Springfield, Ill., June 20, 1859

Dear S. P. Chase,

Yours of the 13th Instant receiv'd. You say you would be glad to hear my views—although I think Congress has no constitutional authority to enact a Fugitive Slave Law, I have never elaborated an opinion upon this subject. My views have been, and is, simply this: The U. S. Constitution says the fugitive slave "shall be delivered up," but it does not expressly say who shall deliver him up. Whatever the Constitution says "shall be done" must have another signifying the phrase to it; the government established by that Constitution, i.e. an instrument vested with the powers of doing; and Congress, by the Constitution, expressly empower to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution all powers vested by the Constitution in the Gov-
لا يمكنني قراءة النص العربي على هذه الصورة.
moment of the United States. This would be
my view, on a simple reading of the Constitu-
tion; and it is greatly strengthened by the
historical fact that the Constitution was
adopted, in great part, in order to get a
government which could execute its own be-
fits, in contradiction to that under the
Articles of Confederation, which depended,
in many respects, upon the State, for its
execution; and the other fact that
one of the earliest Congresses, under the
constitution, ever enacted a Fugitive Slave
law.

But I shall not write you on this sub-
ject, with any view of discussing the
constitutional question. My only object was
to impress you with what I believe to be
that the introduction of a provision
for repeal of the Fugitive Slave law, into
the next Republican National convention,
will explore this Convention and the party.

Yours truly yours,
F. Lincoln.