1075

D. Magone Jr.
Ogdensburg N.Y.
Dec. 12/57

Approvingly

Ogdensburgh Newyork
Dec. 12th 1857

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir

I am gratified with the manly stand you have taken in the Senate and respectfully request a copy containing your Speech as I have not had the pleasure of seeing it. I am a democrat but demand a fair hearing for all in Kansas without fraud or tricking

Daniel Magone Jr.

1076

Sutton City Dec 12 1857

Dear Sir

Having Emigrated to this place from N Jersey and not having an opportunity to become acquainted with any Member of ~~Congress~~ Congress and being somewhat of a Reader and I think A Democrat I would Respectfully ask you to send me any Public Speech or Document as you are in the habit of sending to your Political friends

I think the time for Action Duly Appreciated

I am your friend and well wisher

John Matthews

Sutton City Iowa

~~to Hon S A~~

to the Hon S A Douglas U S
Washington D C

John Mathews.
Fulton City.
Ills.

Franks Pub. Docs.

Dec. 12th
67

1077

E B Manbeck
Dec 12/57.
Tulpehocken Pa.

Wants Speech.

Tulpehocken 12, 30 1857

Hon H Douglas
Sir

I hereby mean to express my sincere thanks for the favor you have done me by sending the Speach delivered by you on the 9th inst befor the Congress of the U.S.
I consider it an excelent one

Yours Truly
E. B. Manbeck
Tulpehocken
Berks Co
Pa

1079

Po'Keepsie N. Y. Dec. 12. 1857

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir:

Permit me, as a citizen of New York, to express my appreciation of the position you have taken in reference to Kansas affairs

The great principle of self government, as you avow and defend it, must find a response in the hearts of the people, and especially of those who profess attachment to the Democracy

With great Respect
Your Friend and
Humble Sert.
A. S. Pease

A. S. Pease
Po'Keepsie N.Y.
Dec 13/57

Approbates your
Course

110

1080

Dec. 12

No 25. Wall Street
New York Dec 12. 1857.

My Dear Sir

The rule of the Senate on a disagreeing vote of the House is "to insist", or "recede".

I believe "you will take no step backward", and I conclude you will adhere to the course so handsomely marked out in your recent Speech in the Senate, delivered on the President's Message.

You will pardon me I trust, when I say justice requires that his attack upon the Kansas bill, which was also an attack upon its author, should at some time be met. You will understand me to be a general friend of the Administration, although I never asked any favor of it, nor do I expect ever to do so, & I might add that I do not expect any. I am governed in my judgment by feelings entirely impartial.

He, however, has taken a position in his message, which will require all his ingenuity to reconcile it with his former position, taken in his instructions to Gov

Wall St N.Y.
Nov 25 57
Copied & Endorsed

Walker, respecting the right of the People to establish all their domestic ~~institutions~~ institutions in their own way.

His friends in the Senate will be ~~so~~ merely tasked to do this for him.

He will find in this conflict "that principles are stronger than parties", are stronger than parties backed by patronage

You have not failed to observe the expression of opinion through the unpurchased & independent press, since the delivery of your speech. And you need no assurance that this expression is an expression of an unanimous feeling & opinion among the people.

In truth, from the day the Tea was thrown overboard in Boston Harbor, until the passage of the Act by Congress to enable the people of Minnesota to form and adopt a Constitution, the principles for which you contend have been the ~~the~~ esteemed the birthright of american citizenship.

The result will not be doubtful. The President will approve any act such as you have given notice that you will introduce, & will rejoice to be relieved of his present dilemma through your action.

It is sincerely to be regretted that such men as Slidell, Mallory, Yulee, Benjamin, & others should decline, under present circumstances, to adopt such a course as will secure to the People their legitimate control of their own local affairs. But "to this complexion must it come at last" — events, the rights and the sentiments of the people will compel it. I confess I am mortified that the President has failed to meet this question with the boldness, and directness which it required, and that Senators have seen fit to coincide with him in opinion, and in action. This defection from principle is injurious to the character of the Democratic party, and justly & fairly enables men to charge the party with

professions, made for the occasion, and made only to be violated.

The result personal to yourself, however, will be highly honorable, by force of the contrast. And the honor in store for you, whether successful or not, in the favor & gratitude of the people will be commensurate with the importance of the principles involved, and with the necessity of the occasion for their application.

Mr Green is a young gentleman, & it will behoove him not to go too far in assailing the rights of the people to form and establish the principles of their local Sovereignty. I do not know how he intends to treat the question, but I incline to the opinion that he intends to attempt an answer to your speech. He had better shoot for game with in the reach of his Firelock. He has talents but he should not ignore sound democratic principles

Your friend

O. S. Peck

Huntingdon Penn.
Decr. 12th 1857

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
My dear Sir

Please send me two or three copies of your speech delivered in the Senate on the 9th inst, for some of my democratic friends.— The democracy of this region, are undivided in sentiment, upon the great question that "the majority shall rule".— We have great cause of congratulation that this question has been so ably and masterly met, so early in the session.—

If we understand Mr Bigler rightly he does not reflect the sentiments of any respectable number of the democracy of the state.— I have yet to hear of a democrat in this part of the state who endorses his course on this question.— In common with all our Democratic friends here allow me to congratulate, and believe me

Very truly Your friend
& Obedt Servt
R. Bruce Petrikin

R Bruce Petriken
Huntingdon, Pa.
Dec 12/57.
Wants Speeches.

R. Bruce Petriken

Clinton, Dewitt Co. Ill Dec 12th 1857

Hon S. A. Douglas

Sir I have presumed to write to you and ask you to confer on me as well as the Democratic party here a favor. I have lately come to this place from the South West part of Pennsylvania and am now pursuing my Profession the practice of Law. For my political history I refer you to the Hon William Bigler Senator from Pennsylvania and also to J. Glancy Jones and William Montgomery of the House and if necessary to the President himself with whom I am very well acquainted. We are at this time discussing the political principles which separate the two great parties of the present day and probably will continue to do so through the winter. I wish you would favor me during the sitting of Congress with all news that may be of importance to the party here and I will try and use them to advantage. The opposit party have the majority here but I am in hopes that the day is not so distant when the Democrats will be able to claim a majority. Through the exertion of some active Democrats all things look favorable now. I am very well acquainted with your fame reputation and hope that ere long we will

a personally acquainted. If you refer to them persons I shall tell them I am the same Roberts that assisted in fighting the battles of Democracy in Greene County, Pennsylvania and they will know who you mean. If you will condescend to grant my request probly you may be benefited by it in future. Nothing more but remain your friend &c Lewis Roberts

N.B. I am the only Democrat at the bar here and a majority of Black Republicans round me but with a little help I think I will be able to hoe a row with them, L. R.

Lewis Roberts
Clinton Dwitt
Co Mis—
Dec 12 1857
Endorses his Course
on Kansas—

W

Falls of St Anthony, M. T.
Dec. 12. 1857.

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

My Dear Sir;

As the Senators from our new State have not yet been elected by the Legislature, and as you have been always obliging to our people, I take the liberty of asking a favor of you. It is this: On my return from Texas, Austria in March last, I was induced to apply for an appointment to the Consulship at that place, and accordingly, obtained my credentials and placed them on file in the State Department. The determination of the President to take no action in diplomatic and Consular offices until the meeting of Congress, induced me to remove to this place with my family, and if, unnecessary in my application

to

to remain here permanently. This question may be very easily decided, by simply asking Genl. Cass whether or not my presence in Washington would be the means of securing my appointment. I am well known to him personally and am recommended by many gentlemen of deserved distinction in the ranks of our party.

You may be assured, My Dear Sir, that I shall be most happy, when the time comes to put my shoulder to the wheel stoutly for you.

With very great esteem & regard
Yours
Wyndham Robertson

Falls of St
Anthony
Mn Ter.
Dec 12th 1857

Lyndham
Robertson.
Recd the
Consulship
at Trieste
Austria.

Milwaukee –
Dec 12th 1857.

Dear Sir,

Allow me to congratulate you upon the position taken by you upon the new phase of the Kansas question. Your Kansas-Nebraska Bill rest upon the ground of the inherent right of the people of the Territories to adopt their own domestic institutions for themselves; the attempt to force on Kansas a Constitution not submitted to the people for adoption or rejection was a clear violation of the spirit of the Organic Act & of the principles laid down by the Cincinnati Convention. You could take no other ground, & those who have sustained the Kansas-Nebraska Act through all the storms of Abolition could take no other ground & could sustain the Democratic party upon no other ground. A different course would be so palpable a deceit, that the party in the North would sink hopelessly under it for years. In this State the Republicans have

been immensely strengthened by the misconduct of Democrats in office & by the cowardice of the party among the Abolitionists in times past: but the day of these things is passed & gone: big Congress should now endorse you on this question. Republican rule in Virginia is virtually ended, as the late election shows. Those who have fought & are fighting the battle of the party here since its ruin three years ago, are with you & for you. I know this feeling well, since 1860 you will see it. Sustain Houston in Congress now, & the future is clear for you.

I have written a few words & enclosed for a good democrat in our agitation encouraging your position strongly: it will be shewn by him, as a Democrat, in advance of any Republican doctrine on the subject, & will I think receive many Democratic votes in both houses. Now our Party will be nearly or quite unanimous in supporting you. And if we can succeed now, you are the only rallying point of the National Democracy throughout the North & over the Union. God speed you. I am no politician & have no political influence, except upon the Stump. There you can command me, when you want it, upon this whole issue against all men.

I rarely trouble anybody with Letters & I write not you now, but that I, & many others, anxious you should know that in this State your friends are with you & are strong enough to carry you through triumphantly. Now you can judge that I am so sincerely as I have long since abandoned all hope & all desire of political position. If you are President, I shall have nothing to ask of you. I therefore beg you to excuse my intrusion for I mean good to all.

Yours truly
B. F. Ryan

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
&c &c

P. G. Ryan

Milwaukee Wis

Dec. 12 1857

C C Spencer Comd

of the Ill Senates

220

Sample to Burns

Cadiz, Ohio.
Dec. 12th 57 –

Dear Sir:

Some time since I embraced an opportunity which presented, of purchasing a copy of the United States Statutes at large, from the organization of the government till the close of the 31st Congress, March 3d 1851, having the laws of the last three Congresses wanting, which I am desirous of obtaining, so as to complete the set – I address you this note, in part, to solicit you to obtain them for me, if you can do so without too much inconvenience, I will meet any expense that may be necessary –

The Kansas question comes up in the present Congress in a new and some what embarrassing form, and one which calls on the Democracy to exhibit a stern adherence to principal, no matter where that may lead. The doctrine of Popular Sovereignty now assumes a practical form. Shall the people of Kansas be left free to form their own domestic institutions, or shall they not, is now the question on which Congress are called to act, Heretofore the principal has been declared but now it requires Congress to give it a practical application.

Would the admission of Kansas as a State under the Calhoun Constitution give effect to the principals declared in the Kansas & Nebraska Act?

I think it would not. The spirit of that Act, as we all have understood and interpreted it is that it is the privilege and right of the people of each State to determine all their domestic institutions. I totally dissent from the limited signification given to the phrase domestic institutions by the President in his message. He assumes that the word domestic in the Kansas Act is restricted to house-holds or separate families, whilst to my mind nothing is clearer than that the phrase domestic institutions as used in that act applies to the whole name of State Government, as contradistinguished from the General Government, and embraces every part of the State Constitution.

In this sense the word domestic is used in the 4th Section of the 4th Article of the Constitution, which provides that Congress shall protect each State against domestic violence. Would the President hold that clause to bind Congress to interfere in family quarrels? The idea is ridiculous. I tell you Sir, that the attempt of James Buchanan to evade the provisions of the Kansas Act, by such a glaring absurdity, is entirely ~~worthy~~ unworthy of the President of the United States, humiliating to those by whom he was elected — and if sanctioned by the Democratic Majorities in both Houses of Congress, fatal to the present ascendency of the Democratic party.

I regard the duty of Congress to be plain, and that is, to refuse to admit Kansas under either of the Constitutions formed, and without delay pass an act authorizing the people to form a new Constitution. This may all be done, and the State admitted during the present Session. This is of the highest importance. Should Congress falter, and the question be left open till the next election, a revulsion in public sentiment may be expected. It is idle to talk of meeting the opposition on the issue made on this new Constitution.

It cannot in any just sense be said that even the Slavery clause is fairly presented. In the first place every one voting on that clause must vote for the entire Constitution, whether he approves of it or not. What would we have said if our new Constitution had been so submitted? If for instance we had been allowed to vote for or against tavern licenses, but for the entire Constitution, if we voted at all. I have no doubt a great proportion of the electors in the State would have indignantly refused to vote. This point of objection has peculiar force in the case of the Calhoun Constitution. There is in that Constitution one new, and to my mind very objectionable provision. It is made the duty of the legislature to enact laws all civil officers to use due diligence in securing & returning fugitive slaves. This is an entirely new provision in a State Constitution, so far as my knowledge extends, and may have been insert

ed for the purpose of deterring voters from voting on the Slavery Clause when submitted. This would certainly be its effect. Congress have undertaken to secure the restitution of fugitive slaves, and for one, I must say that my present impressions are entirely in favor of leaving the whole subject in their hands, and would find it very difficult to vote for a Constitution containing the foregoing provision. But there is a still further objection which is, to my mind entirely Conclusive. That is the provision in the schedule that any one whose vote is challenged shall before he is permitted to vote, swear to support the Constitution, if adopted, "under the penalties of perjury under the Territorial laws". This provision is so extraordinary that it can hardly be doubted but it was adopted for the purpose of deterring from the exercise of the right of voting even on the single proposition submitted.

Had the Constitution formed been fairly submitted, I would have sustained the Administration in the admission of the State and the suppression of all rebellion if such had followed, and a full execution of the laws on the offenders.—

I hope you will excuse this long epistle. It is longer than I intended, but the subject is of great importance, or at least I so regard it. Nothing new here.

Respectfully
Yours &c

Wm Sample

Hon. Jas. Buchanan.

1085

Clinton J. Sheldon
Albany N.Y.
Decr 12/57.

Wants Speech.

Albany, New York
December 12th 1857.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglass—
Dear Sir:

If you should have any copies of your celebrated speech of Dec. 9th upon that part of the Presidents Message which related to "Kansas Affairs," for distribution, I would greatly obliged if you would send me one.

Yours Respectfully
Clinton J. Sheldon

Hon. S. A. Douglass.

Quincy 12 Dec 1857.

Hon S A Douglas

Washington,

Dear Sir: That the Kansas question again threatens the peace of the Country and to give the common enemy of the Democracy the "vantage ground," none can seriously doubt. You as the author of the organic law of the territory, designed and understood as it was to establish an uniform rule for the organization of territories and the admission of States and based upon the American principle of self government, will to some extent be held responsible to the people for any substitution of shadows or appearance in place of the real principle of that law, so generally proclaimed by its friends, understood and therefore, approved by the party.

Upon this question there is no alternative for the Democracy north. No excuses however plausible, will satisfy the public mind with the admission of Kansas into the union without the approval of their Const

-tution by the people of the territory at the polls, in such manner as will be likely to ensure a fair expression of the public will. We are happy to learn that you deem it a duty you owe to the country and to your-self to oppose any measure which virtually abandons the great principle that, "government rightfully emanates from the governed," or which will not substantially carry out this principle in the sense understood and accepted by the party during the canvass of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. That understanding was and hitherto has been, that constitutions should come fresh and clear from the voters interested, — sanctioned at the polls by their deliberate and unrestrained action, in accordance with modern usage. The Southern people know they have nothing to gain (if the continuance of this government and the security under it of their local institutions is the object) by getting Kansas into the Union as now proposed and with slavery. Either rebellion or violent change of that constitution would, in spite of many strictly prohibitory, follow, and the Democratic conservative element north would become powerless for good.

To our mind congress should refuse to admit Kansas as now proposed, and provide by law for her admission with a constitution made by the people's representatives in convention and ratified by them at the polls in the usual manner. Nothing short of such final ratification it seems to us, will satisfy the public mind in the free states, and we are glad to learn that you will introduce and advocate some measure designed to procure for the people of Kansas a constitution in fact and in law of their own choice.

You, of course, will regard this letter as a friendly suggestion and expression of opinion and nothing more.

Your friends
O. B. Ficklin
Paul. Holmes
James M. Pollman
Thomas Redmond

Quincy, Ill's
Dec: 12th 1857

Oscar Skinner
David Holmes
Jas M. Pitman
&
Thos Redmond

approves your
course on the
Kansas question

NO

Columbus Ohio
~~Aug~~ Dec 12 1857

Hon Stephen A Douglas

Dear Sir

Should a leisure moment, by rare possibility be it wind be accorded to you, I would esteem a favor of the utmost value, to learn your real opinion of the prospect as to your enabling bill. You can rely on my perfect security. I should not ask this, but the extreme anxiety I feel to know what is to be upshot of the present complication, and if you do not write me, shall of course understand that it is because you have not the spare time.

Allow me to repeat in the most emphatic manner that the whole Democracy of our State are looking to you as the chief of our salvation. Pugh has kept still too long, and decide as he may at this time, he will learn that the people understand him. You may possibly observe, if you receive my paper, that I am striving to force him, or

to a manly assumption of his responsibility. If he goes against you he will escape at least 150,000 of our Democrats beyond atonement.

Can it be possible that the body of the South will go against you? If they do what shall we say to our people about our "Southern brethren", when we again go into a campaign? We have as sound a national Democracy in the main as breathes on the earth. Witness our vote for Payne. And who are those that may be against us — ask that of the Southern Democrats — and tell them that with but one exception, Vallandingham — if he be against us, no democrat here speaks in approval of Buchanan's views, who did not hang back from the Compromise of '50, solely because of the Fugitive Slave Bill. But the defection here would be hardly large enough to fill the offices there. There is not an out-and-out Anti-Nebraska Democrat who does not say "there is no popular sovereignty" and they seem to consider Black as complying with a previous understanding, that by some slip, the Nebraska Bill was to receive a fatal thrust under administration. Will the Southern lie so blind as to walk into the trap. If so, who are to defend them against abolitionism in future. Not the Democracy, for ~~out~~ we will be put under unless we can still hold on, despite the administration, and which the Republicans again, & again on the popular sovereignty platform. Must we do this without Southern sympathy and co-operation? Not by our choice — but whether they stand with us throughout or not we can only keep up by adhering to our present position. The mistake of Buchanan is unspeakably deplorable — if mistake it is — if not it is much worse. Can you expect material support from the South, of any party, and especially democrats?

Pardon a longer letter than I had intended, and make the South understand that in saving us, they save themselves.

Very truly & Respectfully

Yr Haddock Smith

Send us an early copy of your speech, which we will give in extenso. Observe the leader in our paper of tomorrow.

Hartford, Conn.
Mar 12/57

Colfax

1088

H. Nicholas
Decr 12, 1857

Hon. S. A. Douglas

My Dear Sir

I have just read your Matt Ably Speech on the Subject of the Constitution and can say with out the fear of contradiction that ~~there~~ there is no Man in the Senate Able to meet the arguments. You have ~~made~~ when you Stand firm as I have no doubt you will, you must carry your point against all the opposition that can be made against you. You are gaining friends from all quarters every day But the best of all you are in the right. My kind regards to Mrs Douglas

I am Yours

E D Taylor

E. D. Taylor
St. Nicholas —
Decr 12/57

Admire your Cornel

1089

Newton Corner Mass Dec 12th 1857

Senator Douglas:

My Dear Sir:

Perhaps I am intruding upon your good feelings to ask a favor at your hands if so you will please excuse me, I have read small portions of your late Speech which you delivered in the U.S. Senate the whole of which I have not been able to get as it has not been printed in full in this section if it is not asking too much I would thank you to send me a few copies of the same. I admire the position that you have always occupied in public life particularly on the Kansas Nebraska Bill from its origin to the present time, it is purely Democratic, from beginning to end, I am als sorry to see a portion of the Democratic Party now arrayed against you in the position you have taken on the affairs of Kansas thus virtualy giving the lie to their past declarations. Democrat that I am & have always been since I was a voter in 1844 I shall still

act with that Party, whose Great fundamental Principle is Loyalty to the Constitution & the Union & Giving to the People of the Territories the right that belongs to them of forming their own institutions in their own way providing they do not Conflict with the Federal Constitution, Permit me to Say to you go forward in the course that you have always pursued & the whole Democratic Party will soon see their error & return to you like Sheep to their Shepherd & place you in a position Second to none on Earth. You will please pardon me for writing as I have for I hardly know when to Stop on this Subject, also I Claim perhaps the privilege of so doing because I first drew my breath but a few Miles from your Native Place among the Green Hills of Vermont

From your ardent Friend,

S. A. Douglas

H. S. Linton

Newton Corner,
Mass
Dec 12/57.

A. L. Pinton

Wants a few
copies of Yr Speech
heartily approves
your course on
Kansas question

1090-3

D. S. Walton.
Dec 13/57.
Congratulatory.

Opinion Dec 13 /57

The Hon S A Douglas
Dear Sir
Your position
on Kansas is enviable.
Stand.

Your Servt
Danl S. Morelton

Gideon Welles
Hartford Conn
Dec 12 1857

Political

Hartford 12th Dec 1857

Dear Sir

Having just read your speech on the President's message, opposing the recognition of the Lecompton constitution until it shall have been approved by a majority of the people, I cannot forbear expressing the gratification it has given me.

"Governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed" is as self-evident a truth in 1857 as it was in 1776. To abandon this fundamental principle would be to surrender the corner stone of our whole political system.

This attempt to impose upon a people a government to which they have never given their consent, and to which they are notoriously opposed, is more arbitrary and more controlling, than any measure we have proved since the adoption of the federal constitution. It cannot be successful, and those who embark in it underrate the intelligence and virtue

of the people. But assured the popular heart is with you on this question and will sustain you. In the singular complication of parties the struggle may be arduous, but the final verdict in the vindication of a great principle, cannot be doubtful.

Honor to those who labor manfully in a good cause, has drawn from me these few lines. We had a correspondence some years since on the admission of Texas, when we concurred in opinion though differing from some valued friends, and it gives me pleasure to stand by you now as on that occasion.

I should be glad to say more, but will not trespass further than to subscribe myself Very Respectfully

Yours

Gideon Welles

Hon Stephen A. Douglas

Senator

E. C. Grant
New York
Decr 12/57

Admiral Commander
John Calhoun USN

W

New York Dec 12. 1857

My dear Judge.

My friend Commander John Calhoun is before the Senate for confirmation as Commander in the active list of the U. S. N. –

Altho' no difficulty is apprehended yet I take the precaution to keep you alive

with the view of
securing your
kind offices should
they be needed

always yr.
Edwd. L. West.

Hon. A. Douglas

1093

Boston, Md. Dec. 12. 1857

Sir,

You will confer a favor by enclosing to my address a copy of your speech on the Kansas question delivered in the Senate upon the 9th inst.

Very respectfully yours
H. R. Whitaker

Hon. Stephen A. Douglass
U. S. Senate

W. S. Whitaker
Postm Genl
Dec 12
Wants a Punch

1094

Illinois Central Railroad Company

OFFICE OF MASTER OF TRANSPORTATION.

Chicago, Dec 12 185

Hon Stephen A. Douglas
Washington

Dear Sir

I desire to make application through you for the position of Route Mail agent on some one of the lines diverging from our city

I have been connected with the Illinois Central Rail Road for the past 2 years and am well acquainted with the towns throughout the State. I have contributed considerable & have been an ardent supporter of the present administration & a Douglas man.

I would refer you to my present officers W. H. Osborne Jr. Pres'd, S. C. Clarke, Asst Supt & Judge Lane. I shall be happy if you will give me your influence for the place.

At present I am connected with the office of Master Transportation of this road but my health requires I should seek some more active employment.

Very Truly
Your
J. D. Winter

T. D. Winter
Chicago Ill
Dec. 12/57.

Wants Route Agency

Lent

1095

Lancaster Pa. Dec. 12th 1857

Senator Douglas

Not until last night could I get a copy of your Speech on Popular Sovereignty and then only the loan of it. Permit me to congratulate you in behalf of <u>all</u> the people of Lancaster You have struck the heart-string of the people, and caused a sympathetic reverberation from man to man - it was that which put me on the search last night to get the full speech.

This day three weeks ago an evening party of five of our citizens where engaged in a conversation concerning the sentiments of the Presidents Message, and during the evening the question was put "Who and which of our Statesmen can fill the place of the Wrights the Websters Adams & Prestons." I took occasion to say that Douglas would be the leading man, but met with rather unceremonious opposition in the

following remarks. "To hell with Douglas, he'll sell us to the slave power." Another one said, "he is an able Man, but like Buchanan, he is pledged to the south for the manufacture of slave territory by Lecompton Constitutions." The other two withheld an explicit opinion, and would "wait to see what you would do this session of Congress." In political complexion two were republicans, two Natives and one free soil democrat. On the question of "Popular Sovereignty" we were unanimously favorable, but we all had buts in it, and the fiercest of the buts were butted at you. I produced your Chicago speech, in defence of my position, which you made to the infuriated people of that City after the passage of the fugitive slave bill, but this was rather received as an evidence of how dangerous you were, should you let fall your integrity - an opinion strongly propagated by several influential papers in the Nation.

Last night these same five and two others happened together in Barr's Wines Depot, and I never before met in so spontaneous a congratulatory meeting before. If the original trumpe of Liberty had been sounded by the Old Goddess herself it could not have afforded more satisfaction than did your able - your masterly Speech on Popular Sovereignty. We are all willing to stand & die by its doctrines, and moreover, we pray that the God of our people may give you a long life of such work.

When I sat down to write my object was simply to ask you to send me a copy of your speech in pamphlet form, as I want to get it bound for my Library, but upon

reflection I thought it not out of place to inform you of the feeling of the people on this ~~interesting~~ vital subject here-abouts, as it is the theme in every little knot of people go where you will — in the work-shop, in the store, in the ware-house & in the high-way.

Very Respectfully and sincerely I am your fellow Citizen and supporter as a "Squatter Sovereign" until death, and I can safely say one thousand more like me in this city who did not vote for Mr Buchanan

John Wise

John Wise
Sacramento City
Cal
Dec 12 1857

1096

Vermillion Edgar Co Ills
December the 12th 1857
Dear Sir

You will please send to my address any public Documents Books etc you may be pleased to present your friends in this vicinity are seldom get any Documents as Patent Office Reports or any thing of the kind we look to you for information send them to me & I will give them to our friends and will reciprocate the favor when ever I can do so any information will be given cheerfully on enquiry

Respectfully Your Obedient

S. P. Gaugin

Vermillion Edgar Co
Ills

Vermillion. Ills
Dec 12th 1857.

J. S. Yeargin
wants documents

A. M. Cullyas
Assn of J. S. Yeargin
Vermillion Co Ills

Thos Leathers
New Haven Conn
Dec 12/57
Political &c

New Haven.

Dec 12th '57

Hon S A Douglas

Dear Sir

Since my return I have made it my special business to converse with leading Democrats in reference to the position you have taken upon the Lecompton constitution. Without an exception they sustain you to the fullest extent and are ready if the administration dares to make war upon you to support you through. It is the opinion of the most sagacious reliable guides that in such a contest you would command the support of four fifths of the democratic party. The young men are for you. There is a personal enthusiasm felt for you as a man which no one else in the party can command. They are making arrangements to circulate your speeches throughout the state & shall endeavor to bring

such influences to bear as will compel the dem=ocratic representatives from this State to sup=port you. The Roosevelt's of this city are ahead with you but they are looking for certain barr will not dare to take a decided stand. I write especially to obtain in the strictest confidence your wishes as to a public demonstration. An enthusiastic meeting ratifying your position and inclinitiy our representative (Mr Carroll) to vote for your enabling act, can be held at any time. I would also be happy if you mention any special points you would like to be em=braced in the resolutions. If the crash should come to the worst, there should be a clearly defined separation between the Administration & yourself I will at once establish, if it shall be deemed expedient, a Democratic paper in this city. I have no doubt our rich connected with politics that is to see you triumph in your present position & reap the deserved reward, the birthright of office in the gift of the people. Most faithfully

Yours Thomas Beatman