

Springfield, Ill. June 20. 1859

Hon. S. P. Chase

My dear Sir

Your of the 13th Inst is received. You say you would be glad to have my views. Although I think Congress has Constitutional authority to enact a Fugitive Slave law, I have never elaborated an opinion upon the subject. My view has 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" and has omitted saying who shall do it, the government established by that Constitution, ex vi termini, is vested with the power of doing; and Congress is, by the Constitution, expressly empowered to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution all powers vested by the Constitution in the gov-

Springfield, June 20 1827

Dear Sir

I have the honor

to receive your letter of the 15th inst. in relation to the purchase of a copy of the Constitution of the State of Massachusetts. I have the honor to inform you that a copy of the Constitution of the State of Massachusetts is now on hand at the office of the Secretary of the State, and will be forwarded to you as soon as it is convenient to do so. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. C. Carter

enormity of the United States. This would be
my view, on a simple reading of the Consti-
tution; 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-
hests, in contradistinction to that under the
Articles of Confederation, which depended,
in many respects, upon the States, for its
execution; and the other fact that
one of the earliest Congresses, under the
constitution, did enact a fugitive Slave
law—

But I did 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 is true,
that the introduction of a proposition
for repeal of the Fugitive Slave law, into
the next Republican National convention,
will explode the convention and the party.
Having turned your attention to the point, I wish
to do no more. Yours very truly
A. Lincoln.

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