

44
Hon. S. A. Douglass

Bowie Md. Dec 2^d 1844

Dear Sir. In the hope that you may be instrumental in getting a Postmaster appointed in Bowie that will be acceptable to the Democratic party and the Citizens Generally, I feel disposed to contribute my humble means to give you some correct information respecting the present incumbent, and I don't know as I can do it better than to copy the following letter which I wrote in September last to the Postmaster General. But for reasons that I can hardly tell myself I did not send it. Perhaps it was for fear of making an enemy of Mr. Fellsenden. Not that I have any personal dislike, I only dislike him politically. Report now says that he is going to give fight for the office under Mr. Polk that he is going on to Washington at the Inauguration and expects to secure Friends enough in Washington to secure him the office in spite of the wishes of the party at home. You for aught I know may be one of his favourite friends. Be that as it may, it will do you no harm to know him as he is. Now for the letter mentioned above.

"Bowie September 11th 1844

Hon. C. A. Washburn

Dear Sir Presuming that you feel a lively interest in all that appertains to the interest of the Postoffice department and also with all those who are engaged with you in the administration of its duties I have thought proper to suggest to you the propriety of making a change of Postmaster in our place, for reasons that I will mention. To say nothing of the present incumbent's vacillating policy in politics (which was notorious at that time) I think it would be sufficient reason for a change when I inform you that Mr. Fellsenden is frequently to be seen to attend to any business. Much more so important business as becomes the duty of a Postmaster at this place. The circumstances and time under which he was appointed together with the present state of the political parties. I may safely say is the reason why the

Citizens of this place don't petition almost to a man
for his removal. For I may safely say that that is the
reason why he is supposed to remain in so unimpaired
But that is no reason as I can conceive to justify
the head of the Department to continue to support
-enable a man to the community in office. When they
know him as he is. In addition to his habitual
drunkenness I would say that his ostensible business
aside from the Post Office is to keep (as we call it here) a barber
shop and the unconscionable rates that he takes and
boasts of. Is truly disgusting to hear.
For the correctness of what is here written I would refer
you to any Citizen in Roria. And I much mistake
you Sir. If you continue such a man in office -
until the 4th of March next!! Yours &c

Such my Dear Sir are some of the characteristics of
our present Postmaster and I hope you will consider
them and bear them in mind. We had a glorious soli-
-fication the 28th. burnt 12 Regs. Under Rebel it in Stone.
With my best respects to you and a strong
desire to see you in Mr Polk's Cabinet I subscribe
myself your admiring Friend,
Saml Dimon

P.S. I really wish you would answer this at
your earliest leisure. That I may know that
you have received it. S.D.

Saml. Lincoln
Proia Ill.



Hon Stephen A. Douglass No. 6
Washington
D.C.

PAID



New S. A. Douglass

Springfield Dec. 2. 1844

My Dear Sir.

Richardson was nominated to day over Parish for Speaker. The Election of the officers & Senator will as usual take place after the organization of the two Houses.

No Northern man will be elected; and I have great confidence in the Election of Simple at the First Ballot unless your name is put forward - Your friends are, it seems to me, anxious about your claims for the Senate. Your Election now would necessarily, in the leading friends of Simple, to assume at once a hostile attitude towards you and endanger your claims which no man now has the temerity to question for the Long Leg - You know quite that for the Short Leg I am for Simple first next and always. For the Succession you are my choice and the choice of all my friends.

The only danger to Simple is the combination of Young's and Taylor's friends; but I am inclined to the opinion that Young cannot draw off Simple's Northern friends. Now, judge in regard to myself I have only to say that there is no honorable opposition to me - I stand by John Tyler as long as he desires my support and while he withholds I support at all ways support my friends, Polk & I with the same devotion to principle, that I

actuates ^{me} in my personal and political relations. I would not, if I could, be a ~~man~~ in any hire, and, surely, you will not think me vain in saying, that I can serve you when you require service, as effectively at least as I can any other man in your district - or of your district - Two years hence your district will be the State - my district is the State. I have written frankly - Will you say whether you will stand by me or not, in the event that an effort should be made to supplant me? You, I know, cannot be affected by the fear of offending "old or claims" than mine. You stood your ground, when the course you adopted, to say the least of it, a bold and manly one. I have every reason to believe that Breese, Temple & McQuinn are friends -

I am most truly yr friend
& servant

Thos. McKee



FREE

Hon. S. A. Douglass
Washington
D.C.



Wm. M. McKee
Springfield
Mass.

Springfield Dec 3^d 1844

Friend Douglass

I hasten to inform you that our esteemed friend W. A. Richardson has been this day elected speaker over Parrish by a vote of 53 to 21 in Caucus & 73 to 36 over Sogale in the House. The Hon Governor made some show for battle & weeks previous to this, requiring of me that he must have some pledge from Dick or his friends that he would not pack committees on him. I told him he had better not ask it of Richardson for he was sure not to get it, he saw there was no chance to defeat him & so in words he concluded to pass.

I tell you as a friend there will be the very devil kicked up here when the election comes on for U.S. Senator. Taylor is figuring largely, a part of the North are out loud and long against him & one of Sam's friends told me to day that they were determined if Taylor was found to be strong to turn over an you & say to your old friends if they did not go for you now they would not go for you & yeters hence. You

may be prepared to hear of almost
any result, but most probably that
S. A. D. is elected. for the reason that
samples friends are determined
Taylor shall not be elected, vice-
versa. I will keep you advised of
all changes in this game from
time to time.

Now I may be apologizing to much to my
self when I speak to you in the manner
of language I do, but I tell you old
H. of I feel like it, and that I know
will be a sufficient apology for the style
spelling & general appearance of this letter.
I am in a hurry to as we go into the
pen immediately for minor officers of the
House.

By the by our friend Diller is very an-
xious for the appointment of P. Master here.
there is several wanting it here, but I hope
to God he will get it.

P. D. Wood. most likely will bring the
note of this state to Washington, and I also
am applicant for Marshal together with many
others. but I think I will have stronger recom-
mendations than any other man, and will
be there by the 4th of March if my presence

will do any good. please write me on
the reception of this touching on these points
freely as no one will see the answer or hear its
contents but Brother Richardson

I tell you such polite men you never
saw as fills this place at the present time

I must say before I close that Mrs Hy
is well & also the children, we have had the
mistakes to loose our only son Doug-
lass some five weeks since he was an-
ly 2 days old but he had not been long
in the land of the living before he was
named as above - Well the hour has
arrived for our meeting & consequent
I must close, recollect in this letter
there is neither mark nor stops and if
you can not read it I will do better
next time.

I am sir with great respect
your sincere friend
Iraa Hy

Morgan



FT. M.

Hon Stephen A. Douglass
Member Congress
Washington
D. C.



From E. Lyell
Frankford



Monday evening
5 Dec 1844

My Dear Sir,

as I mentioned last evening Richardson has been elected Speaker, Clond Clk of House & W Donald of Louisiana asst Clk. - Covill beat Moore for Secy of Senate - no asst yet appointed Noah Johnston enrolling & engrossing Clk for Senate - and Wm Murphy Sergeant at Arms. Dick got 52 votes in Caucus and Parish only 21 - this astonished the gubernatorial folks very much.

Yours ED

Free

FREE

Honble S. A. Douglas M.C.
Washington City
Dist of Columbia

C. S. K.
Springfield
Mass



(Confidential)

Springfield Dec 2 1844

Friend Douglass

You are aware that some time since I received the appointment of Receiver at Quincy. I had intended I enter upon the duties of the office & had filled my Bond to amount of \$15,000 when I was called out of town for several days & during my absence, Leach & one or two others composing a counterfactual clique in Quincy circulated a petition for his re-appointment, & by telling democrats that I had declined the office (long before I had thought of accepting it) obtained many signatures to it. Holmes then returned from Springfield when he said he had seen & conversed fully with you & that you was wholly opposed to my appointment & that you pledged yourself to have me removed on the 1st of March. Not supposing that he had lied about it, & not being desirous to lose the office for so short a time, I declined it. But I have since found out, that Holmes fabricated the whole story, & that you probably never told him any such thing, & that his sole object in directly injuring me & indirectly injuring you was to get Leach re-appointed, & to get Leach's influence to get him the post office. After having labored for a year for the party at a loss & sacrifice to myself of some \$200 (for which I am called) I think, & the greater portion of the democrats of Albany think that I have been shamefully

Treated, I know the delicacy of your
situation, & that you do not wish to
do any thing to endanger your election
to the Senate 2 years hence. I would
therefore suggest that you take no
part on either side in any applications
for the Dury Office. Dr. Paul Rogers
has been nominated for the post office
by a sort of midnight caucus, &
I suppose it will be sent to you
as the proceedings of a large demo-
cratic meeting when I pledge you
my word that not more than
one hundredth part of the Democrats
of Dury knew that such a meeting
was to be held & none but a
few friends of Rogers were invited
to attend it. - I will write again
soon -

The Legislature has just organized
& elected Dick Richardson Speaker -
the few of your indiscreet friends, as
(among whom is Richardson) are trying
to elect you to the Senate in place
of Sumner. I am doing all I can to
prevent it, as I know you do not
wish it nor as much as you will be
sore if it after Sumner's term expires -
Richardson's particular anxiety to get
you elected now, is so that he can
fill your present place but I am in
hopes he will desert your strongest
friends are trying to elect him off
your friends

write me to Dury -

E. A. Thompson

E. A. Thompson
Springfield
Ms



FREE

Hon. S. A. Douglass
M. C.

Washington
D. C.

Springfield, Miss. Dec. 2nd, 1844.

Dear Sir,

Will you do me the favor to subscribe for the Daily Globe and have it sent to my address in this city for 3 months. I will settle the bill with you on sight.

We have just made our nominations for officers of the house of representatives. Col. Richardson and Mr. Parrish were candidates for speaker, and the former succeeded, 53 to 21. Mr. Glaid has received the nomination for clerk and McDonald (printer) assistant.

I find that Mr. Taylor is not unlikely to make a strong pull against Judge Temple. Many of the members of the Legislature think that Mr. T. stands a good chance to be elected to the Senate instead of the Judge.

Judge Thomas, Catron and Shields, from present indications, are likely to be elected to the judgeships of their respective circuits.

I shall be much pleased to hear from you occasionally or as often as your convenience will allow time to write.

Very respectfully

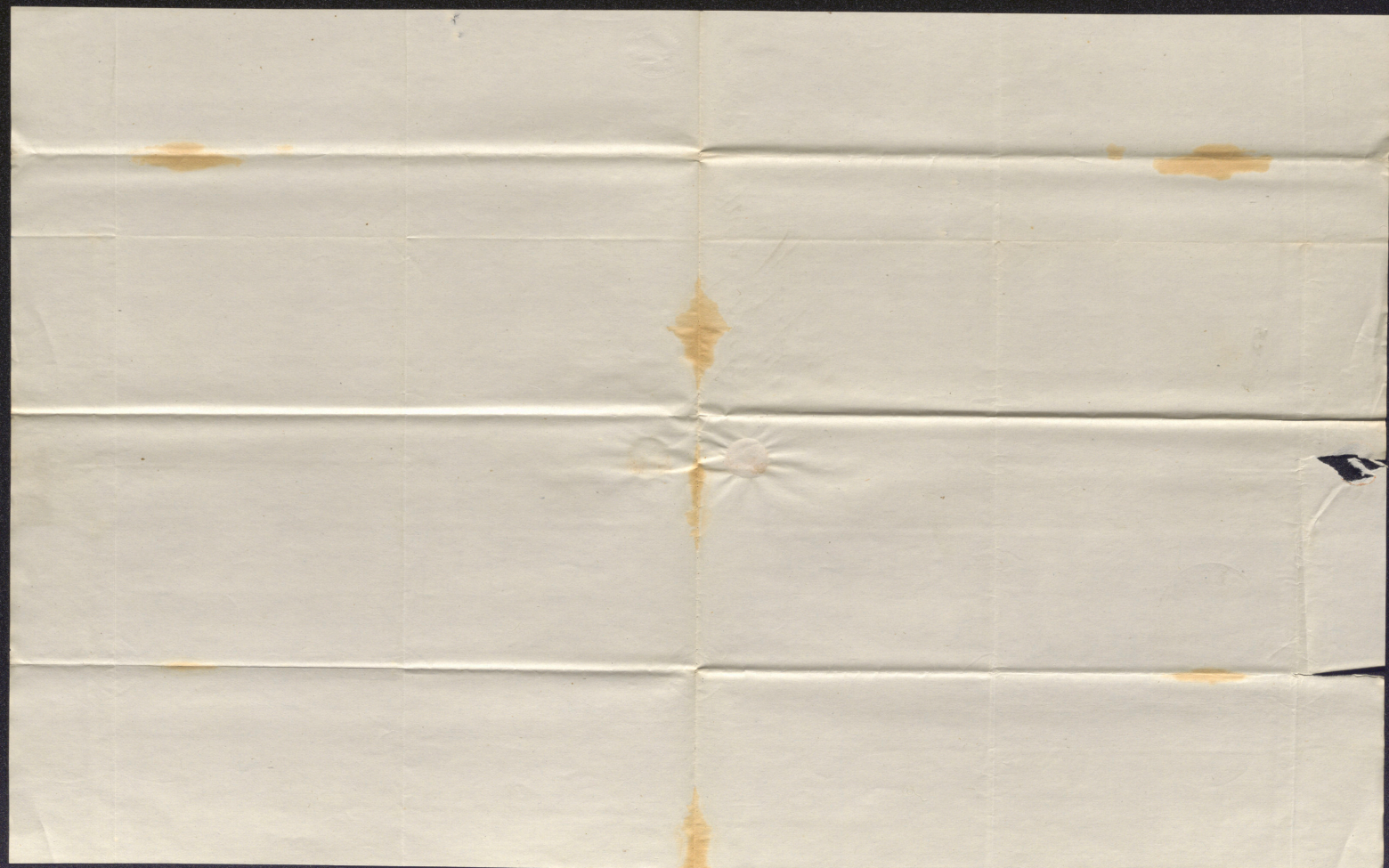
John F.ieber.



PAID

Hon. Stephen A. Douglass,
Washington
D.C.

Wm. Phillips
of New York



Peria Mo Dec 1. 1844

Dear Sir,
Since writing you before I have learned it
has been said here I went to Springfield to secure
influence for the Post-Office there - This is totally untrue
I am satisfied where I am & the community are
satisfied with the management of the Office now -
Now why should I be sacrificed? If you say
to applicants no change will be made, & as far as
my influence & money could be used in the late election
it has been so used -

Can I rely on you, if any thing is required
by men of influence here, I can obtain it - I
dislike this pursuing me for an Office I obtained
fairly & by Democrats too -

I shall anxiously wait an answer, & trust
you will aid me in this matter

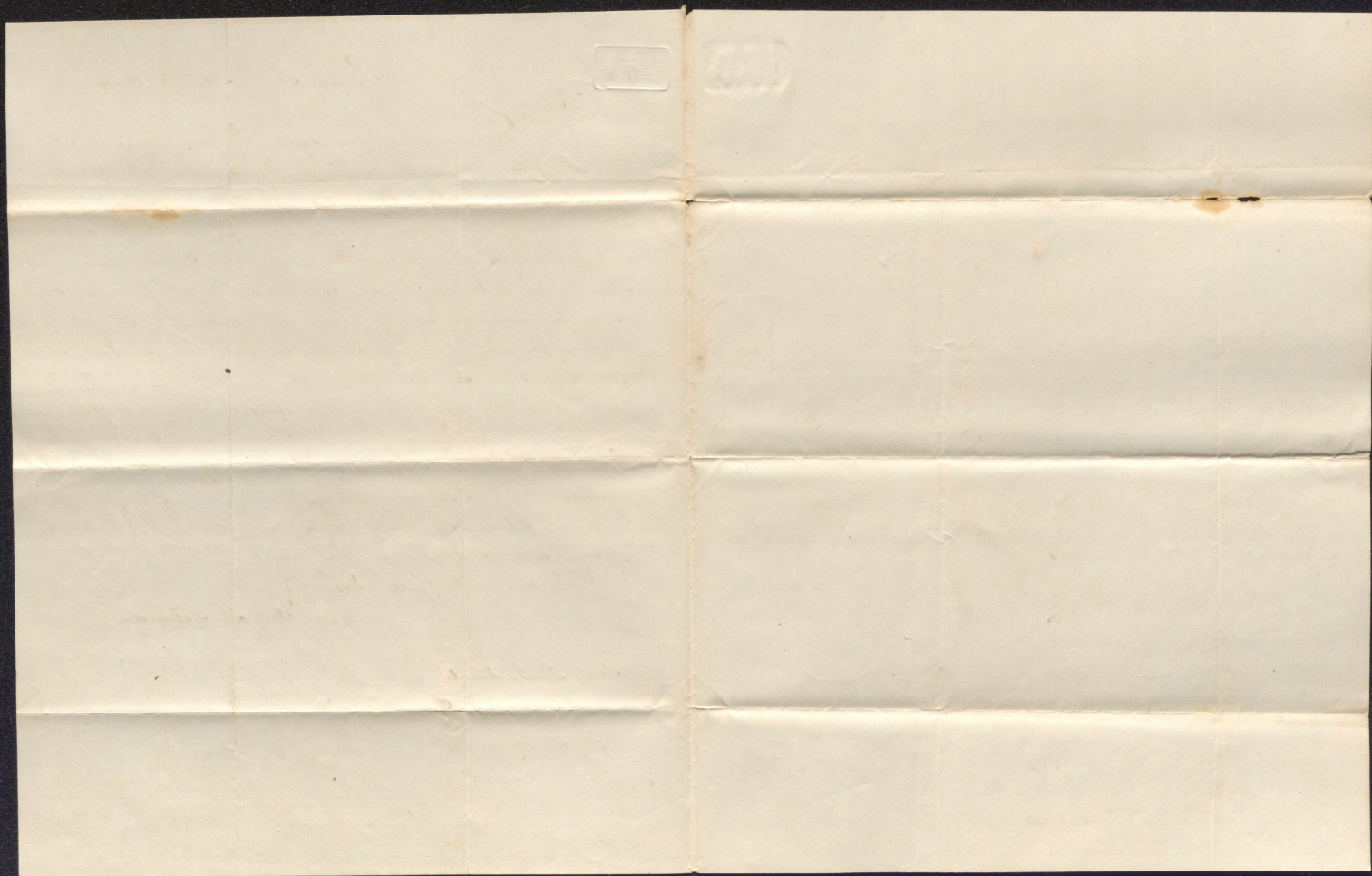
I am respectfully Yrs
Wm H. Fremont

Hon L. A. Douglas
m. c

Hon. L. A. Douglas
M. C.

Washington D.C.

Wm. L. Wells
Secy



Springfield Dec 6th 1844

Dear Sir

The Electoral College of this State met on yesterday and I thought to say the Electors all voted for James K. and not one for Beke. Mr Wood Carrison the returns. I presume you have heard of all the Proceedings of the Legislature before this will reach you - Simple. Dick Taylor and Mumfoll are candidates for U. S. Senate. "The race is not always to the Swift, K."

Peter Sweat of Peoria is a candidate for the office of Marshall of the State his recommendations will be forwarded in due time - Until the proper time arrives when the merits and recommendations of all the applicants can be duly canvassed and considered I hope that the Members from Illinois both Senators and representatives will keep themselves uncommitted upon this question.

~~My~~ Senate friends will esteem

At a Special favour If you will see the
Senators and other Representatives and enjoin
upon them the necessity and propriety of adopting
this course - provided it meets with your ap-
probation

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt.

A. C. Phelps



J

Hon. Stephen A. Douglass M.C.
Washington City
D.C.



N. W. Smith
Springfield
Mass

Providence 5 Dec. 1844.

Hon S. A. Douglass
Esq

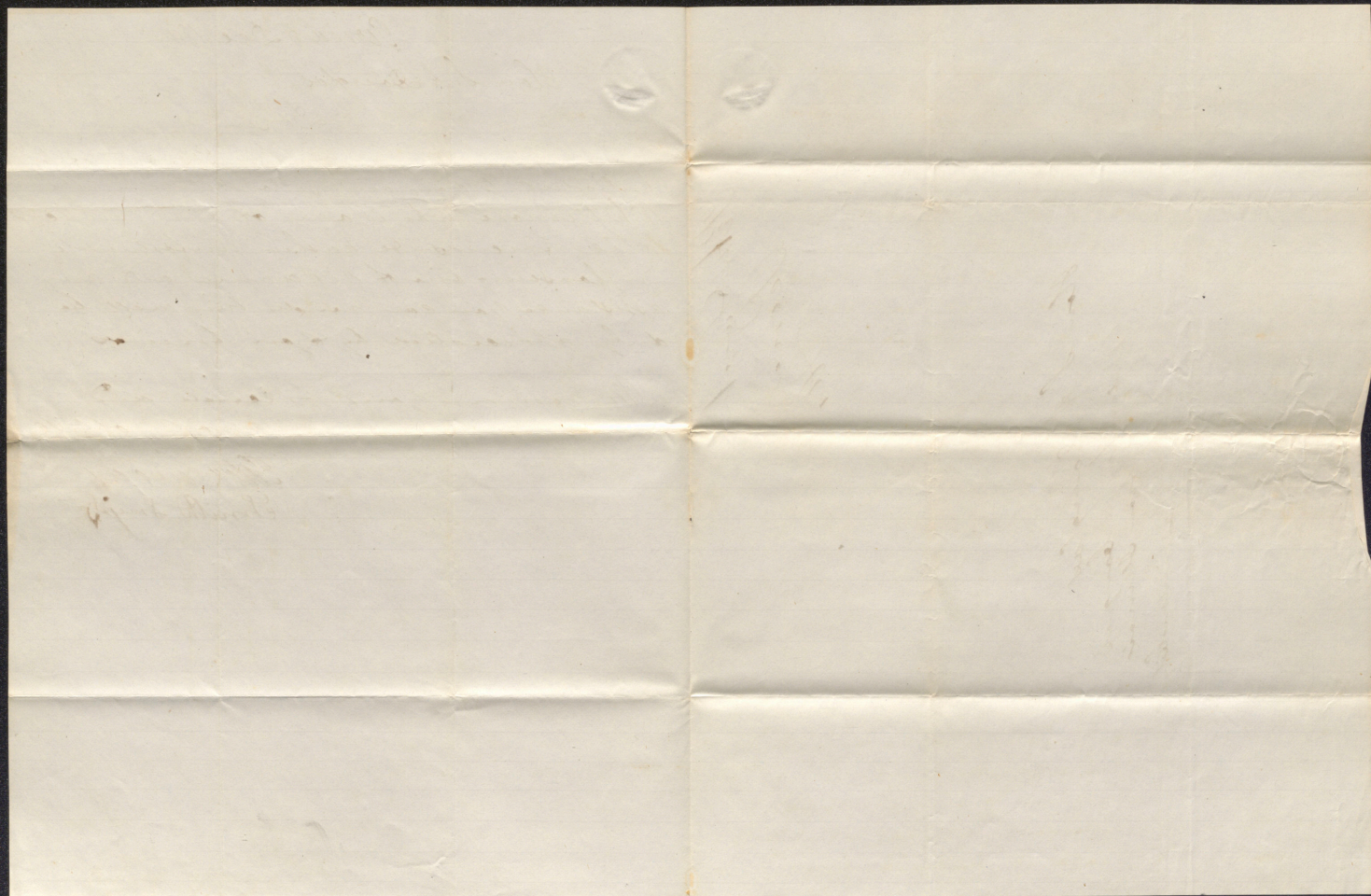
Permit us to
introduce to you our fellow citizen Mr
Whittemore who is one of our democ-
-atic friends - He has been unfortunate
in losing one of his arms and any
assistance you can render him will be
duly appreciated by your friends

We remain your friends and
most ob. se

Wm. L. Weeks
Smith Snijder

Peter Sweet
Peoria
Ill.

Hon S. A. Douglas
Member in Congress
from Illinois
Washington City



(Confidential)

Jacksonville Illinois Dec 6th 1844

Gen. S. A. Douglass
Esq

I revisited with one other person
a short time since, in a letter addressed to the
Gen. S. A. McClelland & yourself, in relation to the
Post office of this place & an applicant for the
same, now my object in writing this letter
is for the purpose of explanation, or in other
words, "confirming my position;" at the time that letter
was ~~sent~~ written I was not aware of any other
applicants for the office except A. C. Dickson &
J. J. Fetzner, and of the two I preferred Dickson,
and in the letter spoke of his capacity & abilities
to discharge the duties of the office, all of which I
do not wish to retract. But since that time, one
other applicant has appeared, and it has thereby
changed the face of things - I allude to M. W. Hapgood.
Who I conceive is equally well qualified as Dickson
and who I believe would give general satisfaction
in the discharge of the duties of the office, now as
regards Dickson & Hapgood, I would state that the
first has got a situation in the State of the Penitentiary
and I presume gets a fair living compensation,
and as regards the pecuniary circumstances of

both of them. I presume they are much alike,
both poor. Now if any favor is to be shown
according to the Merits of any individual, and
the services and sacrifices any individual
renders the good cause, then in that event
the claim of Capt Chappz seems to be
strongly presentable & well weighed in making
a selection for the place in question. Should
Capt Chappz get the appointment, I believe
it would give general satisfaction, at least
as much so, as any appointment of this
kind can give, you are aware let who be appointed
that may, that ^{there} are some that would not be
entirely satisfied, more particularly those that
may be applicants themselves & their particular
friends, in conclusion I would state that I
have received the writing of this little rescript
in order to set myself right in regard to Capt
Chappz, and should he get the appointment
of the office in this place, in case a removal
is made, it would be a source of the
infinite pleasure to me.

Most Respectfully Yrs

Thos A Holt

J. Keeler

Once

Hon. J. A. Douglass M.C.,
Washington City
D. C.

J. M. McKim
Jacksonville
Fla.

XX

Post Office Department,
Appointment Office,
December 6th 1851

Sir:

Benjamin Clifford, Postmaster at Quincy, Illinois, has resigned and recommends Mayor William G. Hood for appointment, as his successor.

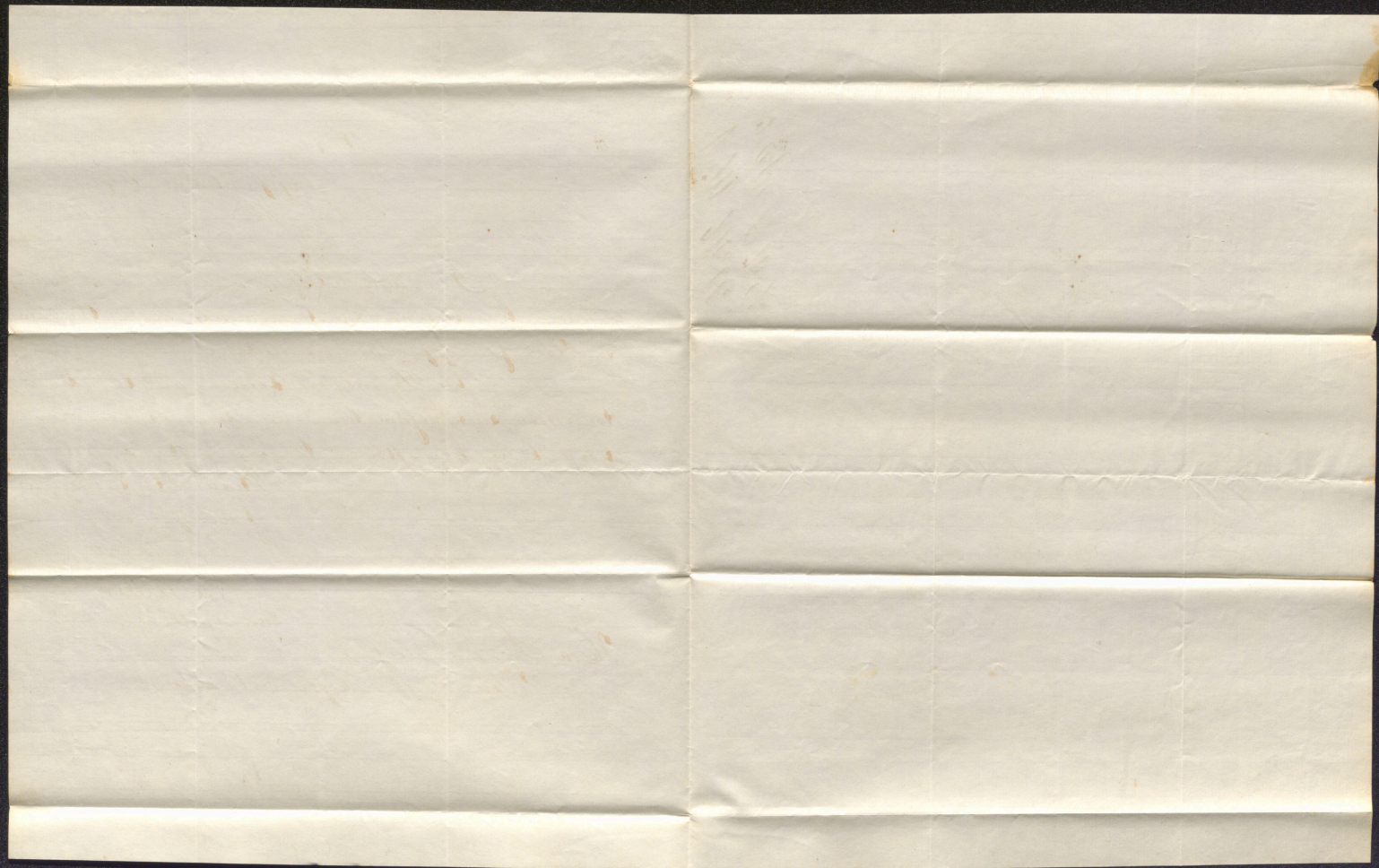
The Postmaster General will be pleased to receive such information and advice as you may have it in your power to give on the subject.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Yours O. P. S.

Wm. Miller
Asst. P. M. Genl.

Hon. S. A. Douglass
House of Representatives.

N M Miller
2^d apt P M Gnl



Burlington, Iowa,

Dec. 6, 1844.

Dear Judge—

I wrote to Judge Bowlin by the last mail informing him of my arrival here—the great glorification of the Democracy over the Polk & Dallas triumph, &c.—which I suppose he has shown you.

I also renewed the matter of the District Attorneyship of this Territory and suggested a plan for carrying it through with your assistance. I earnestly hope that this business may be agreeable to you and that you will take hold of it with a friendly hand—for I assure you it is to me almost a matter of life and death.

Beyond the reasons which I have already given you for making immediate application, and the plan which I have suggested for accomplishing it, I can think of nothing further that I can do.

If there will doubtless be many applicants for the place if it should be left until Mr. Polk's inauguration. This ^{few} would place my friend, Gen. Dodge, in an embarrassing position—that of making a choice from among mutual friends—a difficulty from which I am anxious to relieve him. An immediate appointment would put an end to the whole matter.

I shall leave the ballance to your judgment and friendship—depending entirely upon the efforts of yourself and Judge Bowlin—and willing to abide whatever you may deem best in the matter.

Truly your friend,
James M. Morgan.

Wm. L. A. Douglass.

I would be very glad to hear from you at your earliest opportunity.



FREE

Hon. S. A. Douglass,
House of Reps:
Washington City,
(D.C.)

James M. Thompson
Washington
D.C.

