

Rye, N. Y., Aug. 26, 1857.
Hon. S. A. Douglas
Sir-

I wrote a letter to you awhile since, but receiving no answer am uncertain whether I sent it to your address. My object is to inquire if an interest can be purchased in the Chicago Times. It is possible you may recognize me as its Washington correspondent last winter; but at any rate I can bring ^{sufficient} references as to my ability to take the edito-

real change of the paper.
I shall be competent to
make whatever reasona-
ble payment down may
be required, at least to the
extent of \$5,000, and
perhaps more, from my
own means, and with-
out seeking the assistance
of any party.

An answer
at your earliest conve-
nience will greatly oblige.

Very truly yours
E. K. Olmsted

E. E. Elmstead
Rye, New York,
Augst 26/57.

Daily and Weekly Argus.

CHEAPEST AND BEST



PAPER in this REGION

DAILY ARGUS.

FIVE DOLLARS A YEAR

Has a larger circulation than any other paper in the city, is the official post office paper and consequently the best advertising medium.

THE WEEKLY

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

Is published every Wednesday, and will be furnished to clubs to one address at the following rates:

Clubs of fifteen or more,	\$1 00
" ten "	1 25
" five "	1 50

DANFORTH & SHURLY,
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PUBLISHERS OF THE DAILY AND WEEKLY ARGUS.

Corner Illinois and Eagle Sts., - - - - - Opposite the Post Office,

THE ONLY COMPLETE PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT IN THIS PART OF THE STATE.

Rock Island, Ill Aug 26 1857

Dear Sir,

Your letter to Secretary Taney has done the work, and I have this day received my commission as a Pioneer in the Army.

I need not say that words cannot express my gratitude to you, my dear sir, and that it shall be my study to reflect no dishonor upon you or the service.

Very truly Yours friend
and old servant

W. Danforth Jr

Hon. S. A. Douglas

MS

Chicago

MS.

J. B. Danforth
Rock Island
Aug 26/57.

My dear Sir. St Paul 26th August 57
The infolded letter came in
my mail to day -

We have lost all the advantage
we had gained prior to yr departure -
That Viper fool Gorman made a brutal
& uncalled for attack upon one of the
Republican members in the conference
Committee room - beat him seven with his
cane & then ran like a dog - I wish
Gorman was chained to Frank Pierce.
Yours friend

H M Rice

Hon S. A. Douglas

Chicago

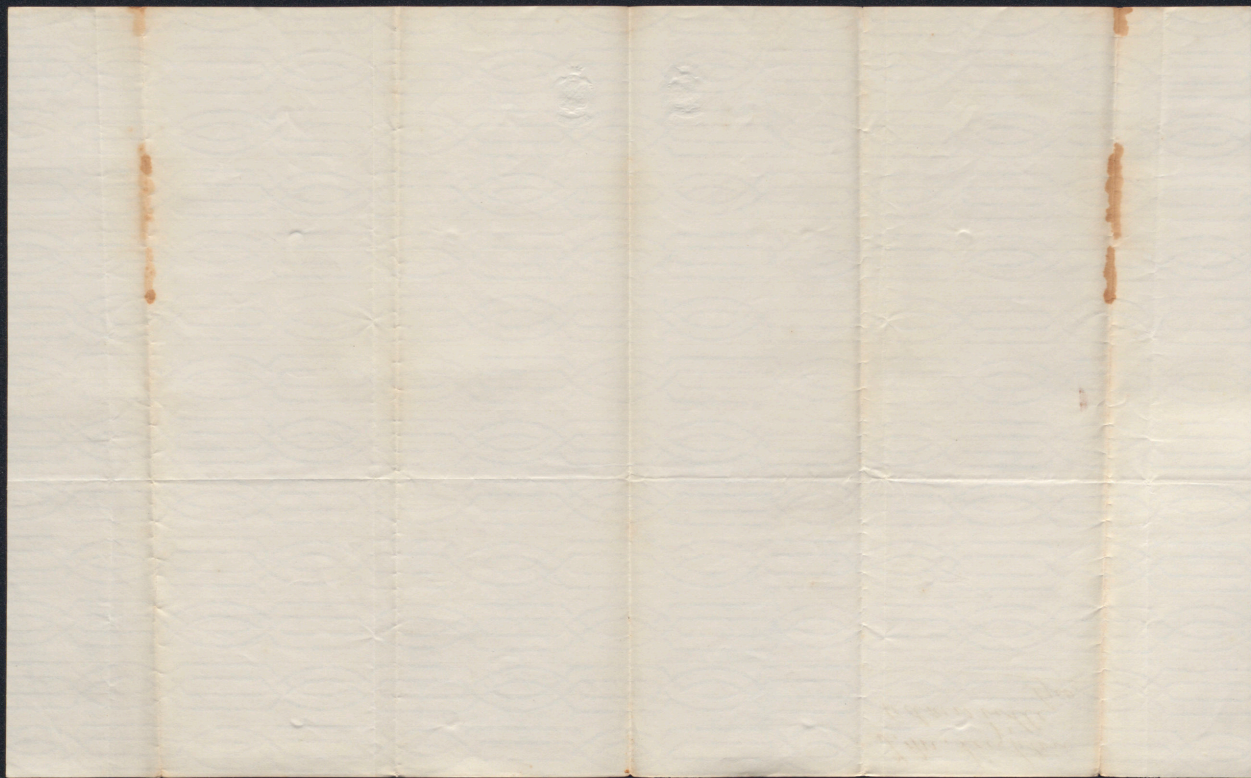
H. M. Rice
St Paul
Minnesota



Wainsville, N. Y.
August 1st 1867
Mr. A. B. C. C. C.

Dear Sir,
Desiring to preserve an early and
reminiscent of your Honor and
therefore, with the liberty to
submit a and for you by the
mail, which with appropriate thank-
fulness, I shall cherish to my dying
day. Yours and distinguished
consideration J. M. D. D.

J. M. Leighton
Adamsville,
Iowa.





Chicago Aug 27th 1857

Hon S. A. Douglas

St Paul Minn.

Sir

I take much pleasure in enclosing at my friend Spencer's request the copy of his brother's letter of 22nd inst together which you will find herewith -

The original Mr. Spencer retains in his hands for fear this may fail to reach you

I will be glad if it will be consistent with your duty to others to aid Mr. S. in this matter - as I think that by this means we may keep in clenching the many laid influence where it is now so strongly tending - in which cause I feel a strong interest my tastes and views being wholly with you hereafter

Yrly to S. H. Kerfoot

S. H. Kerfoot
Chicago
Aug. 27/87



My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the purchase of the property described in the advertisement in the Chicago Tribune of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours,
J. H. Ferris & Co.

Dubuque Iowa Aug 27/187th

My dear Judge

I regret very much that I could not have had the pleasure of seeing you & Mrs Douglass at our own home here. We were all confident that you had returned to Chicago via Prairie Duches. Why did ^{you} not let us know when you were to reach our city. Our people intended to receive & treat yourself & Mrs Douglass with the utmost respect & hospitality.

With our respectful regards for Mrs
H & yourself I am truly

Yours friend

S. A. Douglass
Galena Ill

Lea W. Jones

Geo. M. Jones
Dubuque
Iowa.

James M. Smith - 1891

11. 11. 1900. 11. 11. 1900. 11. 11. 1900.


Hon Stephen A Douglas
Chicago
Sir-

St Louis August 28th 1857

The Members of the "St Louis Agricultural & Mechanical Association" will hold their 2^d annual fair in this City commencing with 28th Sept and continuing six days, and they would be much pleased could you honor us with your company at that time. They will be pleased in the event of your visit to offer you such hospitalities as they best will make the time pass pleasantly; & moreover you know that you have many friends here ever ready to bid you welcome come when you will.

Our arrangements for this year's fair are more complete and extensive than those of the last one, and present appearances indicate an immense concourse of visitors from various quarters -

I beg to present my individual respects and at the same time to subscribe myself

Yrs Obedt Servt
Oscar W. Collety

Corresponding Secy,

Oscar W. Collet
St Louis
Aug. 28/87, Mo.

An invitation to
the St. Louis Fair
Sept. 25/87,



The above is a copy of the letter from the
 Hon. Secy. of the Interior, dated 18th Dec. 1881,
 to the Hon. Secy. of the Navy, in relation to the
 proposed purchase of the land on which the
 proposed new harbor for the Navy is to be
 situated. The letter is in the file of the
 Hon. Secy. of the Navy, and is in the
 file of the Hon. Secy. of the Interior.
 The letter is in the file of the Hon. Secy. of the
 Navy, and is in the file of the Hon. Secy. of the
 Interior.

Danville Nls
Aug 28th 1857.

To the Hon Stephen A. Douglas
and Col R. B. Carpenter.

Dear Sir, Having
learned that Mr A. Starns, is about to re-
sign his office, of mail agent for this state,
we take pleasure in recommending to your
favorable consideration, for that situation, as the
successor of Mr Starns, the Hon John A.
Drake of this place, and hope that you
will use your influence to obtain the appoint-
ment for him. Mr Drake is favorably known
to both of you as a thoroughgoing and reliable
democrat; and we think and feel that he
is deserving the situation he asks, if it can
be obtained for him; and the well known
and acknowledged influence of your-
selves, we feel confident is all that is
needed to secure him the appointment.

Mr Drake, as late Register of the land
office at this place, gave universal sat-
isfaction, and in that particular far excell-
ing any of his predecessors, and his app-
ointment to any position, requiring an
honest and efficient incumbent will

be hailed with joy by all the democracy of this district, and his numerous friends out of it.

We hope, gentlemen that you may find it consistent with duty and interest to render all the assistance in your power, to Mr Drake, on this occasion.

With great respect, we remain
your friends &c.

J. C. English.
John W. Moses.

Wm. M. Sprague

A. Gale

Wm. McCormack

H. G. Boyle & Wm. D. M. M. M. M.

Thos. G. Forbes

C. H. Root

Thos. R. Forbes

A. V. Harrison

Chas. J. Ball

J. G. English
atthrs.
Danville
Aug. 28/57, Ills

asking father
appt. of John
W. Drake for
Special Mail
agent.

A New Enterprise

Mr. Douglas

Indiv.

I profess to ~~be~~ be the originator of a new system of draining the low, marshy, Swamp lands of this & other western States; now lying waste, useless, contagious tracts of large extent, on our Lakes & Rivers, the haunt of the Waterfowl & Muskrat.

These Territories, though lying on a level with or beneath the waters of adjacent Lakes & Rivers, can be thoroughly & ^{use} perfectly drained of all their surplus water, & kept free with but little cost from year to year.

Also I have a crop peculiarly adapted to such lands, the most productive in the world, the planting of which led to the discovery of the system of drainage above referred to.

This system of draining these Swamp lands, the special use for which they were designed are new & unknown to the world, originating solely with myself at the cost of years of toil, in practical & experimental research.

These lands when once drained as will be necessary for the crop above referred to, will be susceptible to any Agricultural production or habitation.

Being destitute of sufficient funds myself
to carry out my plans to a desired extent I
concluded to visit your City & privately lay
my plans before some of its business &
moneyed men on such terms as I felt
assured would enlist a cooperation.

While prosecuting my inquiries I was
at once referred to yourself as a public
spirited patron of such enterprises as had
a progressive tendency in the improve-
ment of the arts & the consequent eleva-
tion & enrichment of our country.

Mr. Egan also was referred to as ~~authoritative~~
in Agricultural & Horticultural matters
& as a thorough Practical man.

Learning that yourself was out of town
I saw the Dr & laid my plans before
him in brief. He conceived their advan-
tage & referred to Mr. Huglar as the man
to become interested in such an en-
terprise. In addition to the consider-
ation ~~above~~ referred to, he informed me that
you had a large amount of such land
& much desired to improve them.

I concluded to wait your return & seek an
opportunity to lay my plans in detail before
you.

I will take this opportunity to say that
I have the highest hopes of my enterprise in a
financial point of view. The best evidence
can be produced to show that what will cost
as an original Capital or outlay of, say \$2,000
or \$15,000 will produce an annual net income
of some \$200,000.

The above assertion can be sustained on
equal terms as ordinary business transac-
tions can be pre determined.

Besides the improvements on the lands
are of that character as to make these the
best lands in the world.

I have thoroughly examined these ^{Marks}
& am prepared to show beyond a reasonable
doubt that the above assertion is correct
both in point of soil & locality.

My system of treatment involves several
ideas new to the world—one of which
is a new system of agriculture; ren-
dering the crop ~~shrub~~ ^a ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~given~~
to its utmost capacity.

Chicago Aug 28/82

Yours &c

Sydney Fisher

Lyman Fisher
A new invention
for Drawing
Lead

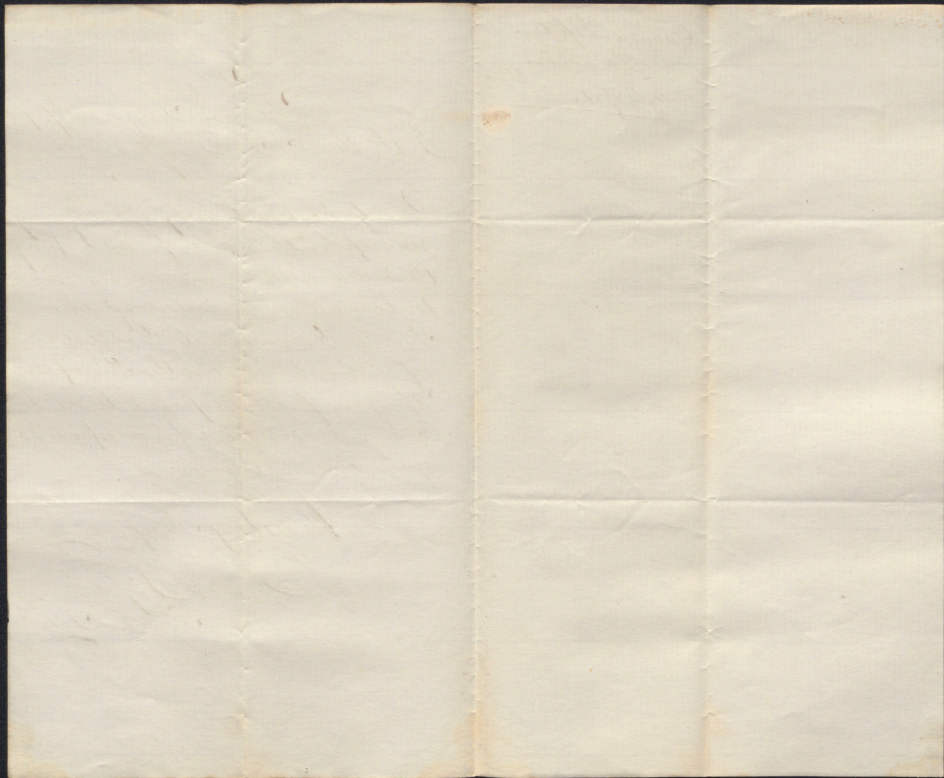
Peoria Augt 28th 57
To the Hon S^r Douglas.

Sir

We take the liberty of addressing
you upon this occasion, hoping
that you will grant our request
to become a Director of the
Peoria Commercial College
of which we are the Principals.
If you feel disposed to do so,
you will confer a favor upon us
your Political friends

Yours very Respectfully
Davis & Dipton
Peoria Ill.

Davis & Lipton
Peoria, Ill.,
Aug 28/57,



10 Columbia University
Sept 28th 1857.

My Dear Sir,

I am just a receipt of a letter from
Major R. S. Ripley of the U. S. A. proposing a wish to
correspond with you upon matters relating to the
Army - its organization &c. &c. and requesting that I
would introduce him to you, & place him in
correspondence &c.

Major Ripley is a gentleman of fine talents,
an officer of high character & reputation for his
services in the Mexican War, and a writer of
superior ability. He is the story of that war sufficiently
vindicates his character as an able writer &
truthful historian.

He was a member of my military family
during the greater portion of service in the army, and
is in heart & principle an unadulterated
Unionist.

I know of no officer of the army whose opinions
and suggestions, upon all matters pertaining to the
Army, should receive greater weight at the hands
of a Legislator. I commend him to your friendship
& full confidence, and ask your respectful consideration
for such suggestions as he may make, and assure
you that you may confide in him fully, and correspond
with him as confidentially as you desire.

Before closing this letter, permit me to
congratulate you upon the high estimate placed

upon your character and service by your
contingents.

You have many and warm friends in Tennessee,
who only await the opportunity which would be
presented by your name being placed before the
Nation for the Presidency, to give you a warm
and zealous support.

Allow me my dear Sir, to include my self
among your early and earnest Political friends
and associates.

I should be pleased to hear from you, and
indeed to correspond with you - when changes
of opinion, freely - touching the Democracy, its prospects
and the line of policy to be pursued in the
coming contest for the Presidency.

We of the South are prepared to support the
Candidate who may be presented, of your Political
opinions - by the Southern Democracy. To affect
Union in the South and to insure the success of our
Listed, we must select a man for the U. S. who is
positioned to opinions, will unite the two wings of
the Southern Democracy. I mean the Conservatives
or Union, and the Ultra Democrats.

Unless these wings of the party are united, almost
every Southern State would be carried by a Whig
Plurality vote, thereby defeating the National
Democratic List.

With assurances of my warm
personal regards

I am truly Yours Wm. L. Pillow

Quit Moore
Gen

Aug. 28th 1851.



Wm Moore
Oct 26th 1851

Moore
Chicago
St. John & Son
St. Louis

PAID
Oct 26



Chicago

Aug 29th 1857

Dear Sir,

On my return Home from Minneapolis last night I received your letter of the 10th inst, which was left at my residence during my absence. I take great pleasure in responding to your inquiries and furnishing all the information in my possession touching the subject to which you refer. The selection of the site for the public buildings at the corner of Moore & Dearborn streets was made and confirmed by the Department at Washington without my knowledge. I was not consulted directly or indirectly upon the subject, and when the fact became known that such a selection had been made I did not hesitate to express my decided opinion

of the people of great decision shall indicate this wish to have such a Board of Officers established, regarding the duty which has necessarily arisen in answering your letter I have the honor to remain, Sir, your obedient servant

Wm. A. R. R.
Chicago

that it was inconvenient, unwise,
and unfortunate for this community.
I did not attempt however to have
the site changed for the reason that
the proceedings of the meetings held in
this city upon the subject were not sent
to me and my interposition was not reques-
ted. I have no interest in the matter,
except a common interest with every citizen
and property holder in the city, and feel
no other desire than to see the wishes
of the people of the whole city consulted
in the selection of a central, convenient
and proper site. I since the selection
has been made I am perfectly content
to see it remain undisturbed so long
as the people of Chicago are satisfied
with it. If on the contrary a decided
majority of our citizens are opposed to
the present site and wish to settle upon
another more central and convenient
I will cheerfully do all in my power

to carry out their wishes by having the
site changed to such point as they shall
agree upon. It may be questionable whether
the Department has the legal authority to change
the site without the assent of Congress since
the present location has been sanctioned
by two acts of Congress making additional
appropriations for enlarging and comple-
ting the building upon the site selected by
the Department and one which de quiesced
has been enacted by the Legislature of Illinois,
yet I have no doubt that Congress
would give its assent to the change
provided it shall be clearly shown that
the public convenience requires it and
the people of this city desire it.

In regard to the other branch of your second
inquiry, which involves the proposition
to establish a Branch Post office I take
pleasure in saying that in my opinion
the public convenience and interests
would be greatly promoted by establishing a

Branch Post office ~~in~~ⁱⁿ the West Division
and another in the North Division of the
city. Chicago being divided, ~~into~~ by the
River and its branches, into three distinct
Divisions, which are separated from each
other by natural boundaries, would seem to
require a Post office in each. If the proper
steps should be taken to demonstrate to the
proper Department the necessity for these Branch
offices I cannot doubt that the request of
the citizens would be granted upon the same
terms and conditions that Branch Offices
are established in New York and the other
Riverine cities of the Union. The necessity
and propriety of these Branch offices will not
be materially affected by the location of the
Principal office, and hence can have but
little influence in determining the question
of the proposed change of site.

In conclusion I take pleasure in expressing your
and those for whom you represent that I will cordially
cooperate with you in effecting a change of the site
whenever ^{a clear majority of} the people of the city shall ~~express their~~
select another and express their wish to have the
change made, and also to secure the establishment
of a Branch office in either Division whenever a majority

^{Mass}
Newburyport. Aug 29/57

Wm Stephen H. Douglass

Dear Sir

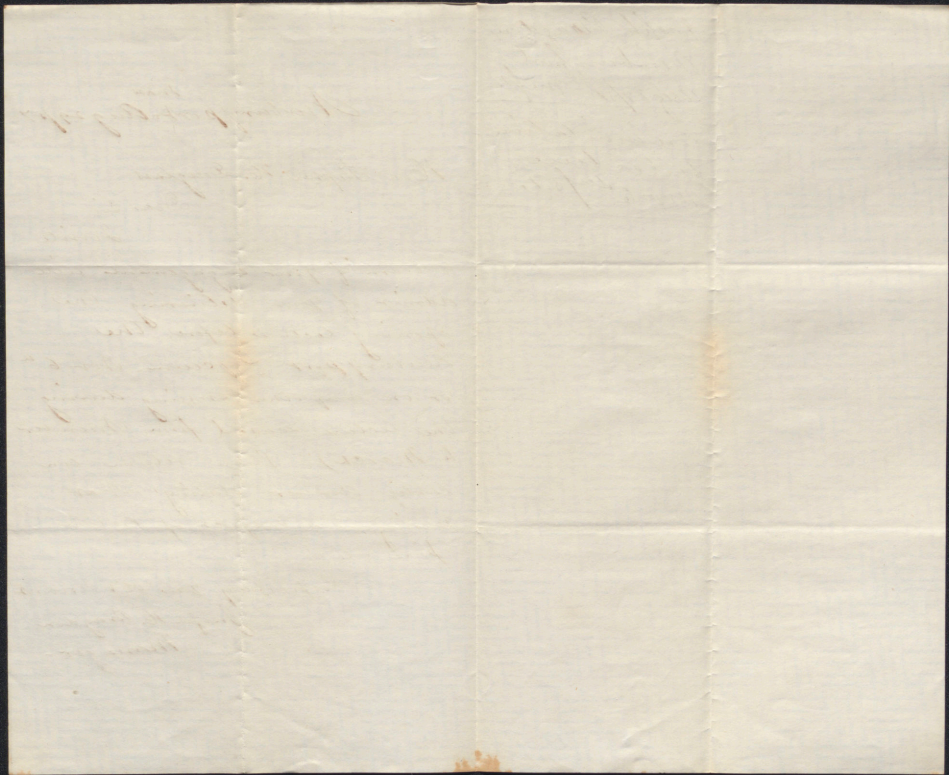
I write

to learn if your engagements will
admit of your delivering the
opening lecture before the
Newburyport Lyceum Nov 6th
or on any other evening during
the lecture season (from November
to March). Please return an
early answer stating what
evening, the subject of lecture
price &c -

Respectfully your Obedt Servant
Joseph H. Bragdon
Manager -

Joseph Bragdon
Newburyport
Aug 29/57 M. S.

An invitation
to lecture
Nov 6th 1857,



Clyde Sandusky County
Ohio State

Hon S-A Douglas Sir The
Union of States of North America
Already begin to Cher you for our
next President — May God grant
it — I have seen in many
News papers of your being requested
to make public speeches — For thirty
years I have kept my eye on the
Political Guns of the United States
— Hon W Clay lost his election
on the too free use of Language —
— Gen Scott the once most popular
Politician of our country lost his election
by his own speeches — The Immortal
Webster the Orator and the pride of
the nation never could get the reign
of his wishes — Your Election
is sure if you get the Democratic
nomination — Hon W S Dickinson
will use every effort in his power to gain
the White House —

There ^{are} one hundred men in
this State that will mount
the Stump for you on any crisis
what ever — you are in the
hearts of the people — and they
will prove as true to you as the
Great Napoleons Soldiers did
at the Battle of Austerlitz —

Sir please excuse my freedom —
I am a stranger to your person
but not to your writings

Wm S Johnston

August 29th
1859

W. S. Johnston
Clyde Ohio
Aug 29/18,

to the
22x1



Chicago Aug 29th 1857

Hon S.A. Douglas
Chicago
S^r

At my friend Spencer's request
I enclose at St Paul with the 2nd copy of the enclosed
letter to you from his brother W^m. Spencer of Maryland

As I then stated, I most take pleasure
in repeating - I will be very glad if, now that Col.
Danforth has his appointment that there is still
a chance for Mr. Spencer, it may be consistent
with y^r. duty to others to aid him

I am confident that such aid
will do a good deal towards confirming my old
state in his present tendencies; which assurance
needs no explanation when I assure you that
henceforth my inclinations tastes and preferences
lie with you personally as the exponent of the
only conservative policy of the country

E. M. Constance of Clark Co Ill
Late Electa, and personal friend of Spencer has
interested himself much in this matter - Col Hamilton
S^r Stewart Judge Drummond & others here have all
given letters and I think y^r. aid will insure success
With my congratulations to you and wife and safe return
I am truly
D^r. Kerfoot

Please let me hear from you at yr. earliest
convenience

S. H. Nesfont
Chicago
Aug. 29/57.

about Mrs Spencer
being apt. Nurse
in the Navy.





Buffalo Aug^t 29. 1857

Wm S A Douglass

My dear Sir

Our State Fair
is to be held at this City in
October commencing on the 6th.

I would be very much
pleased indeed to see you
here, as would also I doubt
not your many friends.

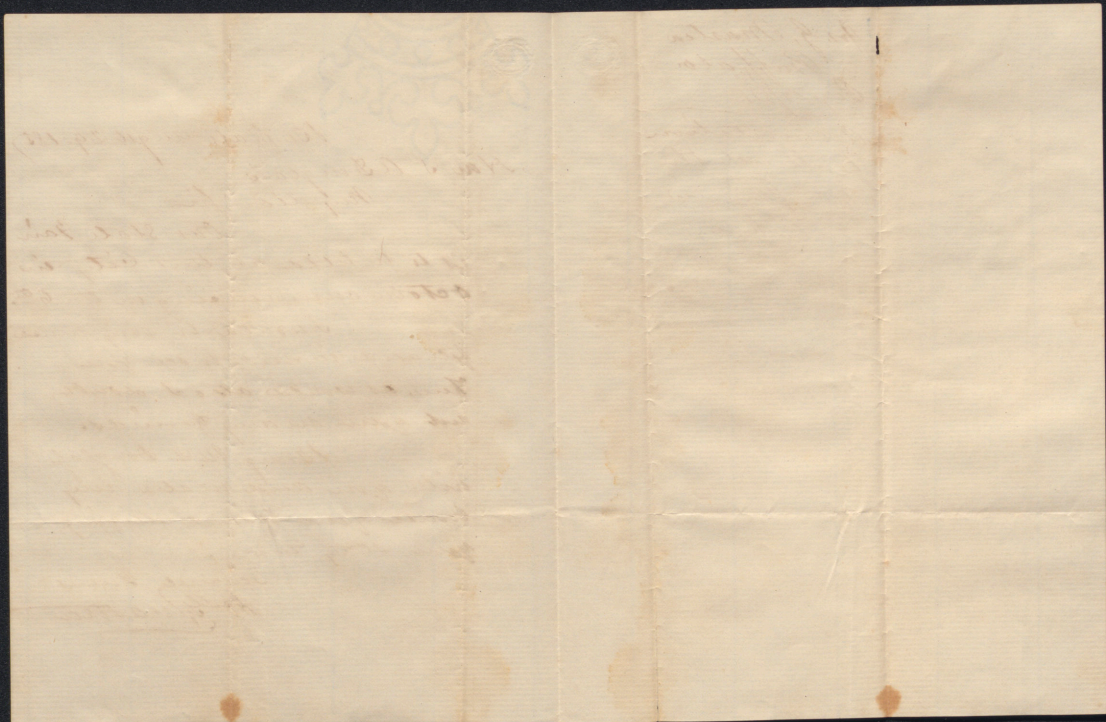
Bring Mr Douglass
with you and make my
house your home during
your stay here.

Sincerely Yours
Josh. Masten

Jos. G. Masten
Buffalo.

Aug. 29/57.

An invitation
to attend the
state fair in
October,



Cleveland August 30 (57)

My Dear Sir,

I conclude that by this time you have returned from your visit to Minnesota and I venture to trouble you with a request connected with our Cause. I have just returned from a two weeks tour in the Western part of the State where I found the right spirit & determination. I feel confident from indications thus far that we shall carry the State - But the fight will be a hard one.

Our friends are exceedingly anxious that you should come and address some 5 or 6 meetings. Yet some of the "original Buchanan men" are sensitive, and a formal invitation from the State Cent. Com. published in the papers might alarm them. It has occurred to me that if you would happen at the State Fair at Cincinnati Sept 15th or 16th - the Com. could then wait upon you and invite you to address a series of meetings for the two or three ensuing weeks - the 1st to

H. B. Payne
Cleveland
Aug 30/57, Ohio

Macogochus Texas Aug 31st 1854

Go New Stephens & Douglas
Sir

Among the
last letters written by the late
Genl D Rusk was one to his
Ex James Buchanan recommending
me warmly for a situation
in the Military Academy. This let-
ter is now on file in the war
department at Washington. It
should exceed I know of itself
but his son told me to day
to get your influence if I
could as you and his father were
warm friends. Will you give it
to me Senator during the period
of appointments at large next Feb
or March. It being my last
and only chance as my age
will not permit me another

I hope much to succeed. I will be
under lasting obligations to you for your
kindness and you shall never have
cause to regret your part. Let our
kind regards on the reception of this if
I may expect your favor

Yours V. P. Let
N. K. Harris
Nacogdoches
Texas



R. B. Barnes
Nacogdoches
Texas
Aug 31/57,



Chicago Aug 31 1837.
Hon S A Douglass

Dear Sir

I will see Mr Higbee at Alton on day after tomorrow, and will inform him you will be in Pittsfield on the evening of their first day of Court, which will be in just one week from this day.

Very respectfully
J. N. Morris

I. M. Morris
Chicago
Aug 31st 67,



Bloomington, Aug. 31, 57.
Hon. S. A. Douglas.

Dear Sir: Enclosed,
please find Bill for 8000 copies of
your speech, ordered by friend
Walker. He ordered 1500, but that
was more than we could well
distribute in this region, so
I took the responsibility of reducing
the quantity to 8000, which I
have very generally distribu-
ted in this and the adjacent
counties. It will do an im-
mense amount of good,
and has already changed the
minds of many.

In great haste

I am dear Sir, with
the highest considerations, Your
friend truly
Hon. S. A. Douglas, Samuel P. Kirk
Chicago, Ill.

Samuel Pihle
Bloomington
Aug 3rd 1871

Leads & 210
qu speeches
printed

[illegible]