

St. Paul, August 19th 1857

Hon. S. A. Douglas
Present,

Dear Sir,

We were, this morning, appointed a Committee by the Caucus of the Democratic members of the Constitutional Convention, to wait upon you with a view to ascertain if you would, during your stay here, meet them as individuals, at such time as may suit your convenience, at the Fuller House in this City, and partake of a supper with them. It is intended to avoid all publicity on the occasion, and we trust you will do the Democrats of the Convention the honor to accede to their request. We regret that you were absent when we called.

We have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your friends &c. &c.

H. N. Sibley

Chas. E. Hammond

M. C. Ames



H. H. Libbey
St. Paul.
Aug 19/87



St. Paul, August 19, 1857

Mr. J. H. Rogers
Friend

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge

the receipt of the letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the
construction of the bridge, & in reply to inform you that a
committee of the Board, consisting of Messrs. J. H. Rogers,
J. H. Rogers, & J. H. Rogers, have been appointed to
investigate the matter, and report to the Board at its next
meeting.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, &c.

J. H. Rogers

Very respectfully,

J. H. Rogers

J. H. Rogers

J. H. Rogers

J. H. Rogers

Sassy Dale. 19. Aug 1857.

My Dear Sir,

I received your favor
by Mr McHatton and when I go
South West will ascertain the
value of his land & will try and
adjust a fair arrangement
between you. I advised him to
buy 800 acres adjoining his tract,
600 of which has been in culti-
-vation. This will furnish enough
of cleared land the first season
for all your field hands.

As your lot will be without land
at the close of the partnership I

think it right, he should have
the privilege of buying one half
or all the land if he chooses to
do so, and I shall therefore
reserve that right for him;
leaving it optional with himself
whether he takes the land or not.
Wm Hallon writes me today he
has bought the 800 acres and
the buildings will be commenced
forthwith - There will be land
enough to work two hundred
hands. I will go over to Pearl
River & after placing a fair value
on the negroes & also on Wm Hallon's
land will make what I conceive
to be a good arrangement.

Will you & Mr Douglas be over
to the Fair? It will be a brilliant

affair. are you satisfied
with the result in Ky. Tenn
& Carolina & Ill^a. -

Keep Illinois right & the other
states of the Union will respond
as you wish in 1860.

faithfully y^r friend

R. J. Ward

Wm S. A. Douglas.

R. J. Ward
Daisy Daley
Augst 19/57.

Sir

White Pine County, Ills.

August 30th 1857.

As I can not make it convenient
to deliver the enclosed personally and as I
wish that you should know me I have taken the
liberty to enclose herewith a letter from the Hon^{ble}
S. R. Mallory and one from Mr R. S. Catts.
I hope to be able to be in Chicago in a short
time when I propose to myself the pleasure of
calling upon you

With Great Esteem I remain

Honble

Your Obedt Servt

Stephen A Douglass.
Chicago

Wm R Hackley



~~W. D. Hackley~~
John C. Lee
of Florida
Aug. 24/57.

Sends letters
of introduction



Minooka, Grundy Co., Ill.
Aug 20th 57
To the Hon. S. A. Cuffey.

We a few of the many Democrats
of Minooka, avail ourselves of this oppor-
tunity to have the bearer Mr. J. Kinsley
one of the deputation who waited on
your show, at the last monster meeting at
Morris lay before you how the ardent
wish of the Democrats not only of Minooka
but of the whole County of Grundy
viz, to have that boiling hot
red Republican G. Tucker removed
from the P. O. at Minooka, and
our worthy Democratic friend Geo
Cornerfords appointed in his place,
In the month of April last, we
sent a petition to that effect
to the P. O. Department First Aft. p.m.
Signed by the following Morris
Gentlemen, Geo. Fisher, J. W. and
pres. of the Buchannon Club, A. S. H. H. H.
H. Leroy, and others, and by the follow-
ing Gentlemen Mr. Etwood pres.
of the Buchannon Club there and Mr.
Pearley J. W. and a Confidential

Letter written and signed by the
same gentlemen was sent to
your Hon. to make straight the
way for our petition, the petition
and letter were placed in Mr. Zearley
Case, and sent from John,
Don't Sir allow black Republican
- issue in this quarter, to trample
over the honest rights of good
Sound Democrats -
As Mr. Kinsley is acquainted
with the facts stated, and knows
the wants and wishes of the entire
democratic body of Milwaukee,
we shall leave him to explain
to your Hon. further particulars,
your most ob^d humble Serv^t,

Jno Kelly
Jas Kelly

Martin Lee now

Cornelius Glenore

Theron Collins
George Collins
Michael Kinsley
Patrick Mc Grilly

a Petition
to have the
D. Master at
Minneapolis
removed
August 20/87.

Attorney Aug. 20th 1857

Hon. S. A. Douglas
Dear Sir

I am requested
by the Gentlemen who signed and
within application, to send the same
to you to be forwarded to the
Post office department.

I have no doubt the Prayer should
be granted

I am Very Truly
Yours

Wm. Reddick

Returned to
be sent to the
Post Office Dept.

To the Post Master General of the United States
Sir.

Your attention is respectfully solicited to the following statement and petition of the Post-Masters and the inhabitants living on and near the Mail route No. 13496 in the State of Illinois, from Peru to Pontiac. Said route crosses the Illinois River at Peru by Ferry, and during the past winter, on account of high water and ice, the people along said route were without a Mail for the space of five weeks, during all of which time the Cars were daily crossing the Rail Road bridge near said place, the only bridge there, while the ferry was impassable. The remainder of the route to Pontiac is not difficult, and we therefore petition, that the said Mail route be so altered that it commence at Tonica on the Ill. Central R. Road, 10 miles south of Peru, and thence to Pontiac, as at present, thus avoiding all of the above mentioned delay.

And moreover we respectfully set forth that as this route is through a very populous Country, and daily becoming more thickly settled, we petition for a Mail twice a week, from Tonica via Galloway, Eagle point, Reading, Ancona, Long-point and Rooks Creek P.O.'s to Pontiac (the present route,) and as the present Carrier, Mr. Scott is a very infirm man about 70 years of age, and incapable of enduring the inclemency of the weather at all times, and has also expressed to A. Hallam Esq. J. M. at Long Point, his wish and intention to quit the business, on account of age and ill health - We therefore request you to appoint in his stead Mr. George Brown, at present of Peru, Contractor and Carrier, on said twice a week route.

Mr. Brown is a reliable man in every respect being industrious, honest, energetic and prompt, and formerly ran the present weekly route to the entire satisfaction of those interested therein — He proposes to carry the mail twice a week, from Tonica to Pontiac and back, for the sum of Six Hundred dollars, yearly — and as we the undersigned are familiar with the route, we, in case it is granted, suggest to the Department, the following as a suitable schedule — Leave Tonica at noon on Monday, arrive at Pontiac at noon on Tuesday — Leave Pontiac at 2 o'clock on Tuesday and lay over at Reading, so as to arrive at Tonica on Friday at 11 o'clock — Leave Tonica again at noon, and arrive at Pontiac on Saturday at noon — Leave same day at noon and laying over Sunday at Reading arrive at Tonica on Monday at 11 o'clock — All of which is respectfully submitted to your decision — and we may further state, that we are not aware of any opposition to what is here petitioned for —

Amos Edwards	Post Master at Pontiac
Abraham Hallam	do " Rocks creek
B. D. Shackleton	do " Long Point
J. S. Gurnum	do " Ancona
Geo. E. Telling	do " Reading
Francis Galloway	do " Eagle Point
J. West	do " Galloway
Jon ^a Duff	do " Tonica
	do Pontiac



Faint, illegible handwriting, possibly a signature or address, visible through the paper.



Argus Office
Rock Island Aug 20/57

My Dear Sir,

I notice a telegraph, from Washington
to Col. Forney's Press, that you are going
to New York and Washington as soon
as you return from Minnesota.

It is unnecessary for me to say that
I regard the fate of my case as
entirely in your hands, and that I feel
sure that Gov. Tancey cannot resist
a decided demand, and one so reasonable,
from you.

I have heard nothing from Gen
McCormack

Very truly, Yours friend
W. D. Sanborn
W

Hon. A. Douglas
Att
Chicago
W



J. B. Danforth Jr
Rock Island Mo,
August 20/57.



Belvidere August 21st 1857

Dear Sir,

Mr. John Van Holsen is a
candidate for the Post-Office at Hastings Mo. I.
He says that Mr. Rice the delegate is for
him if so he will be likely to succeed. Will
he please me to solicit for him your aid.

Mr. Van Holsen two years ago went into the
Territory from this place. He is a wealthy, honest,
and capable, and influential man. And was
one of the few residents of Boone County Ill.
who stood by you ~~and~~ the Nebraska Bill in
its darkest hour. Any aid that you can constantly
give him will confer a favour on me
individually.

Yours Truly

Wm L Douglass

W L Colony
by mail

R. S. Maloney
Belvidier
Alas.

About the Post
office,

2
Paris Aug 21st 1857

My Dear friend

I am tied down here
in such a way that it is impossible
for me to leave at this time - we
are in the very midst of leaving
and departing - and to leave for
a day would be irremissible.
But my Dear friend I have a plan
of my own a even and good
pled for you and Mrs Douglass
if she is with you and you
would not only confer a high
honor upon me but make
me happy for a whole year
to come and lounge a few
days with me in old Style
I have the best place for quiet
social conversation & lounging

in this territory - While here you
will have your own way in
every thing. His beatitudes have
made of Mr. Douglass well only
conscience to give me one pleasant
evening at my little humble parson
house. I would mark it down
as one of the brightest days
in my calendar. Do not spare
my Dear friend - Come here
and rest a week or ten
days at least - I think it
the only plan is - I would
to show you will be richly repaid
in perfect repose and quiet.

Yours sincerely

Wm. L. Douglass

Wm. L. Douglass
St. Paul
1851

James Shealds
Harbourn
Minn.
Lotus,

Leeds.

Arimapolis Aug. 31 1847

Judge Douglass

Sir

I addressed you a
letter a while, asking your co-
operation in behalf of my brother
Rev. Spencer, a citizen of several
years standing and a sound
democrat, of your city, in per-
forming a tour in the State.

I have not had the honor to
hear from you, and have con-
cluded, that by some accident,
your letter has not reached me.

Allow me to say, if you are
committed to, or have a prefer-
ence to another, I have every
reason to believe that your pref-
erence can be gratified, whilst
you have it in your power to

advance, by a letter to the
Navy Department, the claims
of my brother.

Illinois can readily obtain
two appointments.

Very respectfully

Yours friend

W. A. Spencer

of my father.

Wm. J. Smith

1874

Handwritten text, likely a signature or name, written in cursive script.

Wm. H. H. H.

11/11/11

[illegible]

Ewington Mo August 22/57
Hon S A Douglass
Dear Sir

At the request
of the following Democrats of the South
part of this (Eppingham County) I write
you in relation to removal of a P. M.
at Mason (formerly one P.O.). The locals
of the Vacuity of said Office desire
the Removal of the Present P. M. Mr
J. S. Vandever from office. It is
the wish of the following Leading Dem-
ocrats of the neighbourhood that he
Vandever should be retained in
office (I will here give you the names
viz, John Brown, A W Avery, J H
Robinson, John S Wilson, H S Turner
G. Lowder, Jeph Newman N. Y.,
Martin A Simmerman, David

"Muller's John W. Parkhurst James
Turner, Samuel Winter, Pendleton
Nelson, and I, & Leitch all good sound
Democrats who are doing business.
Knights said Office I hope you will
write the department and have
the present incumbent continued
in so doing you will confer a
favor on the parties who are en-
gaged in the work of our Party.

I say this much if he is
removed there will not be much
satisfaction given to the Democrats
as to the honesty integrity of the
present incumbent there can
be no doubt. I was in the vicinity
of said Office yesterday all the finds
agree he is the man. They want as
I, W. I refer you to H. B. Allen
to learn who I am. and also call your
attention to our meeting at Springfield

Last-Septem when Hon J. M. Davis
gave us an Introduction at
the Channy House and what
you done to sustain our S. S.
Mitchell M at Ewington in said
Springfield County, Ills.

Let me hear from you at
your earliest convenience,
and

Believe as ever yours
Most Respectfully.

John S. Kelly

Hon S A Douglas
Chicago Ills

John S. Kelly
Ewingtown, Ill.
Aug 22/57,
about P. Office

"To Hon. S. A. Douglass,"

Metamora Woodford Co. Ill. Aug. 22, 1857

Dear Sir

You may think it impertinent for a stranger to ask your assistance, but you were introduced to me at my Father's (John Page) when you ran for Cong. in this district, and I formed too favorable an opinion of you to believe for a moment you will not use your influence where you believe it is right and proper to do so,

We are without a Post Master at this place (G. A. Clark, Late P.M., having left, and located himself at Oubague Iowa,) and if you should think it proper to do so I should be highly gratified to have you recommend Edgar Babcock for P.M.,

at this place; I think you were introduced to him in Peoria previous to Peaces Election, he has been Co. Clerk of this Co. for 8 years and could have it longer but will not consent to run again, I have been wanting him for P.M. for ~~a long~~ time but he would never consent to have it before, he has I think more influence than any other man in the Co, and is more feared by Anti Democrats than any one else; he is well posted in political matters and at all times will boldly defend democracy (not excepting the Kansas-Nebraska Bill,) against the assaults of all, whether political office seekers or political clergymen, and above all he is honest, faithful, and well qualified to fill the office.

I am Secretary for the Late P.M. and am also ~~now~~ now acting

as Asst. P.M. at this Office, I have wrote ~~a~~ Statement of the matter to the Department and shall consider myself under obligations to you for assistance in procuring the appointment of Mr. Babcock.

When Mr. Clark left here it was expected he would return, and after he located at Oshkosh I expected he would ~~write~~ have written to the Department tendering his resignation, but I suppose he has not or there would have been an appointment made to fill his place,

Most respectfully Yours
J. W. Dyer

J. M. Page
Mitamura
angustifolia, Ellis

Racine August 22nd 1857

Mon

S. A. Douglas
Chicago

Dear Sir enclosed
I send you a copy of our County resolution
you will please notice one touching J R Doolittle
Yours Fraternally
Merrimon Warner

I sent the same to Chicago Daily Times
for insertion in that Paper

Hiram Warner
Racine,
Wis.

Sends Resolutions

Dr ^{Steamer John Potter}
August 22 1857

Sir I received some time
since your speech delivered at Springfield
Ill, upon Kansas, Utah, and the Free
Scott Decision, I can only say I think
you are on the right track so go ahead
my good fellow. Please accept my
thanks for the same and believe me
your friend and humble servant

Yours Truly
Wm Stephen A. Douglass
U. S. Senate
Washington City
S C

P. S. My respects to Mrs Douglass
say to her I will call upon her if I
should go to Chicago. If not I shall do
so when she is Mistress of the White
House at Washington City



John Simpson
New York
August 22/57



[The body of the letter is written in cursive script, but the text is extremely faint and illegible due to fading and the folded nature of the paper. The script appears to be from the 18th or 19th century.]

Judge Long Cap

De Sir

Aug. 22^d 1857

Kenapolis

I addressed you a letter a while ago,
asking your co-operation in behalf of my brother,
B. H. Spencer, a citizen of several years standing
and a sound democrat, of your city, in procuring a
Personship in the Navy.

I have not had the honor to hear from
you, and hence conclude that by some acci-
dent your letter has not reached me.

Allow me to say, if you are committed to, or
have a preference to another, I have some reason
to know
that your preference can be gratified, whilst you
than it in your power to advance, by a letter
to the Navy Department, the claims of my brother.
Illinois can readily spare two appointments -
very respectfully

Yrs friend

W. R. Spencer

W. A. Spencer
Annapolis
Md,

Grants his Bro-
ther's apt,
Curran in the
Navy,

WMSOX
Galesburg Aug. 24th 1857

Hon. S. A. Douglass

Dear Sir

Wm. E. Bonney

and myself were up to Chicago a few days ago, for the purpose of seeing you relative to the establishment of a National Democratic paper in this "hot bed of Abolitionism" with proper efforts we believe this "infected" district may yet be redeemed. and we think it very necessary to meet the enemy on their own ground and to have an organ here to fight them with, we have a stock company who have subscribed about \$1500. a body and we think we can make it \$2000. and the friends here are very anxious that we should have an interview with you, and advise with you upon the course we shall pursue, in starting the paper, as to Editor H. L. we want a good paper, with a bold, fearless and talented Democrat at the helm. my object in writing you at this time

is to have you drop me a line
upon your return home
stating when we can have
that interview with you,
and Mr. Bonney ~~myself~~ ^{and perhaps}
Judge Llanphare will then come
and see you, we are anxious to do
something in the premises and
we know that any measure which
proposes the advancement of
true national democracy will
meet your hearty approval, and
we have confidence that you
will assist us by your advice
your influence and every other
way in your power, in behalf
of the few but true democrats of
this "black republican" city

I subscribe myself
Yours truly
Geo. W. Ford

Geo. W. Ford
Galesburg
Ills.
Augt 24/87.

Provia Nhs - Aug. 24/57

Hon. S. A. Douglass.

Under no circumstances, permit. The Charter of the Illinois River Improvement Company, recently passed an Legislature, to receive the ^{at this session} approval of Congress. We are all intensely opposed to it, and are holding public ~~meetings~~ ^{meetings} all along the River, to denounce and defeat the measure - Resist it, as our last hope, is the Prayer of our ~~people~~ ^{people} along the river. We will send you the proceedings of our Meeting, ~~to your office~~ ^{not} by mail. - The Charter was ^{not} received by us ^{until} ~~very~~ ^{late} today -

St M Mead
E A Powell

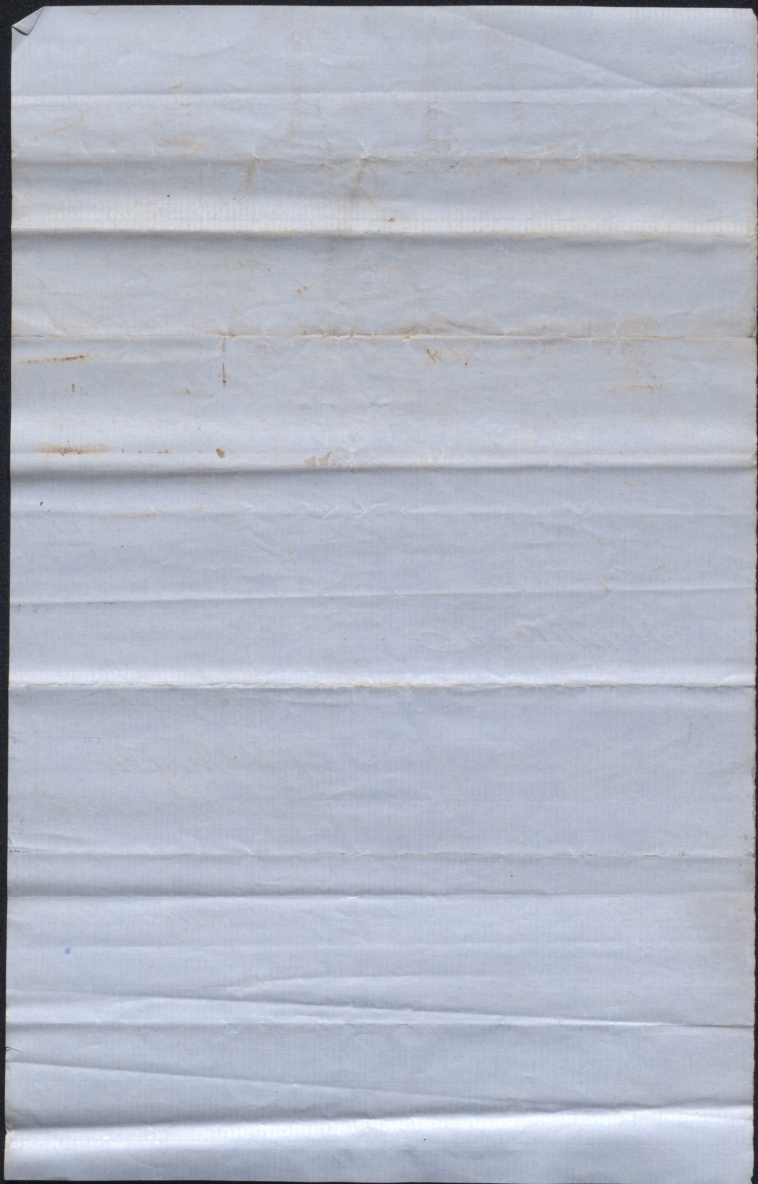
Jacob Gale
W. S. Wheaton
Peter Sweet

Springfield
Charles Stettin
Enoch Sloan,

Thomas Bryant
Samuel Jarvis
W. C. Purple

Julius Manning

Bill Poffinberger { on behalf of
W. S. Mous { the citizens
W. J. Stoddard { of Illinois
Am. S. Hoff



Rebaptist Office
Lock Island N.H. Aug. 24/59.

Dear Sir:

When I saw you in Chicago, I understood you to tell me to write you when I got my paper started again and perhaps you could assist me in sustaining it. I have, last week, commenced its publication again, and have forwarded you a copy, which I trust you have received.

If you could loan me \$1500, it would enable me to keep my establishment afloat, in something like independence, and I will repay you at the earliest possible day.

I will come to Chicago if you request, or if you will send draft, I will execute a note and send it to you.

With great Respect
your Obedt. Servt.

Hon. St. A. Douglas
U. S. S.

Chicago Ill.

Magnus Müller

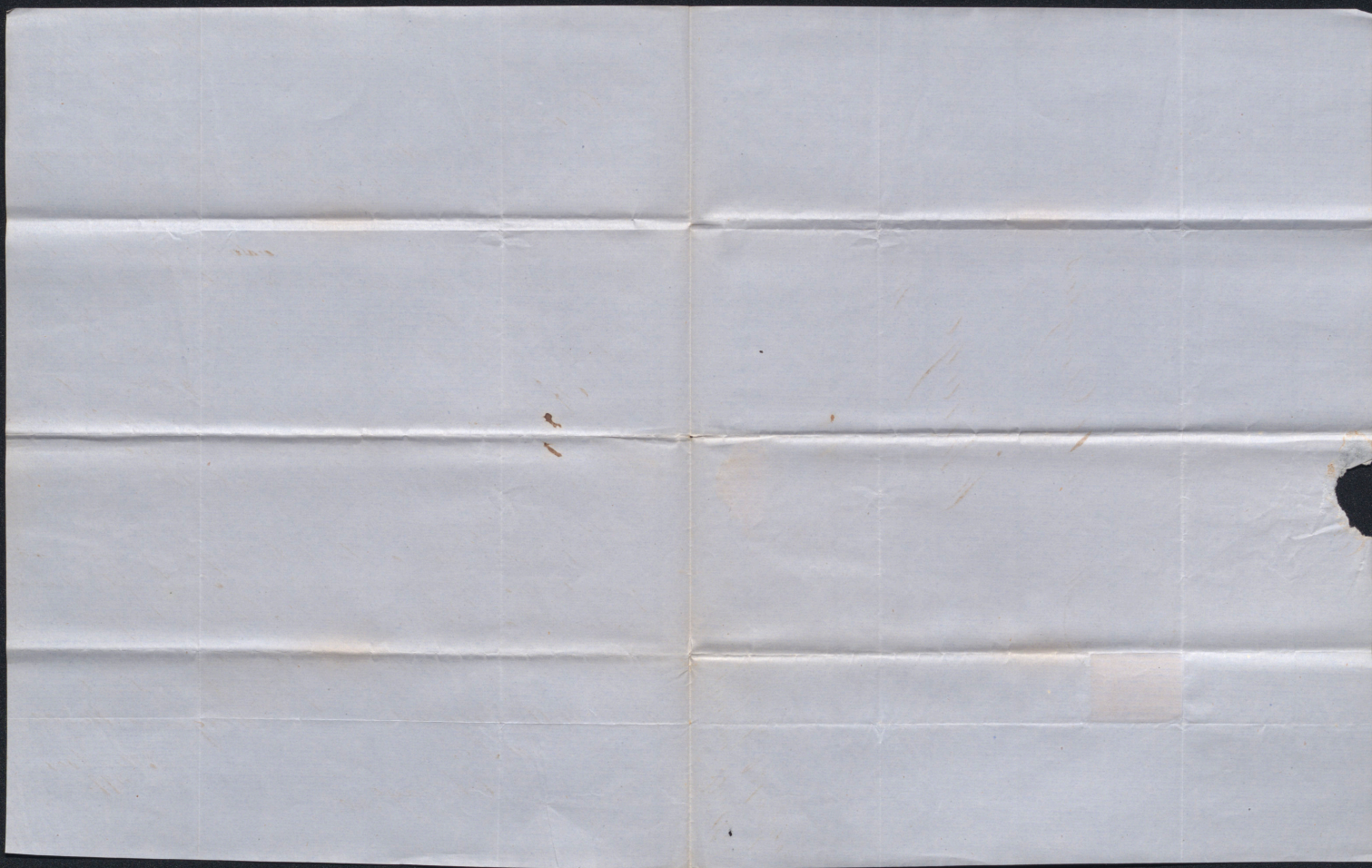
Letter Box
399.



Hon. S. A. Douglas
U. S. S.

Chicago
Ill.

Amesbury, Mass.
Buck, Belmont
Mass.



Madison, Wis. Aug 24 '57.

Hon. J. C. Douglas,

My Dear Sir,

I see it stated in the N. Y. Times of Saturday that the President is about to take up the naval cases, and that the decisions will soon be made known.

You can better than myself judge of the propriety of addressing the President a note calling his attention to the case of Edwin Read, as one in which you feel an interest.

Every member of our family scattered in several States feels the mortification of the atrocious injustice done him by the Retiring Board, and aid rendered in removing the effects of this injustice, will be forever appreciated as the greatest

benefit that could be conferred
upon us.

The effect of your visit has
been in every way good

Yrs truly

Maine Read

Daniel Reed
Madison Wis.
August 24/57,

Murphy's Landing, T.
August 25th 1857

Judge Douglas

Dear Sir,

When I talked with

H. M. Rice, on Sunday Evening last, as to
who was to be agent of the Sioux, he told me,
that he supposed one was appointed,

after you left St. Paul, yesterday. I had
a conversation with Mayor Bullum, in which
he stated to me, this, that he did not know
or believe there would be any appointment
made until he would be consulted,

and further stated, that it was his wish that
I should have it, and that ^{was} ~~had~~ grown out of that
the fact, that it was the wish of the Indians, as
well as the whites up there, that had witnessed
my course, and had the best opportunity of knowing
who would suit, and be most likely to quiet
the Indians most. - Which you are aware,
has had during this season, a very disastrous
affect upon all kinds of business, as well as turn
the tide of Emigration to Kansas and Elsewhere.
I thought I would apprise you of it. Mayor
Bullum says I have been badly treated by the gov,
and he is anxious to see justice meted out to me

as well as ^{he} wants my experience with the
Indians customs and habits, which would
be of infinite service to him.

I was frank with him, and told him, if it
was his wish, and my friends, and I could get
it, I would thankfully accept it, until, I could
get my accounts settled up with government
also he stated he would go and see Rice
last night.

The conference committee can not agree
but the Republicans has stated the Democratic
constitution, and all other things they wanted
as they suppose. But I think they will need
one thing still, that is very essential, and that is
vols of the masses to adopt their stated
constitution. please write me soon.

Frederick Douglass,
Chicago
Ill.

your humble servant
R. G. Murphy
Scott County
Ill., Tex.

R. G. Murphy
Murphy's Landing
Minnesota

Seeligson

Brownsville Texas Aug 25th 1857

Hon Stephen A Douglass

Dear Sir

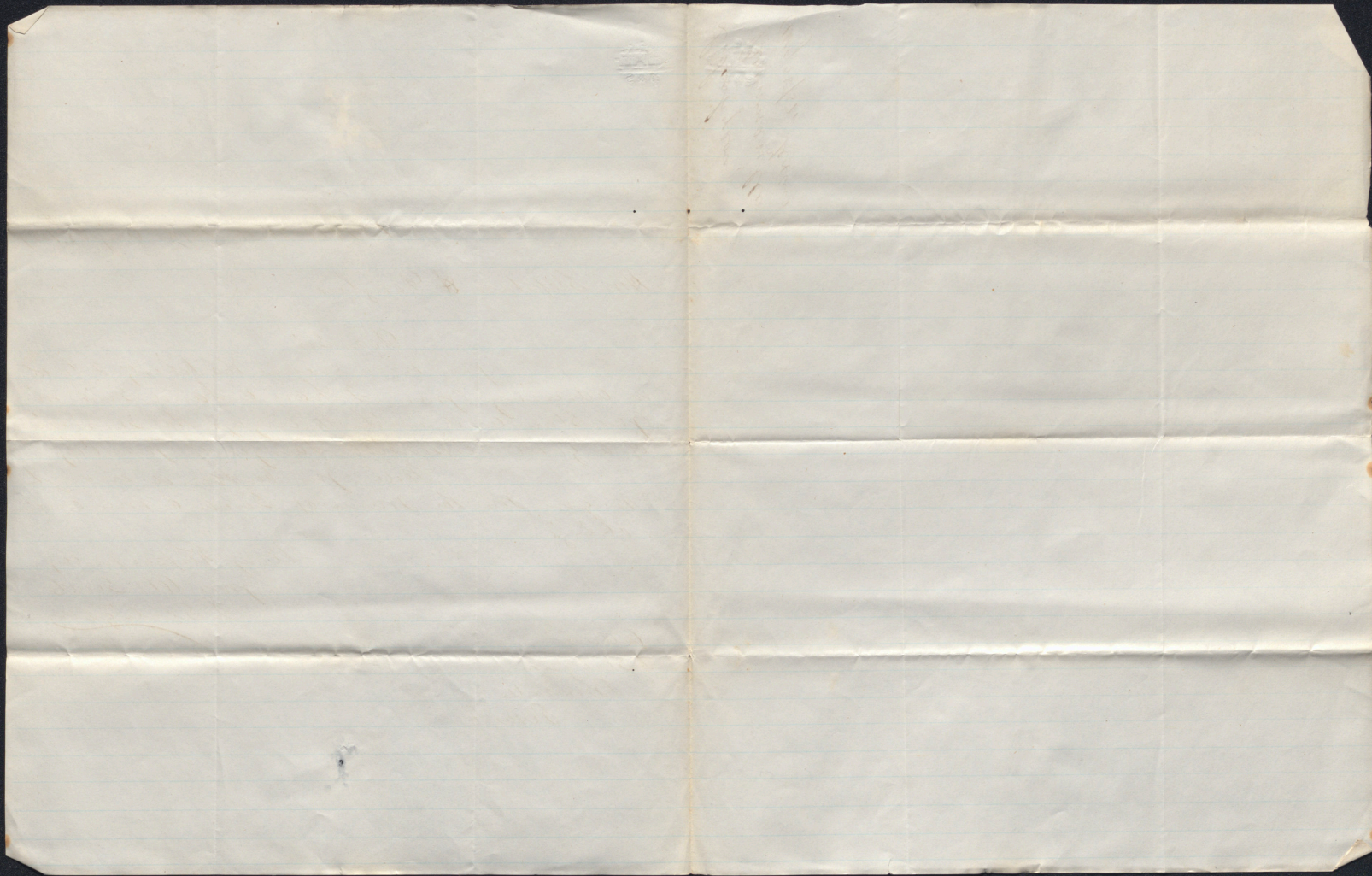
You will excuse the liberty I take
in addressing you. I have a Land Suit in
your State and wish to engage the services
of a good responsible Lawyer of your City.

Will you be kind enough
to give me the name of such a one and
oblige

Very Respectfully
Yours Att Servt
J Seeligson

Address
J Seeligson
Brownsville
Texas

L. Lechman
Brownsville
Aug 28/37, Texas



Hastings, Aug 25th 1857

Wm. S. A. Douglas,

Dear Sir:-

(There is a change wanted in the post office department in this place, and an old friend of yours, and a tried and firm friend of the present administration, John Van Hosen, formerly from Ill. is the choice of the people here.)

When I saw you at the House of the Hon. H. M. Rice, I designed to have had some conversation with you respecting the matter, and to have solicited your influence to obtain his appointment, but our engagements in conversation upon other topics were such that it escaped my memory.

I now write to say, that, through the Hon. Mr. Rice, an application has been forwarded to the proper department at Washington for his appointment, and it will be a very great favor to the people

him as well as to myself personally
to obtain your influence in any way you
may think proper to use it to secure his
appointment.

I am

Very respectfully

Your Obedt. Servt

A. M. Forbes

A. M. Torbet
Hastings ^{Wick}
aug 25/81.

About the P.M.
at that place.