearful war in all history—What good do you or d'you any man expect from war under present circumstances? If the Revolution were confined to a single city or to a small locality, it might be that the interest of thirty millions of people would demand its subjugation—but the Revolution is confined to no such locality—it embraces every state and millions of free people—

—Can you subjugate them? If so, what would be the value of such a union—a union between the subjugating and the subjugated Power!!

—The proposition is too absurd to be considered—But subjugation is indefensible—you may decimate our cities—sweep our commerce from the sea—fill the South with mourning but subjugation is indefensible—Now for what purpose should this a war be waged?—would it be felt only in the South? What would be come of your N. Western grain fields or your N. Eastern

workshops or the market for their products or their ship
were destroyed? or even close for a year or two?

But I will not enlarge on the idea — He is aware that war is no remedy for the existing evils — They are great enough you know, let us not increase them.

What then should be done — Were I in your position I would attempt to secure Peaceful relations between the sections — As they else of value can now be done — I might or possibly would fail in the effort — but I would attempt to secure the confidence of having done my duty I would feel that posterity would applaud an effort which the present generation had condoned.

Let the President be instructed to recognize the fact that the certain states have renounced the ties of Union and that he treat with them as with the Federal authority — That Peaceful commerce be foreign nations — That Peaceful commerce be foreign nations — That commerce be allowed in the ports of both to pursue an equitable division of the property of debts of the Gov't —

Whosoever shall secure this result will not only prevent a fearful war — but will become a crown of laurel —

Excuse the liberty I have taken — I address you because your manliness, courage, experience command my respect & because I believe you are ready to do whatever may seem best for a suffering country

JOHN HARRISON
J. C. Harrison

New Orleans, Jan'y 31st 61

Condition of affairs in the South, deception is a fact. Right or wrong, the only question now is whether we shall have peace or war. I pray for the former.
Marietta, O., Jan 31, 1861.

Hon. S. A. Douglas
Dear Sir,

I have a son 18 years of age who is anxious to enter West Point Military Academy if possible, and we know nothing of the course to be pursued to procure his examination or admission. I wrote to Mr. Torr, with a letter for Mr. Ayes, but probably he did not receive my letter. Please let me know how to proceed. My son Philo had a taste for mathematics, and took the Ray Medal in Hopkins High School Class of 1858, and always the toledotary. At present he is in the Sophomore Class of Marietta College.

By answering you will oblige
B. D. Holcomb
B. D. Holcomb Esq.
Marietta, Ohio.
Jan 31, 1861

Was a son, desirous of entering the West Point Mil. Academy. Mailed to the course of ex-
amination, by the mode of admission.

A. H. Stowe
Regulations Feb. 14, 1861
Wenonah, Allemanee Co. Iowa, June 31, 1861.

Hon. S. A. Douglas:

Dear Sir,

I would be much obliged to you for a copy of your late speech in the Senate, and any other documents which would be of interest.

Yours most truly,

A. H. Houghton.

PS. We have no democratic member of Congress from this State to wish favors of.
Mr. S. A. Douglas

Washington City

Sir,

Will you do me the favor to send me a copy of your speech delivered on the 30th inst. and any other that may aid us in our advocacy of a reasonable compromise. My reason for troubling you, is that we can get nothing from our own delegation but Republican or dissension speeches.

Yours truly,

Wm. H. Jenkins
M. W. Jenkins Esq.
Washington, Iowa
Feb 23. 1861
Copy of late letter.
Ravensville, Latiin Co., Ohio Jan 29, 1861
Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

I wish you to send me a copy of M.S. Cases of 1860! to the above address, yours from a true friend.
Our M.S. is H.G. Blake who does not like my politics.

Yours Respectfully,
Augustus Miller
Augustus Miller
Rawsonville, Loraine Co.
Ohio, Jan' 31 - 1861

Copy of census form.
-undum.
Doran, P.C. Mitchell to Said

January 31st, 1861

To S. A. Douglas
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

These are some.

Eighty-five Douglas — I Eleven Breckinridge
Democrats in this County; and I do not think
documentary evidence of their arguments are not
by them. While Anti-red-republican documents flung
about the Country we are besieged — a great many
located on the fence! Treating to the popular wish,
Universal Niggerdom. Please abstract from
your business cares, a few moments to mail
directories (for distribution) a number of speeches &c
that will do to “lie to” acquiesce and believe every
of not political. (Other than in favor of “Equality of the State.”
I've always personally a friend to all colors.

N.W. Mess. P.M.
Doran, Iowa.
W. W. Market
Doran, Mitchell Co. Iowa
Jan 31, 1861

Copies of diff. speeches
for circulation.
Cincinnati, 11th July 1861

To Hon. J.A. Douglas

Debt enclosed. Here is a copy of a memorial, the original of which was some two weeks since sent to the Hon. Lyman Trumbull to be presented to the Senate. It was sent to him because the arguments, and arguments were chiefly Republicans, the idea was not entertained that he would object to presenting it. Soon after this memorial was drawn up another was started as an offset, looking different ground. This latter memorial was intended to follow the one of which the enclosed is a copy. I did so as far as the hands of the Secretary, but some of the arguments were somewhat simplified.
to learn from the step of his decisiveness of action, that he means to have the Senate, while the apparently late bill has been passed. It seems to me to inform you that the Republicans in this Senate have chosen to set this bill of the State than the law. 

He does not desire to represent only those who may belong to his particular class, he will have to be allowed to be.

The signal of this man having been obtained in one hour of time, it was presented to a prominent Republican who is not an immediate candidate for office, and he did not sign it, pattern was made to get numbers but only pattern was needed. It was presented to the law but Republican name were not as if when offered. The Republicans have representatives, so far as they know, I have the same consciousness that they have always done on this subject, I am prepared for the same. I will not disappoint at the polls. We support this to be the main question of issue now, if it is submitted to the people, nothing else with it, we will carry it over Chicago. But there are some features with Mr. Cutten's (or believe you) than which would defeat all the rest. Though guaranteeing the shelter of his will be considered an offense, none with one right, on prejudices if you please to consider them. But it is, I may grant this issue. If country have not, it will not content us.
the writer of opinion, be prepared to do. When we cross 36° 30' going south, we will accept all institutions, customs, and prejudices we find there, they must do the same on coming north. I think you need have no hesitation in taking the views here expressed as those substantially of a large number of the Republican party here. I see nothing Congress cannot agree upon as settlement of this question will be submitted to the country. Resign Yours.

H. Dear

all Richards

[Handwritten note on the side of the page]
Portland Jan 31st 1861

Dr Sir,

The enclosed letter I forward to you as indicates to Mr Mann, who had conceived the idea that possibly, among the changes going on in Washington, he could obtain a temporary situation as clerk in one of the Departments.

Of Mr Mann's qualifications I can fully confirm all that Mr Hamlin expresses, and I would add, that as the Democtacy of Maine now have no representative at Washington, it might, I undoubtedly would be to our political advantage, if we had some friend residing there, even for a few months, who could keep me advised of the movements of our friends, during the present agitation & changes.

Mr Mann first contemplated going to Washington, but considering his mission rather an experiment, has been fit to make me the channel of communication to you, presuming that you could without much inconvenience determine whether...
in your opinion such change in
and taking place as would with
your recommendation to some of
the heads of the departments, to
have a situation such as he desires
and is capable of filling.

Not having any friend at Court
from Maine, it may apologize for
writing you and asking you
and I also advice in this matter,

Respectfully,

S. H. Gouverneur

N. S. A. Douglas
Hon. S. A. Supreme
Portland, Me.
Jan 4th 1861.

Inquiring opinions
for Hon. J. H. Mann
of husband. I
enclosing letter.

A. T. Welch 1861.
Dear Sir,

I am writing to request your kind offices in aiding me in obtaining a position of importance, such as I have been doing too much to renounce, and so from you directed to Judge Smith.

I am now occupying the position you now occupy as Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, and your strong adherence to the principles advocated by the Judge, as was evident by your unflinching efforts in the Chautauqua and Baltimore Conventions to secure his nomination for the Presidency, would tend to warrant me in forwarding the matter a hint, as I doubt he can command a position as he might be competent of filling, to which competence I had rather you would attend than me.

The General is no doubt imbued with his patriotic efforts to save our country from ruin and destruction. (God speed him in his work) but if he should be led simply to give his endorsement to the recent and pass it into the hands of time of the "Head of the Department," I think it would have its effect.

I would like some respectable position with a respectable salary in some one of the Department's or elsewhere, even if it is but temporary.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
to return. I have just received a letter from Mr. James, who has joined a company of emigrants bound for Oregon. He says he is very anxious to go on, and that he has been working hard to save enough money for the journey. He is planning to sail in the fall, and hopes to arrive in Oregon by the end of the winter. He says he is very excited about the adventure and is looking forward to the opportunity to start a new life.

I trust that you will be able to assist him in his plans. He is a hard worker and I am confident that he will be able to make a good living in Oregon. He is a member of the same family that sponsored me in my journey to this country.

Sincerely,

James James

Captain, Jan. 20th, 1884.
March 1st, 1861

How & A Douglas:

Dear Sir:

Having been a firm and steadfast supporter of the Douglas & Johnson platform in the last campaigns, and having labored to the extent of my ability for the success of that ticket, I feel that I may be permitted to solicit a small favor of you. I have learned that your late speech on the unhappy condition of our country, has been published in pamphlet forms after having been revised by yourself. I would like to obtain a copy of it, to preserve for reference in the future. If you would have the kindness to forward me a copy of it, I would esteem it a particular favor and in return I would be happy to again have an opportunity to serve you.
In the capacity of a true Democratic voter of the old Kentucky State,
I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully Yours,
John Taylor
agn Howard & Co.
Wm. Cheek

Pa
John Taylor
March Chuck, P.A.
Jan 21 1861

Copy of late speech.
Dear Sir,

As I am making a collections of speeches I would be very much obliged to you if you would I send me a copy of different speeches you have in your power.

And Oblige

To

Hon. S. A. Douglass
United States Senate

Dover, Del. Jan 31st, 01

[Handwritten date: 1/306]
I. L. Yell
Dover, Delaware
January 31, 1861

Copies of Judge D's Speeches.
Balls Jan 31st 1861

Respected Sir,

I see by letter from Washington this morning that the propositions or ones similar to those embraced in my note of the 12th have been mooted over in Washington circles and I hope to God that this doctrine of popular sovereignty or the capability of man for self-government may become part and parcel of our Constitution. The salvation of our Country depends upon it, any other plan of Compromise would but postpone our troubles.

These propositions will I think greatly relieve forever and to meet the excitement consequent upon the capitulation of the slavery question in the States and Congress and to
prevent it in the Territories. I desire to submit to your careful consideration the following proposition to be placed between those two:

That the act or acts of the Territorial Legislatures establishing or prohibiting slavery shall not be repealed or amended within four years after the enactment of the same provided such Territory shall not be admitted into the Union as a State prior thereto.

There might also be embraced a proposition to prohibit Congress from legislating upon the interstate slave trade but I doubt whether it is necessary for western Congress prohibits it or not it will nevertheless be carried on. These propositions being in conformity with our present Constitution Laws and Decisions.

of the Supreme Court of the same time requires no concession what could not be honorably made underhanded from any party and will forever put an end to this interminable slavery question.

An Early reply will oblige your humble friend

[Name]

[Address]

Washington
Andrew C. Helms
Balt. – Jan'ry 31, 1863

Suggestions and proposals
an additional plan
of adjustment.

Respectfully,

[Signature]