Marshall Clark Co Ills-
Feby 14-1848-

Hon S. A. Douglas-

Dear Sir - I am aware, a Member of Congress, is "bored" to death with applications for office, but as I am not troublesome in that way, I hope for your favorable consideration of the claims of Charles Whittock of this place, for a situation in our army, either in the "ten Regiments," about to be raised (I trust) or in the "ten Regiments" of Cavalry, if there is a vacancy.

Mr Whittock is a gentleman, and needs no praise of mine, and if he could receive such an appointment, would be under much obligation.

As this is his first application for office, and as he is deserving, and volunteered twice, and the Company to which he belonged was rejected, and as I could name so other good reasons, if I thought you could spare time to read them I hope and pray, that your influence in the matter may be secured, as such appointment would place under lasting obligations

Your friend & Obt Servt-
Jno W Young

PS- Please write me what prospects, and the Prest message and

accompanying documents, would be thankfully rec^d —

Free

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

G. A. Fraser

[Relayed to S.A. Douglas to introduce ?]

[S.A. Douglas, V.1 papers]

North Carolina Feb 16 1848

Dear Sir

I see by the Washington papers that a bill was introduced for the benefit of the Widows and Orphans of the crew of the W I Brig Somers. My sister's case would hardly be included under that head, but should it be agreable to you, you could suggest an amendment that would include her case. Any assistance you can render in this matter will be gratefully received & thankfully acknowledged by Sir yours truly & Sincr

Hon R C Smith

Francis G Blumer

P.S. give my respects to Mr Mrs Minnifee

H.R. March 2d 1848

Dear Sir will you please lay and include within the bill for the relief of the Widows & of those lost on board the Brig Somers the sister of young Clemson who was lost on Board that ill fated Ship

Truly yours R Smith

Hon Robert Smith.
Washington City
D. C.

Hon. Robert Smith
Washington City
D. C.

James G. Clemson's
letter of the loss of his
Brig Somers &
Clemson's letter 2d

Mansfield (Ohio) February 11th 1848

Mr. Lovejoy,

Dear Sir,

I am compelled to introduce myself to you, by stating (my Father John D. Ryan, a very, but humble friend & admirer of yours) as the occasion of this. Your recent great speech upon the War question, has drawn my attention anew to you, as it has those of the legion of Freemen around me. You have certainly demonstrated that Texan Independence dates far behind the field of San Jacinto. Permit me to say that yours is the most novel, bold, and impregnable position yet taken, in the Senate or elsewhere upon the War question. Texas having been a part of the old Federation, the moment the Federation was dissolved, was left to act for herself. The re-establishment of the principles of the Federation, was the aim of Austin & others, & was the sole pretext of Austin's imprisonment. A change of the form of the Government, changed the relation of the States and discharged them from their allegiance.

I wish you would put my name & residence on your list of persons you send Speeches & Documents

to - Your Speech is scarce here - I ~~would~~ will be exceedingly obliged to you if you ~~would~~ will put me on your list, & ~~would~~ will send me three or four of your Speeches, if published in Pamphlet form, as I presume it is -

The Campaign is opening in Ohio, & we Democrats are in excellent good humor in the nomination of Col Weller for Governor. The Mericans will receive no quarter in this State - You will excuse this sort of letter from a personal stranger, when I assure you that I am not a stranger to the merits of the great reputation you are rapidly building for yourself - I hasten to subscribe myself, as I am,

Your Respectfully,
Your Ob'd
Chas. H. Bryan

To Hon Stephen A. Douglas
U. S. Senate

Young Byers

Springfield Feby. 17. 1848

Dr. Douglas.

It is now settled that there will be a State Convention of the Democracy on the last Monday in April. It is also settled that that Convention will among other things have to nominate a Candidate for Govr. if the new Constitution shall be adopted. And there is not much doubt but the Con. will be adopted. We had hoped that the old one would have been retained but there is scarcely ground to hope for such a result. The Convention therefore will most likely have a Candidate for Govr. to nominate.

French, when cast out fall, for the first time concluded that he would like again to be elected. He so intimated to me, at least, shortly after his return. I did not then know but the fact of his being cut off at the Knees by the Convention would create much feeling in his favor and render it imprudent to make any effort for myself. I am now satisfied that there is no disposition to re-nominate him. I learn this from most parts of the State: I think therefore that with the

active aid of my friends I can easily get the nomination. Dement also denies to run and will most certainly if I do not. He may if I should though there are many for me that he would get if I were not a candidate before the Convention. T. Campbell of Galena, Knox of Rock-Island & the Southern Counties of his Congressional dis. are for me. Wentworth's dis. from all I can learn will be more for me than for any other. Oakly will of course be enabled to effect something for French there along the line of the Canal, but Matteson, Fry, Little, Ike Cook, Sherman, Thomas, Dr. Wilcox, Col. Anderson & others will, I think, be enabled to do more for me. Some in Wentworth's dis. have spoken of Matteson & said they would be for me if M. did not desire it. Now Matteson is most unqualifiedly for me and has no desire for the nomination. In Fickling's dis. I can get all the Western Counties from Fayette to Dewitt, except perhaps Montgomery, which will not be in the Convention, so great is their hostility to nominations. This Congressional dis. I can get entire. Now with your aid & Col. Richardson's I ought to get the most of the Military dis & if you two were to determine upon it I certainly could get it all. Green, McCoupin & Calhoun were for me two years ago & I have every reason to think will be so now.

Now I need not say to you & Col. Richardson that if you will write to the editors of the several democratic papers in the Military dis. & such others as will control things there, that you can make all safe for me; for I know you will do so, or what, in your own opinion, will effect the same result in a different way. Knowing that this will be done, for I have learned that Col. Richardson is for me, I put that dis. down for me certain. Of Smith's dis. I don't expect much, tho' Smith and some others there ought to be for me. Kinney said he would do every thing in his power for me & that Bissell would also. But Bissell will be the candidate for Congress & will have to look after himself. Breese is understood to be for Dement and will probably be able to do much for him in that dis. I know Breese's most active friends are for D. I therefore count but little on this dis. though there is ground to hope for something. With regard to McC. dis. Dunlap leads me to believe that I can safely count upon all McC's friends. If so I shall have but little difficulty in it.

Now let us sum up. In the Centre I can start with my own dis. & six Counties pretty certain from Fickling. Of the two Northern districts I can certainly get equal to one. Then add your old dis & we have three and part of Fick's, and in the two Southern dis's I can safely say I will get enough to make up four dis's & there the Congress for the State. This

showing easily nominating me, and you can judge as well as I can of its reasonableness. I think the facts fully justify it. If you should see any error in it please point it out to me.

Now the time is short to the Convention. There is but no time to lose. Will you confer with Richardson & Mr Clemmand and take such steps in the matter as you can see to be necessary and with as little delay as possible? Do so now for this is the right place in the game. One little effort will win it, & within the State I shall do all that is proper & necessary for me to do. Any information you can obtain ~~to~~ at Washington bearing on this subject please communicate. Do not fail to write me so soon as you have read this.

I have heard but little from you this winter. The roads are so bad, or the mails are so irregular, that we get nothing in proper time except the meagre Telegraphic despatches. I see you have delivered a speech on the Ten Regiment Bill & I hear a very favourable rumor of it. I wish you would send it me that I may exercise my own judgment of its merits.

Yours &c.

J Cathcart

Hon S. A. Douglas.

File 2148

My dear Judge

If after you have sent out your speeches you find you have any to spare, do take the trouble to send them down to Jackson Hall addressed to the Democratic association which is anxious to read them out. If you hear of members of congress who have more of your speeches on hand than they can send out, ask them to send their surplus down to the Hall

Yours truly
W. Wallace

S. A. Douglas
S. A. Douglas

Hon Senator Douglas
of Illinois
Present

Hon. S. A. Douglas
Washington
D.C.

Mr Millard

Bloomingburgh February 24th 1848

Dear Sir

I have a few Soldier Rights in your State I have been informed that those Soldier Rights that was Given to the soldiers of the Satte war against Great britton was Sold for Taxes, and could not be obtaind I have been advised to Wright you on the Subject

I wish you to wright me and inform me how or wether those Sats can be obtaind by Giving me the information you will do me a great favor

yours with Respect
Joseph Ellis

Hon Stephen A Douglas

Joseph Ellis.

Bloomingdale N.Y.

Free

July 2 1861

Hon'ble Stephen A. Douglas
of the Senate of the
United States
Washington D.C.

Elkton Maryland.
Febry. 25. 1848.

My dear Sir.

When I left Bloomington in December last. Mr. James Allin. requested me. ~~to~~ if I visited Washington - to see you in relation to a judgt of his in the McLean Circuit Court -

It is my intention - if nothing prevents - ~~of~~ to visit Washington. next week. when I will do myself the pleasure of calling on you -

Very Respectfully.
David Davis.

Hon. S. A. Douglass.
- Washington city -

FREE

ELKTON
FEB 26
MD

Hon. S. A. Douglas.
United States Senate
Washington city.
D. C.

Louisa Harris.

At a large public meeting of the Citizens of Franklin County held at the Court house in the Town of Benton pursuant to notice on the 4th of March 1848 —

Judge M. Neal was called to the chair and R E Post was appointed Secretary — Hon Wm A Denning being called upon explained the object of the meeting in an able and interesting manner — and at the close of his remarks offered the following resolutions —

Resolved that a Rail Road Starting at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers running through the center of the state of Illinois to Chicago on Lake Michigan and from thence to a point on the upper Mississippi is a work the importance and benefits of which are incalculable not only to the agricultural and commercial interests of the inhabitants of this state but to all the people of the United States interested in the commerce of the lakes and western rivers —

Resolved that the great and increasing wealth population and commerce of the Great Valley of the west — together with the fact that the navigation of our rivers above the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi — and the lakes in the winter are blocked up with Ice — and the navigation of the rivers obstructed by low water in summer — in the opinion of this meeting most eminently require that speedy commencement and completion of this great work as

of affording to the people of this state at all seasons of the year a market for their produce

Resolved that our Senators and Representatives in Congress be respectfully requested to use their exertions to obtain from Congress at the present session a liberal grant of lands to this State to aid the construction of the work —

Resolved our Members in Congress each be furnished by the Secretary of this meeting with a copy of the foregoing resolutions

And after some further remarks by Saml K Casey Esq and Col T B Cantrell the resolutions were unanimously adopted

On motion it was resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be sent to the Illinois State Register and Shawneetown Gazette for publication

M Neal Chairman

R. E. Frost Secretary

Galena, Illinois,
March 17, 1848.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas,
U. S. Senate,
Chairman of the Committee
on Territories:

My Dear Sir:

I am not unmindful of the promise I made ~~to you~~ before leaving Washington to communicate to you some facts in relation to that most interesting portion of our country, which is to be embraced in the proposed new territory of Minnesota. In August last I addressed a letter to Thos. Hastings Perry, Esq. of Boston, Massachusetts, for the purpose of drawing the attention of Eastern capitalists and others to the contemplated rail-road from Chicago to Galena which is to open a new and artificial thoroughfare to the country treated of - The Great Northwest. Much of the information I and proposed of concerning that ~~letter~~ to most people, terra incognita, is contained in that letter, and I design enclosing it, together with some other facts, in this communication.

Whoever casts the eye upon the map of the regions of the Upper Mississippi, will naturally be curious to know something of that boundless extent of country, that lies beyond the northern boundaries of Iowa and Wisconsin, running up the Father of Waters to its sources and extending to the British dominions. Is it mostly a bleak and sterile country, forever to remain a great hunting ground, and be vocal only with the yell of the savage? or is it for the most part a country of unsurpassed resources, with great natural advantages of soil and climate, easily accessible to American enterprise, and containing within itself the elements of an em

Doll

First as to the name which it is proposed to give to the new Territory—Minisotah.

It is the Sioux name given to the St. Peters's River, being composed of two words of the Sioux language—*mini*, water, and *sotah*, which is rather difficult of translation, but can be more properly rendered into English by the word *blear*, than any other word. It neither means *clear*, nor *turbid*, as some authors have asserted.* The meaning of the two words, *Mini-sotah*, therefore would be blear water, or the entrance of the blear water. The first word *Mini*, is pronounced by the Indians as if spelled *Meenee*. As several of the States and territories have been named from the largest river running through them, as for instance, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin, the name seems very appropriate, as the St. Peter's, or Minisotah, is the largest river in the proposed new territory

The boundaries, as fixed by the bill establishing the Territory of Minisotah, which passed the last House of Representatives, (but was defeated in the Senate,) last winter, are as follows: All the territory north of latitude forty-three deg. and thirty min. west of the Mississippi river, to Sioux river—thence up that river to its source—thence to the source of Wild Rice river—thence to its junction with Red river—thence down that river to the British possessions—thence to where that line strikes Lake Superior, at the Northwest corner of the State of Michigan—thence, by the west boundary of the said State, to the boundary of Wisconsin, in Lake Superior—thence by the boundary of Wisconsin to the first rapids in St. Louis river, thence south, till it strikes the river St. Croix, which it follows to the Mississippi to latitude forty-three and a half, the place of beginning. It embraces ninety thousand square miles, equal to fifty-eight millions of acres. It is in nearly the same latitude as the State of Maine, and in area it exceeds the Island of Great Britain, and it is as large as both of the great states of New York and Pennsylvania. Lake Superior washes it on the east, from Pigeon river to Fond du Lac, a distance of more than one hundred miles. Steamboats constantly navigate the Mississippi to the Falls of St. Anthony, a distance of more than one hundred miles from the southern boundary of the territory. St. Croix lake and river offer navigation up to the Falls of St. Croix, sixty miles from the Mississippi. The Minisotah, or St. Peter's river is navigable for steamboats for forty miles, to the *Little Rapids*, and by a small improvement at these rapids, uninterrupted navigation might be opened to the *Traverse des Sioux*, or Sioux Crossing Place, 116 miles above its junction with the Mississippi.—Passing around the Falls of St. Anthony, a distance of 240 rods as measured by Lieut. Pike, in 1806, you follow the Mississippi a distance of 189 miles, to Crow-wing river.—The valley is wide, the river banks of moderate elevation, affording beautifnl sites, that contrast remarkably with the bold escarpments below the falls. The left bank [illegible] nts almost a continued level of from [illegible] nty feet in elevation, forming a re[illegible] ssion of terraces, that are de[illegible] w.*

From Crow River to Sandy lake, the Mississippi is navigable for shall steamboats, and in certain seasons it may be ascended as high as *Kabikous* or *Little Falls*, a distance of two hundred and forty-six miles from Sandy lake. From the Little Falls to the Falls of St. Anthony, there is a distance of 625 miles. Crow-wing river is a tributary of the Mississippi on the western bank. It is a long stream, and has a width of forty yards at its mouth, which it preserves a great distance up. It is ascended with canoes to within a few miles of its source, which is six days' journey west of the Mississippi.† Leaving the river and bearing North, the country assumes a different aspect from that presented on the banks of the Mississippi, above the Falls of St. Anthony. The forests are denser and more varied—the uplands are covered with white and yellow pine, spruce and birch. The forests of pine are of boundless extent, and in a commercial point of view are more valuable than are those of Maine. The aspect of the country is greatly varied by hills, dales, copes, small prairies, and a great number of lakes. The natural beauties of the country are, however, impressed with a character of sternness and melancholy. The country about the sources of the Mississippi is decidedly favored. Besides its natural resources of fish and maple sugar, with the addition of an abundance of game, the climate is found to be well adapted to the culture of corn, oats, wheat, barley and pulse. The potatoe is of a very superior quality. In a trading point of view the hunt is very profitable; the bear, the deer, the elk, the wolf, the fox, the wolverine, the raccoon, the fisher-raccoon, the muskrat, the mink, the otter, the marten, the weazel, and a few remaining beavers, are the principal articles of this traffic. It is now considered the only region in the United States capable of supplying the finer sort of peltries.* In ascending the Mississippi from Sandy lake, the first river on the east is Swan river, which is navigable for bark canoes for 90 miles, to Swan lake. In 1806, Lieut. Pike had an encampment at the mouth of this river, which has been regarded as an eligible strategic position, which will probably be made a site for a military post, when a more distant one than that of Fort Snelling is required, though I have recently heard it

*Nicollet.
†Schoolcraft.

stated that the Government will build the next fort above fort Snelling, at the mouth of the Crow-wing river.

The valley of the Minisotah has an extent of four hundred miles of unrivalled beauty and fertility. With a small improvement of the Little Rapids, forty miles above Fort Snelling, good sized steamboats could ascend one hundred and sixteen miles, to the Traverse des Sioux, which must, at no very distant day, become a very important point. It is understsod that the Government contemplate establishing a military post at this point. It has a good landing, the surrounding soil is excellent, well wooded, and from a back ridge of two hundred feet in elevation, there is a creek affording a large amount of water power. *

Another point is Lac qui Parle, about two hundred miles still further up the Minisotah, where the trading house of the Reinvilles is situated. All this region of country is represented to be remarkably healthy—the air is pure and elastic, and the changes of the weather are much less frequent than in the more Southerly latitudes.

Having thus passed in rapid review, the country north of us, lying in the territory of the United States, it is interesting to inquire something in relation to that country so immediately connected with it, in the British possessions, known as the Red river, or Selkirk's settlement. The following notice of the above settlement, is from Sir George Simpson's Travels Round the World, lately published:

"The Red river settlement, of which we have heard so often, during the quarrels between Lord Selkirk and the Company, will yet be a great colony; the soil is very fertile, (one of the most important elements of colonization,) its early tillage producing forty returns of wheat, and even after twenty years of tillage, without manure, fallow or green crop, yielding from fifteen to twenty bushels an acre. The wheat is plump and heavy, and besides, large quantities of other grain, with beef, mutton, pork, cheese, butter and wool in abundance. This would be the true country for emigration from our impoverished islands, and will, of course, be crowded, when conveyances shall become more manageable. A railroad across Canada must still be a rather Utopian conception, but it might be well worth the expense of making by Government, even though it produced nothing for the next half dozen years, for the multitudes whom it would carry through the heart of this superb country in the half dozen years after, and for the wealth which they would pour into England in every year to come.

"The settlement, however, meets in its turn, the common chances of an American climate. In witner, the cold is intense. The summer is short, and the rivers sometimes overflow and drown the crops. Still, what are these things to the population, where food is plenty, the air healthy, and the ground cheap, fertile, and untaxed? In fact, the difficulties in such instances are scarcely more than incitements to the ingenuity of man, to provide resources against them. The season of snow is a time of cheerfulness in every land of the north. In Denmark, Russia and Canada, when the rivers close up, business is laid by for the next six months; and the time of dancing, driving, and feasting begins. Food is the great requisite; when that is found, every thing follows.

"In addition to agriculture or in place of it the settlers, more particularly those of a mixed origin, devote the summer, the autumn, and sometimes the winter also, to the hunting of buffalo, bringing home vast quantities of pemmican, dried meat, grease, tongues, &c., for which the company and voyaging business affords the best market."

From a gentleman recently from Red river, or Red river of the north, as it is more frequently called, to distinguish it from the Red river of Louisiana, I learn that there are about eight thousand people now in the settlement. A considerable proportion of the population is made up of what is called Metis, or half-breeds, being descendants of Canadians,-English, Scotch, &c., crossed with the various tribes of Indians. The principal settlement was formerly at Pembina, containing at that time, some 300 or 400 inhabitants, a Catholic church, a fort and two large trading establishments, fell immediately within the American line. From that time the settlement began to decline, the inhabitants falling further down Red river, into the British possessions. The present settlement commences about 60 or 70 miles above the American line, and extends up and down Red river for thirty miles. The Hudson's Bay Company have a fort at each end of the settlement, and there are, at the present time, some four hundred British soldiers stationed there.

There is already quite a trade now carried on between the Mississippi and Selkirk's settlement, and it is destined, I think, to a rapid increase. One caravan of 120 carts came through this summer to St. Paul, a new settlement, a few miles below the Falls of St. Anthony. The route taken by this caravan has recently been struck out, to avoid the Indians that hover on the old route, up Red river and down the Minesotah valley. This new route strikes across from Red river, and reaches the Mississippi river at the mouth of the Crow-wing—thence down the Mississippi to St. Anthony's falls. The traders, to whom this caravan belonged, brought with them specie, [illegible] of furs, buffalo robes, &c. &c. They [illegible] back merchandize, flour, &c. The crops have been in a great measure cut off for the last two years, together with the accession of several hundred troops, produced a great scarcity in provisions in the settlement, and forced the settlers into the great world to supply their wants. Soon after establishing his colony, Lord Selkirk visited St. Louis, striking out a trail, which has until recently been followed, up Red River to the mouth of the Sioux Wood river—thence across to Traverse lake—thence to Lac qui Parle, and thence down the Minisotah to its junction with the Mississippi, at St. Peters. With far-reaching sagacity, he predicted that the trade with that vast region of the British possessions between lake Winnipec and the territory of the United States, would be carried on through the Minisotah and Mississippi valleys. Indeed, when the situation of that portion of the British North America is considered, it would seem entirely reasonable that it should be so, unless restrained by the monopoly of the Hudson's Bay Company. Nearly all the supplies for the trading-posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, and for the Red river settlement, have heretofore been received through the Company, at their great depot at York Fort, at the Southern extremity of Hudson's Bay.—It is at vast trouble and expense that merchandise is received at that point, and it is only for about six weeks in the year that vessels can get into Hudson's Bay. From York Fort merchandize has to be transported some 900 miles up Port Nelson River, and through Lake Winnipec, thence up Red river, before it reaches Selkirk's settlement. There are no less than *thirty-six portages*, or carrying-places, on Port Nelson River, and it takes the *voyageurs* from thirty to forty days to go through from one point to the other.

The distance from the head of steamboat navigation on the Minisotah, at the *Traverse des Sioux*, to the British settlements, is about 600 miles. I saw Sir George Simpson, the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, here last summer, on his way from Hudson's Bay to Montreal, and he told me a year ago [illegible] he was only ten days in coming through from the Red River Settlement to St. Peters. At this time merchandize can be taken from Galena to Lake Winnipec in twenty-eight days, and with the improvements of the Minisotah river, in twenty-three days. After our Railroad is completed, I expect to see packages of British goods (they paying a small duty for passing through our territory) taken from Liverpool, via Boston and Galena, to the British settlements on Red River, *in less than sixty days.* from Chicago & Milwaukee

Here are now within the limits of the proposed new territory from three to five thousand inhabitants.— The points of present importance are as follows: First, Stillwater, which occupies a beautiful ~~sight~~ site at the head of Lake St. Croix. It has an elevated and healthy location and is well situated for business. It is the County seat for St. Croix County and has a Court house already erected. The village contains between two and three hundred souls and

two taverns, four stores, one blacksmith shop, three carpenter shops, two shoe-makers shops and one large saw mill and lath machine. The country adjacent to Stillwater is mostly prairie and oak openings. The soil of the prairies is extremely rich and fertile, and while that of the oak openings may not be as rich as the prairie it is better adapted to the raising of wheat. Vegetables of all kinds grow to great perfection, and oats, buckwheat, corn and wheat produce exceedingly well. The wild grass is very nutritious. Cattle feed on the bottom land during the whole winter, and subsist in good order on what they find, their owners being at no expense of feeding. ~~during the winter~~ The cattle in the interior require none.

Second. St. Croix Falls, on the St. Croix River twenty miles above Stillwater. Here is one of the finest water powers in the world. It has recently fallen into the hands of the "Boston Company" a company composed of gentlemen of wealth and enterprise. Under the auspices of this company improvements are rapidly progressing. There are now at the Falls about the same number of inhabitants as at Stillwater.

Third. St. Paul some eight miles below Fort Snelling and some eighteen miles across the country from Stillwater, is at present the most important business place in the new territory. It has five stores, two taverns and many small French improvements. The inhabitants are generally Canadians who ~~deal~~ trade mostly in furs and peltries. This is the point from which the caravans from the Red River settlement take all their loading to transport through the wilderness to the shores of Lake Winnipec.

Fourth—St. Peters, it is thought by many, will be the most important point in the new territory. It will probably be the first seat of Government. It is considered the finest site on the Mississippi river, the natural beauties of its environs adding to its importance and grandeur. At the confluence of the Mississippi and Minisotah rivers there is an extensive and fertile plateau, reaching far to the west, presenting to the eye of the beholder, a level country, interrupted by moderate undulations of the surface and beautified by intervening prairies, woodlands and lakes. Fort Snelling is located on the rocky point at this confluence of the two rivers.*

Fifth. Point Douglas, at the mouth of Lake St. Croix is a place fast coming into notice. It has a population of about one hundred souls and is situated on a beautiful undulating prairie. Many excellent farms have been opened on both sides of the Lake, near the mouth.

Besides the above named ~~points~~ places there is Fond du Lac on Lake Superior which is destined to become something of a point. At the Falls of St. Anthony, also, is a fine site for a town, which has recently fallen into the hands of the "Boston Company". Large improvements have already been commenced there, and such are the natural advantages of the point that it must soon become a place of magnitude and importance. There is also quite a settlement at the Marine Mills.

The country on the west side of the Mississippi is not much inhabited. At the mouth of the St. Peters, or Minisotah, is the establishment of the American Fur Company, and many of the traders and others connected with that concern reside there. There are also settlements ~~of~~ of Indian traders, French Canadians and half-breeds both at the head and foot of Lake Pepin.

The importance of the trade ~~in the upper Mississippi~~ of the new Territory can, in some degree, be estimated by the following statement of the lumber trade, and by the number of steamboats engaged in the St. Peters' and St. Croix trade. Since 1843, there have been been three steamboats running regularly in that trade, besides many transient boats.

The following is a statement of the number of steamboats that left Galena for points above, on the Mississippi, since 1843:—

Departures of boats in 1843	26
" " " 1844	30
" " " 1845 (very low water)	29
" " " 1846	41

Statement of the amount of lumber manufactured in the year 1846, on the tributaries of the Upper Mississippi, above Galena, Illinois.

The lumber is principally manufactured on four rivers and their tributaries—the Wisconsin, the Black, the Chippewa, and the St. Croix. Upon the Wisconsin and its tributaries are thirty-two saw-mills running fifty-nine saws. On an average, these saws cut half a million of lumber each, annually—worth, at the mill, six dollars per thousand feet. The amount of shingles manufactured at these mills is about five millions, worth two dollars per thousand.

Value of the sawed lumber made on the Wisconsin	$177,000 00
Value of shingles made on the Wisconsin	10,000 00
Total amount	187,000 00

Upon the St. Croix river and its tributaries there are six mills, running fourteen saws, which cut, on an average, one million of lumber each annually—worth, at the mill, eight dollars per thousand. The amount of logs run from the St. Croix down the Mississippi river is twenty millions of feet, worth five dollars per thousand.

Value of the sawed lumber made on the St. Croix, annually	$112,000 00
Value of lath made on the St. Croix, annually	10,000 00
Value of logs run from the St. Croix, annually	20,000 00
Total amount	$142,000 00

Upon the Chippewa and its tributaries are six mills, running eight saws, each saw cutting annually, on an average, one half a million of lumber, worth six dollars per thousand. The amount of shingles manufactured on the Chippewa, annually, is one million and a half, worth two dollars per thousand. The amount of lath is three millions, annually, worth a dollar and a half a thousand.

Value of the sawed lamber made on the Chippewa, annually - - - -	$24,000 00
Value of shingles made on the Chippewa, annually - - - - -	3,000 00
Value of lath made on the Chippewa annually - - - - - -	4,500 00
Total amount - - -	$31,500 00

Upon the Black river and its tributaries, are six mills, running eight saws, turning out four millions of lumber annually, worth at the mill six dollars per thousand. Two millions of shingles are manufactured annually at these mills, worth two dollars per thousand. There is also fifty thousand feet of square timber cut annually at these mills, worth thirty dollars per thousand.

Value of the sawed lumber made on Black river annually - - - -	$24,000 00
Value of the shingles made on Black River, annually - - - -	4,000 00
Value of the square timber made on Black River, annually - - -	1,500 00
	$29,500 00

GRAND TOTAL.

On Wisconsin - - -	$187,000 00
" St. Croix - - -	142,500 00
" Chippewa - - -	31,500 00
" Black - - - -	29,500 00
	$390,500 00

In 1836 her population was	11,035
" 1840 " "	30,945
" 1842 " "	46,678
" 1845 " "	155,277

in 1847 her population was 213,000

In 1838, the Territory of Iowa was created.

In 1838 her population was	11,036
" 1840 " "	22,859
" 1845 " "	160,000

In eight years after the establishment of the Territory, Iowa is admitted as a sovereign State of this Union, entitled to two Representatives on the floor of Congress.—Though Minosotah is farther north than Iowa, yet in a large portion of it, the soil is quite as good as that of Iowa, and the health much superior. The whole country north of us is comparatively free from chills and fever, the great curse of the Western country.

The importance of Minisotah as a mineral country, I have not considered. Indications of copper ore were noted on the St. Croix by the earliest French *voyageurs*, and quite recently some discoveries of both lead and copper have been made; but whether either will be found in sufficient quantities to render the mineral character of the country important, remains to be seen.

To any one who has observed the unexampled rapidity which has marked the increase of the West in wealth and population, the destiny of this great *Northwest* is apparent. Threaded by rivers more or less navigable, with an area of territory but little less than that of France, with its healthful and vigorous climate, its soil of unsurpassed fertility, and its unlimited resources in pine lumber, you must admit it opens a fine theatre for the enterprise of our people. Mr. Monroe, in his time, considered the country between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi so remote from civilization, that it would never be settled by whites, and in one of his messages he recommended that it *should be set apart for the permanent residence of the Indians.* WHAT DO WE SEE NOW? And may I not ask, what shall we not see hereafter, in the way of the settlement and improvement of this whole country?

The late Constitutional Convention of Wisconsin accepted the St. Croix River as the boundary of the State of Wisconsin, but has proposed what is called the Rum River boundary, Rum River being a stream emptying into the Mississippi above the Falls of St. Anthony. These are to my mind insuperable objections to either of the proposed boundaries. Small streams, dividing settlement and villages, make the worst kind of boundaries between States or nations. I object to the St. Croix River as a boundary because it will divide a people whose interests and property are the same, throw them into different jurisdictions, and will produce endless disputes and interminable litigation.—

I object to the Rum River boundary because it is too far north. If Wisconsin insists on running up thus far, I contend she should go up further and take in all the territory on the east side of the Mississippi up to the British possessions. If she goes up to Rum River for a boundary, she leaves a portion of country above her on the east side of the Mississippi, which would be an unnatural appendage to any other State or territory. I object further to either of the proposed boundaries, because it would be unjust to the inhabitants up there to attach them to a State in opposition to all their feelings and interests and from which they would, from their situation, be almost entirely isolated. Between Prairie du Chien & the settlements on the St. Croix is a distance of some two or three hundred miles and a good deal of the country is a barren and uninhabitable waste; a sort of "stupendous desert," which will never be much inhabited. The natural boundary line between Wisconsin & Minnesota would run through this wild & rocky region, striking, I should say, from Le Montagne qui Pompe l'eau (the mountain which pumps the water) to some proper ~~centers~~ points to the eastward. There can be no doubt it will be the duty of Congress to reject both the boundaries proposed by the Wisconsin Constitution, and fix it where it should be, and admit Wisconsin as a State only on condition that she will, by an irrevocable act of her first legislature, accept the boundary indicated by Congress.

I think it both the policy and duty of Congress to establish, without further delay, the territory of Minnesota. There are now many people there without the protection of law, and thousands are only waiting for the establishment of a territorial government, which will afford them protection, to emigrate thither.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect
Your's, Very Truly,

C. B. Washburne

Galena, Illinois,
March 19, 1854.

My dear Sir:

I send you herewith my Minnesotah letter, with some additions, which you are liberty to use in any way, by publication or otherwise, that will subserve the object intended.

I should be glad to hear what the prospects are for the passage of the bill.

I reached home after a quick journey of twelve days and found all my friends well.

I remain,
Very truly,
Your, &c,

E. B. Washburne

The Hon. Mr. Douglas.

Chicago March 22d 1848

Hon S A Douglas

My Dear Sir

You will have seen Mr Sargent before this reaches you when he I told him that you had sent a Deed of the Land which I would deliver him on his paying the Money &c he said he was then on his way to Washington & would arrange the matter with you therefore you will act as you think proper in the matter & dont think you need be uneasy about the matter for as things look here now the property is worth more than you paid for it by a good many hundred Dollars I wrote you that I bought 20 acres of Land for you at $70 per acre & said to you that you might have the whole or one half I said to you then that the purchase was a good one I now say that it is a first rate one Judge Thomas has 2 acres bought 10 acres by the side of it for which he paid $80 per acre you can take twenty or all yours or one half of it or not any of it & decide the matter on your arrival here next Summer I have but little news to write you I had expected to have been in Washington this month

but shall not be able to leave
before next month. There has been
a number of moves made here to make
capital for McClernd against Breese
but every attempt has been a failure
McClernd has no strength here
Egan Park & McDougall are about all
that are working in the matter & they
are not all powerfull here
Now Wentworth is a gay to get along
it is impossible to say he has staked
every thing on the Walmart Proviso question
and at present it makes him strong
I think as you told him when here
that if that question should in any
way be settled by the present Congress
& should become no longer a question
that he would be used up the opposition
of Park & Co will be greatly in his favour
while a great many think he has no
claims on the party for Reelection state
they will prefer him to ~~[illegible]~~ the
man that Park & Co may bring out
or in other words they cant bring out
a man & beat Wentworth Breese is going
strength here & I think will have no
difficulty in the north present my kind
regards to Mrs D & believe me your
obn. & friend & Servt
Thos Dyer

Thos. Dyer

March 22nd

1848

(Confidential)

New York March 25. 1848

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir

You may recollect that we had an interview at the Astor House N.Y. last fall while you was on your way to Washington in which we discussed the probabilities of the success of our party at the next Presidential campaign. As the time is now fast approaching I have ventured to trespass a few moments on your time in reference to that question. The chief difficulty grows out of the horrible condition of our party in this state. The bolting of the Barnburners last fall has created a degree of bitterness in our ranks hardly to be conceived. Still the bolting goes on & the Hunkerites bolters of last fall will at the Baltimore Convention hail from Utica. Can you give me any light upon the probable course of the meeting

of the National Convention from our sister State in response to the double delegation from New York - you at once see the anxiety we feel. If the old Democracy are not admitted, it will be equivalent to sending them out of the party of the National Democracy - and besides the deep disappointment felt by them - it will throw the State into the hands of the Softs or Barnburners. At least it will give them the endorsement of the Convention. I hope our friends will see to it that justice is done those who have stood by the old landmarks of the party. Will you be pleased to look a little to this matter among the delegates from your State when they shall be in Washington as probably many or all of them will. It is said here that Wentworth is an out & out Barnburner & with Thurlow Weed his influence will the delegates from your State in favor of the softs - While the Whigs are evidently rallying on Clay - Who is to be our candidate for the Presidency? Can you give me any light. It would be quite desirable to name a man upon whom the wings of our party in this State can unite - The Barnburners are exceedingly hostile to Gen Cass - but are beginning to signify their willingness to unite on Woodbury. How will that suit the West? The South I have no doubt would like it - If you can find a few moments to give me your views briefly on these matters it would be highly gratifying to me & my friends - I know your pressing engagements & hope you will excuse me for troubling you with our party difficulties here - Accepting thanks for your excellent speech last me -

Yours truly

D. L. Seymour

D. L. Leymer.

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Williams College Mass. March 29/48

Hon S. A. Douglass

Dear Sir

At a meeting of the "Antiquarian Association" of this institution held last Thursday in this hall you were unanimously elected an honorary member. By order I transmit this notice to you and would respectfully ask in the name of the association your autograph and seal. Any other autographs or seals which you can furnish us will be gratefully acknowledged.

Yrs with great respect
Ch. H. Thomson
Williamstown
Mass.