Burlington Oct 30, 1860

My dear Sir,

Your letter of the 26th reaches me in the midst of much domestic anxiety caused by the severe illness of my wife and child. I have, in consequence, been obliged to abandon all my political engagements for the present week much to my regret.

In regard to the subject of your letter, I can only say, that out of this state I do not know of any one who will be prominently used for a Cabinet appointment, but Mr. Ashmun and I hope in justice to New England, that such an appointment will not be made. You know an abundance of reasons why.

I am a strong political and personal friend of Mr. Marsh, perhaps prejudiced. But there is no man who has a more hearty and cordial sympathy with the Republican Movement, than he, and I am sure our candidate has no warmer personal friend. You know that...
Mr. Marsh never received an office which he did not deserve, and it would be the same with a cabinet appointment.

If the appointment comes to New England, Mr. Marsh should have it. May he obtain it.

He will have no competitor from Vermont, he as he always has been popular with the party here, especially the men of your way of thinking.

If the administration is to fall into the hands of those ultranists, who misrepresent the Republican principles of New England like Atwater, Massachusetts men whom I cared for, we wish to have no part about it. But if as we believe the administration of Mr. Lincoln is to be firm and true on all slavery questions, but at the same time temperate and regardful of the interests of the whole Union as this and all other questions, then we should be highly grateful to act so far as we may in making Mr. Marsh one of his Counsellors. I am delighted to hear from you, and extend unto you...