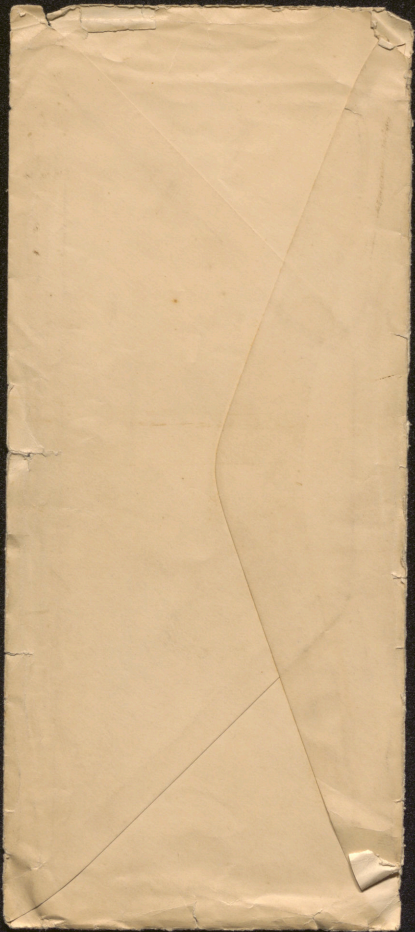


Letters of  
Interest.

Wm M Kinley  
Powell Clayton  
etc.



WILLIAM MCKINLEY,  
CANTON, OHIO.

Aug. 19th, 1896,

Received ..... 9/3 ..... 189.. 6.

Answered.....189..

Col. Robt. M. Douglass,

Greensboro, N. C.,

My Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of yours of  
the 11th inst., with enclosures; and have read  
the communications, with very great interest.

I am quite willing to leave to my good  
friends in North Carolina, the settlement of  
the peculiar problems of party policy existing  
in your State.

With assurance of highest regard, believe  
me,

Very truly yours,

Wm McKinley

Wm McKimley

Aug. 19, 1896.



WILLIAM McKINLEY,  
CANTON, OHIO.

April 7th.1896.

Robert M. Douglas, Esqr.

Attorney at Law.

Greensboro, N. C.

My Dear Sir :-

I have yours of the  
4th. inst. For your courtesy and good  
wishes, I am very much obliged.

Yours very truly,

Wm McKinley

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

100-100-100

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900

WILLIAM McKINLEY,  
CANTON, OHIO.

December 3, 1896.

Received... 12/5 1896.  
Answered... 12/5 1896.

Col. Robt. M. Douglas,  
Greensboro, N.C.

My dear Sir:

I am directed by Major McKin-  
ley to thank you for your courtesy in  
sending him a copy of your pamphlet entit-  
led "Trade Combinations and Strikes".

Yours very truly,

*J. Boyle*

(Private secretary)





Greensboro, N. C., January 6, 1898.

To the President

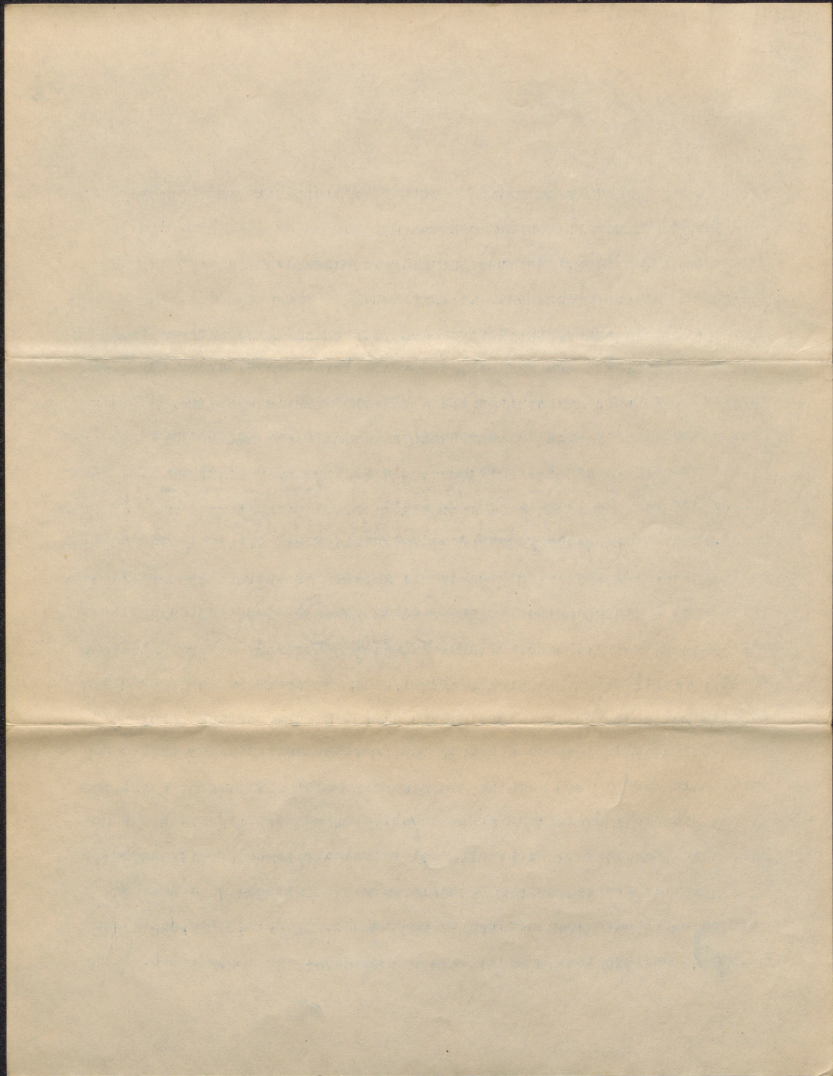
of the United States.

Sir:-

I deeply regret to say that the health of my Father-in-law, Judge Robert P. Dick, who has been the United States District Judge for this district for more than twenty-five years, and who is now over seventy-four years of age, is such that he will be compelled to retire in a very short time. In fact his health is so much worse that he will probably never be able to hold another Court, as he frankly stated to me today. Senator Pritchard has been anxious for him not to resign until next Winter, and the Judge was equally anxious to comply with his wishes, which were in accord with the practically unanimous expression of the Bar and his fellow Judges; but we cannot ignore the condition of his health, or risk its further impairment. In addition to our personal relationship, he was my Father's devoted friend, and the only delegate from North Carolina who did not secede from the National Democratic Convention in 1860.

His early retirement will necessitate the selection of his successor, which may lead to some political complications and embarrassments.

I will frankly say that, while very much opposed to Judge Dick's retirement, I have long desired to be his successor, and thought I had reason to believe that I would have but little if any opposition.





Page 2.

Although repeatedly assured of Senator Pritchard's earnest support. I was led to believe about two months ago that he desired the position for himself. To prevent any possible misunderstanding with one who had always been my warm and valued friend, I wrote to him on the eighth day of last November, the letter a copy of which I herewith enclose. Of course this letter was entirely personal; but I am so anxious that you should understand my position that I think it better you should see the letter itself. A man of your habitual candor and good faith will appreciate the same qualities in others, even if you may not agree with their views. In reply thereto I received a short letter from Senator Pritchard dated November 16, 1897, in which he said that after he reached Washington and had sufficient time to think over the matter, he would write me fully. I have heard nothing further directly from him, although the newspapers have had much to say as to his intentions. I am satisfied that he desires the Judgeship, and will apply for it unless restrained by the opposition to his leaving the Senate at the present time.

I deem it proper to say to you frankly that if under all the circumstances you are willing to appoint Senator Pritchard, I will not only release him from his personal pledge to me, but will withdraw in his favor, so as to relieve him from all embarrassment. There are no personal or political reasons whatever which in my judgment should induce me to withdraw in favor of anyone else, ~~while~~ fully recognizing your perfect right to appoint anyone you please, if Senator Pritchard

1318-1430



Page 3.

is not a candidate, I shall take the liberty of having my name presented to you for the appointment, and will confidently expect Senator Pritchard's hearty support. In fact the matter has gone so far, both in general discussion and in the newspapers, as to leave open to me no other course. It has been openly asserted in some papers, including the Washington Post, that my chances for the appointment would depend upon my decision in the case recently decided in our Court, and now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, involving the right of the Governor to suspend the Railroad Commissioners. I delivered the opinion of the Court, utterly regardless of its possible effect upon my personal aspirations; nor did I suppose for a moment that the honest and fearless discharge of my duty would lower me in your estimation in the slightest degree, or that you would permit your patronage to be used to interfere with the independence of the State Judiciary. Pardon me for reminding you that I took the same course in the Campaign of 1896, when I absolutely refused to advocate free silver or to consent to taking down the McKinley electors, although told in plain terms that otherwise I would lose the Populist endorsement, and endanger my election to the Supreme Court. Thinking the information might be of some use to you at that time, I sent you copies of the correspondence. In consequence of my action, the Populist Convention refused to endorse me, and yet I was elected by a clear majority of thirty two thousand over Judge Avery, my highest opponent.

You can readily see that having been admittedly an aspirant for

vm 10

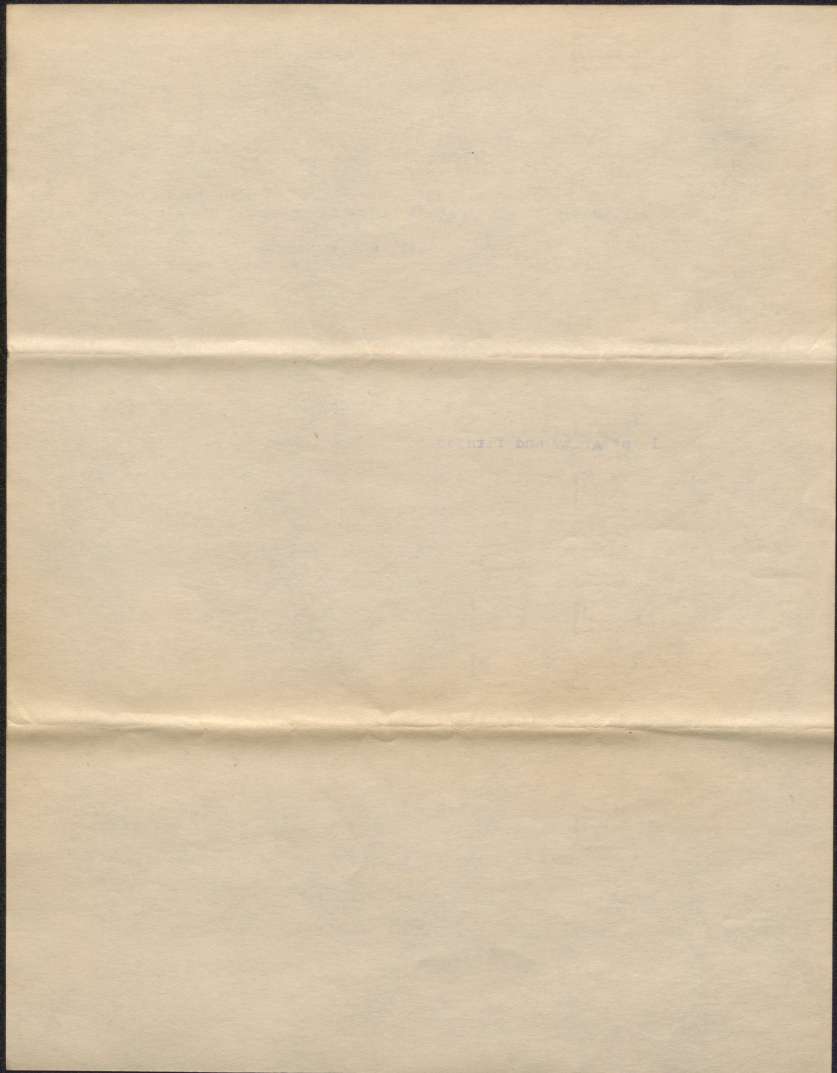


Page 4.

the District Judgeship, I could not now withdraw after such threats except in favor of a personal supporter and almost life-long friend like Mr. Pritchard. It is perhaps proper to say that about two weeks ago, Col. A. B. Andrews, First Vice President of the Southern Railway Co., in a chance interview on the street, and without any solicitation from me positively assured me that neither the Company nor its friends would antagonize me, whatever might be my decision, as they had confidence in my Judicial integrity and fitness for the position. I wish also to state that I am now entirely satisfied that I did Col. Andrews an injustice in supposing that he had anything to do with the anti-Catholic circulars secretly issued and circulated against me in the last Campaign.

If Senator Pritchard cannot accept the District Judgeship, I will take the liberty of presenting to you some testimonials of my personal character and fitness. I presume that my Republicanism will hardly be questioned after my nomination by acclamation for my present position at the last Republican State Convention. Inheriting the Union sentiments of my Father, and casting my first vote as Private Secretary to Genl. Grant, I could not well be anything else.

Permit me to say in conclusion that in leaving this matter entirely with you, where it alone belongs, I shall be entirely satisfied with your action, feeling assured that whatever it may be, you will at least give me credit for perfect candor and sincerity.

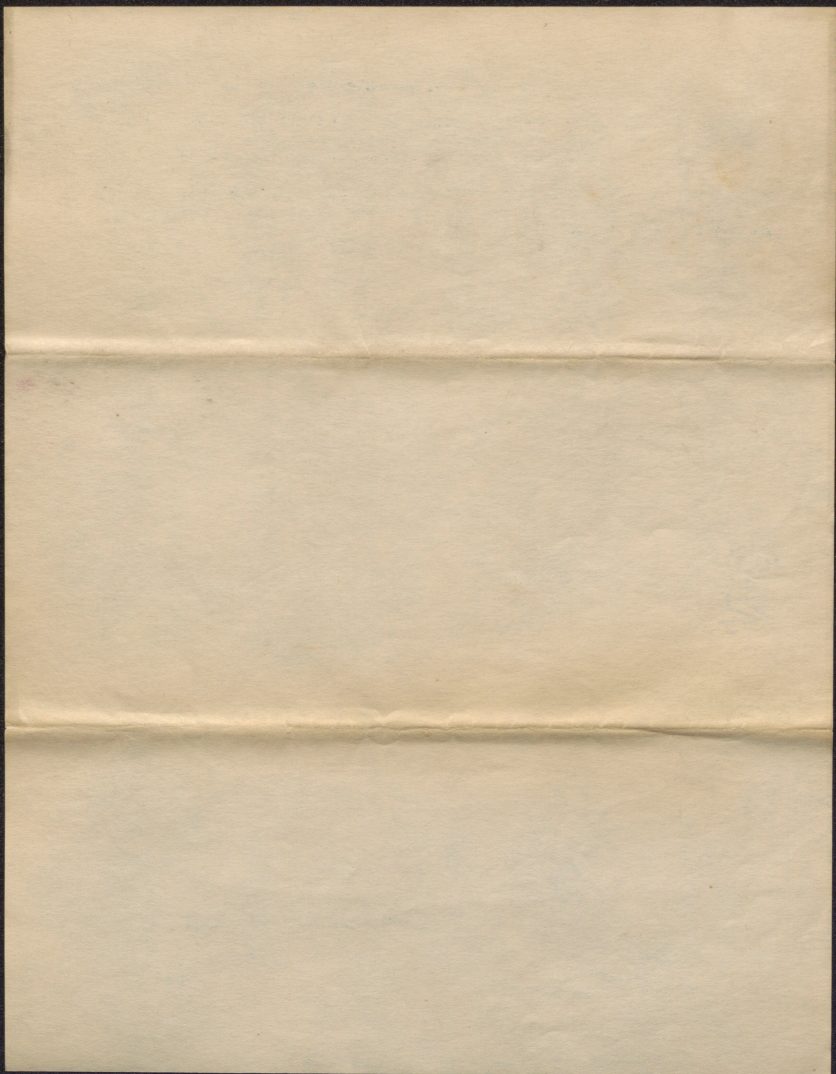




Page 5.

With sentiments of the highest personal esteem, I remain,

Very Respectfully,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 29, 1908.

My dear Judge:

I thank you for your letter of the 26th instant. I have a great admiration for your career, but I do not want to appoint a man fifty-nine years old if it can be avoided. Do you reside in the district in which the vacancy has occurred? If you happen to be in Washington soon I should like to see you.

I return Judge Pritchard's letter herewith.

Sincerely yours,

*Theodore Roosevelt*

Hon. Robert M. Douglas,  
Greensboro, N. C.

Enclosure.



