

Belleville. Ills.
Dec. 14th 1857.

Dear Judge.

The first thing I will say ~~to you~~ is that I do not intend to trouble you for anything, for I certainly want nothing, and this letter if welcome to you for no other reason, will be so for its singularity in two particulars, viz: that it does not beg and that it is written purely through friendship for you.

Without a single dissenting voice, (Democrats I mean) enthusiastically approve your course in regard to the Kansas Constitution lately made at Leecompton. We feel, that regardless of consequences, the people of Kansas must be permitted to pass upon that instrument. If the matter should turn out otherwise, we cannot avoid being - standing us in the face most unpleasantly - the fact, that our last Campaign in this County was our continued proclamation of our hypocrisy.

It will issue in less than 2 weeks, a first rate Democratic paper at this place, and ~~we~~ will have it so arranged this time that there will be no danger of being sold out again, as we were with the Indian newspaper - ~~sold~~ to a Black Republican concern. The paper we are now about to start will be owned in small shares by a majority of the Democrats of the County and will be under the charge of a preacher who came near being turned out of his church for supporting Polk & Dallas. We don't much like the idea of his being a preacher, but he has solemnly promised us that he will quit preaching and his uprightness as a man, his integrity, faithfulness and zeal as a democrat and his talent as a writer are beyond the least doubt. This name is Boyakin, you will probably recollect him. He is a staunch friend of yours and will publish of course a Douglas Paper.

We have already had much to say in regard to our ~~advertising~~

addrs for the next Legislature, and have partially determined on Mr. Chandler & Dr. Schott, a first rate German Democrat. One thing we have certainly determined upon and that is that the strongest and most reliable men shall be placed on the track and nothing spared to win victory. We fully feel the force of the fact that the B. R. have made the issue on your election, and Douglas & Democracy are synonymous terms in the next fight.

In conclusion I will say that I speak for the Democracy of St. Clair, when I say ~~that~~ that anything we can do, promote your success in any way, we are at your service to do. Write to us whenever we can be of any help to you. The popularity you have here is all your own - belongs to you for the sake of yourself and the cause you have pursued and it is known you will continue to pursue. It has nothing in the least to do with patronage or future advantage, for this is certainly a poor time to think of these. It would be gratifying to our old friends, if you could find time to either write or send a document occasionally.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Wm. H. Snyder.

Wm H. Iny der
Bellville MS
Dec 14th 1857
Political

no

Dec. 14-54

Hon S A Douglas

My Dear Sir:

Will you be kind enough
to send by the bearer a bundle of your speeches
for distribution to some of the prominent dem-
ocrats in Ohio & to democratic papers East.

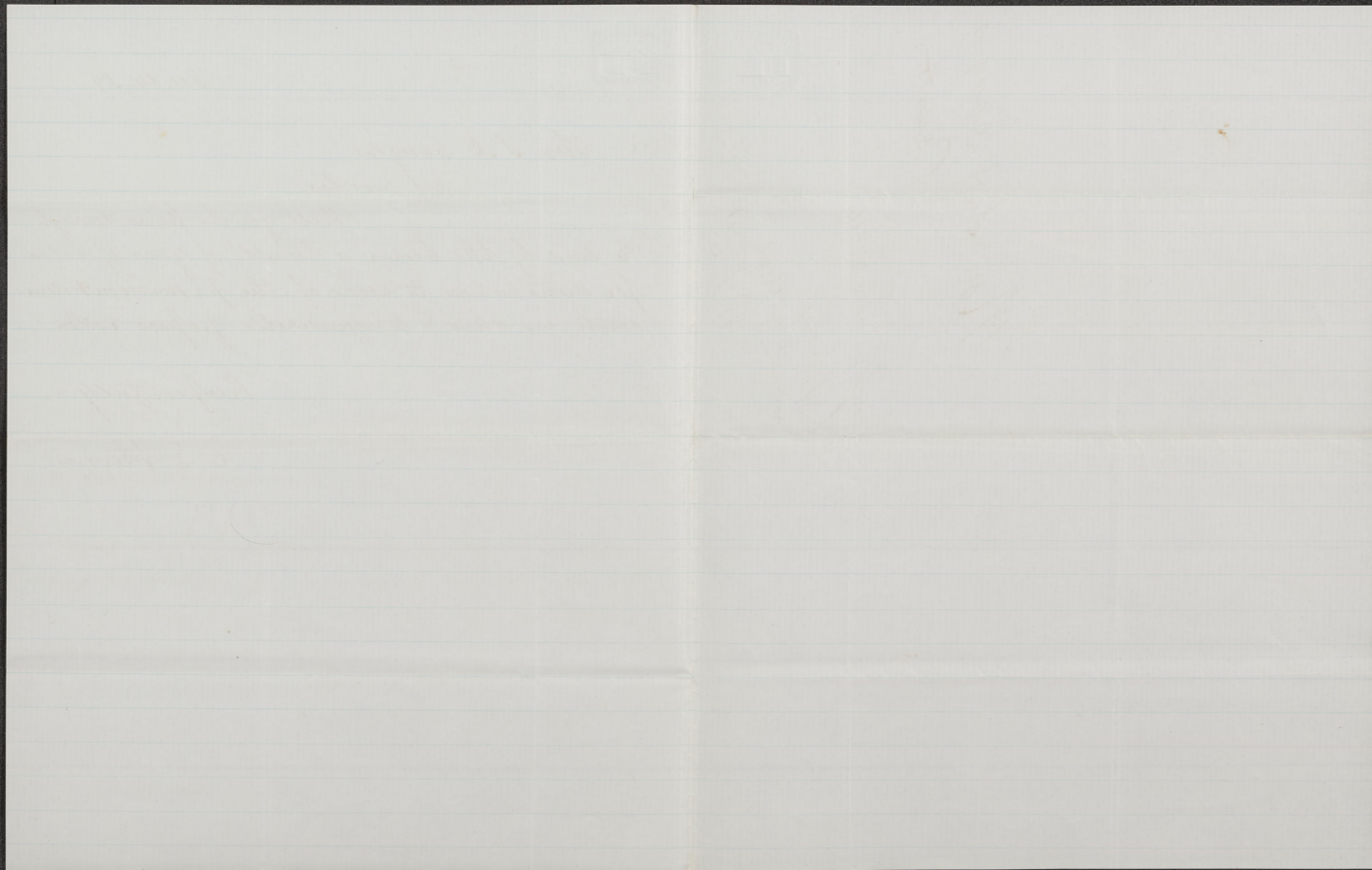
Respectfully &

E S Stevens

C. L. Stevens
Washington DC
Dec 14/57

Wauld Some of your
Late Speeches

Wm. D. Boylston
C. L. Stevens



Mellica Hill Dec 14 1857

Dear Senator

I cannot resist the inclination I feel to tender to you my heartfelt thanks for your noble speech of Wednesday. The County and the Democratic party owe you a thousand thanks for its timely delivery. You have met the whole question in such a convincing manner and that so promptly, that it cannot fail to fall with crushing effect on the defenders of the LeCompton Contrivance. For to justify to approve of or to defend the action of the Kansas Constitutional Convention is to my mind, to ignore the whole doctrine of popular sovereignty and the capacity of man for self government & if we must do so to save the Democratic party, then as you justly remark there will be nothing left worth saving. I was as you know opposed to the landing the settlers of 1820 but in common with our friends accepted the Kansas bill as correct in principle and intended in a peaceful manner to settle the whole question of slavery in the territories for all time to come and to be carried out in good faith. We labored with sleepless vigilance in the free states & convinced the masses

that our party would stand by the principle
and that our Standard bearer was too good
a man to countenance a fraud - Will we not
~~and~~ the many who come up as a flood against
us and though most of the free states, deserted
our candidate, enough stood by him, to secure
his election - ~~that~~ It was the confidence the
masses showed in the sincerity of our pledges
that carried Mr. Paine & I away - let us
not now abuse that confidence, but let us
act like honest men and we can stand up
like men - I am in the dark in relation to
the course of our Senators, but I have great
hopes of Mr. Wright - whatever can be done to
defeat the Secompton Constitution should be done
for if Congress accept a Constitution with
the admission on all sides, that of presented
faintly to the people, that it would be rejected
we might as well desist - Your speech
is highly applauded here by all parties, I
have to meet with the fair Democrat who does
not speak of it in the most exalted terms

If you should have a few spare copies
some of your admirers would be highly gratified
in receiving a copy under your frank

I append a few names with the P.O. address

James Bennett
Jos. Houghton
N. T. Skatton Jr
James Gibson
Wm. Conway Jr
Mil. G. Elderton
Thomas M. Cole
Jacob C. Tomlin
Genl. Goodwin

Mullica Hill P.O.

Mr. G. Harker
Amos M. Long
George Curry
Wm. Clark

Harrisonville

Dr. Jno B Sickle
Wm Beckett
Jno Daniel
Jas. J. Poreh

Carpenters Landing

Saml. F. Carter
Chas. Hopkins
Jos. W. Peeres
Jno M. Watson
Jos. D. Pedriotti

Woodbury

Dr. S. Tyler Miller
Saml. B. Warner
Jacob Price
Wm L. Thompson
Wm. Darnon

Paulsboro.

I subscribe myself with
great respect Your friend

Nathan Stratton

To Hon. S. A. Douglass,

W. S. Shallen
Mullico Hill

At Len

Decr 14th 1857

Wants Specieky

Scut

Roscoe Ill. Dec. 14th 1857.

Hon S A Douglas }
Washington D.C.

As our mails are in such a state that you will please bear with me for again urging you to get an agent appointed for the R.R. route from Belvidere Ill. to Westville Mo. I mean see the Department and do it for us if possible. All we have asked for has been done except appointing an agent and what has been done does not amount to any thing without an agent in the case with that we will be satisfied and believe me it will be of great benefit to the Democracy now and in the future do urge it upon the Department.

Do not forget to send me your first Spec on Gen. Walker Kansas policy and all others that you think will be interesting - and I will see that they are distributed.

Yrs truly
Hugh Stickland

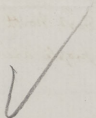
Hugh Strickland
Rosen 26,

Dec 14/57

Wants a Route Agent
Appointed

Tallmadge?⁷⁷
Hon A P Tallmadge
Lithgow Me to
N Y
Decr 14/57

Political



1190

Lithgow, Dutchess Co, N. Y.
Decr 14th 1857.

My dear Sir.

I was opposed to your Kansas-
Nebraska bill when it was introduced. The
people had lived contentedly for a series of
years, ^{under the Missouri Compromise,} and had quietly settled down under the
Fugitive Slave Law. I was unwilling to disturb
their repose. But after your bill became a law,
I was opposed to any attempt to restore the Com-
promise. I wished to see the Kansas-Nebraska
act carried out in its true spirit. I supported
Mr. Buchanan, because I believed his administration
would quiet "slavery agitation". I approved of his
course in regard to Kansas, after he entered upon
the duties of his office, notwithstanding the frauds
and border ruffianism which had existed there.
He found an existing government in Kansas - a
government de facto, if not de jure - a government
recognised by his predecessor and by Congress. In

regard to this government, he was bound "to see the laws faithfully executed." But how I have been disappointed, and how the whole country has been disappointed, ~~as regards~~ ⁱⁿ his course upon the acts of the Leecompton Constitutional Convention! The very letter and spirit of the Kansas-Nebraska act has been violated. The fundamental principle of popular sovereignty and free government has been trampled under foot.

No President ever had such an opportunity for a brilliant debut for ^{his} Administration, as Mr Buchanan had on this question. Instead of swearing hold of it, he has run counter to ^{the} principle itself, and counter also to the Kansas act, to the Cincinnati platform, to his Inaugural, to his instructions to Governor Walker, to his Manifesto to the Connecticut Clergy-men, and, in short, to every thing he has said on this subject or the principle involved in it.

In this state of things I am rejoiced at your course. I am glad that there is one man who has the moral courage to maintain a great principle against the behests of Executive power. Only upon it the country is with you, and

you will be sustained. At the East, North and West, there is but one opinion on this subject. In truth there is but one side to the question.

Persevere, then, in the course you have taken, neither intimidated by Executive power, nor by Union denunciations. The whole Democratic party of the East, North and West are with you. The whole people are with you.

Very truly Yours,
W. P. Falmadge

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas.
U. S. Senate.

Chicago Decm 24 57
 To the Hon S. A. Douglas
 Washington City

Dear Sir

I would just ask you what the
 prospects are for a appointment
 as I speak you about a short
 time I am as Superintendent of
 Works or any thing that will
 make a living for my family
 Your. pleas. Reply as to the prospect
 I drafted my friend G. C. Denison
 a line in reference to the same to see
 you for me I will take the same
 as a lasting favor any thing
 you may do for me in the
 primord I remain yours
 With Respect, &c

S. R. Taylor

J. R. Taylor Chicago

Dec. 14

Wanted appointment

Leah

34
Hon John J Taylor
Congress N.Y.
Oct 14/57

Wants Copies of Late
Speech
Encloses a List

Mango Plaza Co. N.Y.
Dec. 14, 1857.

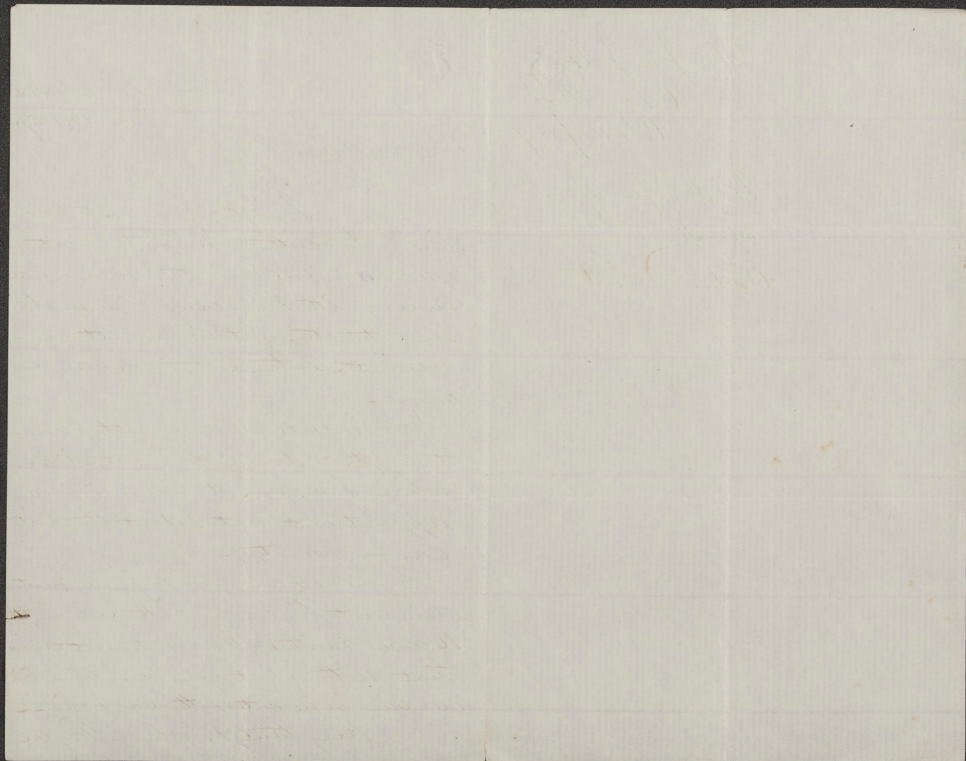
Hon. L. A. Douglass,
Dear Sir,

Thinking you might be
willing to scatter a few ^{copies} of your late
speech in this vicinity, I send a few
names, with P.O. address, of persons to
send them to. if it be perfectly con-
venient. I think they would do
good.

Mr. Winsall will doubtless have
the appt. of Naval Officer at N.Y.,
which I thought it would be a bad
appointment, but I don't think it
can be prevented.

So far as I am able to judge, most
democrats here agree with you on the
Kansas matter. The sentiment grows
that nothing but your "enabling bill"
can bring order out of the confusion.

Very truly, J. John J. Taylor



Granville Mahaska Co. Iowa
 December 14th 1851

Hon S. A. Douglass

Sir

Will you have the kindness to
 send me a Copy of the Patent Office Report for 1856
 And occasionally such other Documents as you may have
 at your disposal.

Fraternally Yours &c
 Vanne Thompson

Granville
Mahaska Co. Iowa
Dec 14th 1857.
Saml Thompson
Trans Patent Office
Reports — —

sent speech

Leecompton - Kansas Dec. 14/57
Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

Sir -

I have purposely
refrained from writing to you - with a view to
have the means of posting you on current
events. Kansas is indeed a whirlpool - The leg-
islature is still in session - holding daily & night
conferences. A terrible struggle is going on among
them, as to their policy. To day the House passed
a Bill, making it a misdemeanor for any of the
Judges or other officers of election under the Leecom-
pton Constitution to take any part therein. -
Marking offences against the Act exclusively en-
joyable before the Probate Court - Its effect if it
passes the other House - which I confess is more
conservative, - will be to prevent most of the ~~leecompton~~
Counties from voting. - A strong party, in in fa-
vor of ignoring the election of 21st Dec - of voting
against the Constitution on 1st Mon. of Jan - & sending
returns to Gov. thus purposely making them illegal -
but of electing a thoroughbred State Sheriff in -

cluding Legislature - They would then force the
Free Slavery men to present a Slavery Constitution
- what they would get the benefit of the Office. The
inside struggle is all our trouble - in the U. S. Sena-
torship. By it - both Free State & Pro-Slavery men
are split into about 12 factions - each with its
leader aspiring to Senatorial honors - All the Free
State Democrats who have hitherto acted in the
Free State party - are advocating the above policy
- for the purpose of having a Republican Ticket e-
lected & thereby securing the defeat of the Consti-
tution. Lane openly declares he is acting in perfect
union with Mr. Stanton - but of course with different
ends in view. "They as a party will do one of two
things - make the whole thing a farce - or play
a profound scheme upon the Democratic Party -
namely - have Republican Officers for a Pro-Slavery
State - In myself - though much opposed to the plan
of submission in its passage - yet I thought it might
be used to advantage. I am now convinced that
for the sake of Kansas & our Party - it had better
be got rid of - In this opinion pro-slavery men
agree - such men as Judge Cato - Mr. Boley - Judge
Elmore who by the way voted for it in the ^{Constitution}

Twelfth Term of the Court voted pro-slavery men
in the Convention denominated it there. Some of
them even refusing to sign it. - Could we have se-
cured a turnout of Free State men - so Democratic sen-
ators under it - I would have acquiesced - so would
many & most of those in the present Democratic or-
ganization - But it will not do - for the sake
of Southern men who wish to amend a Republican
Representation in the U. S. Senate - especially for
our sake here - it should be rejected. Without
presuming to advise - it occurs to me that Sepa-
ration in the heart of Congress which would send
back the Constitution for ratification would be
better than a new ^{who} convention - By this means the
feelings of those who voted for it would be respected -
while we would lose the chance of being defeated
in a new convention. If a plan of the kind could
be adopted before the voting here - it would be better
- but that I suppose impossible unless it is pre-
sented - Should a course like this be adopted - our State
election should be put off as far as possible after
the vote upon the Constitution - so as to give us
time to organize the Party -

The argument would have

Against a few pro-slavery men who are disposed
to find fault with your position as announced
in the paper - is that ~~about~~ a majority of the
members of the Convention - bitterly opposed this very
plan of submission. They denounced it as a swindle
and trick - They were the "Senior Part" pro-slavery
men & it is true were non-submission men - but
they openly avowed a preference for full submission rather
than the present. All this is well known here &
should occasion offer - could be substantiated to
the fullest extent. Their alternative was non-
submission or all submission.

A fine social feeling
has been created by the free meetings of free State
Pro Slavery men now in decomposition.

All are awaiting
with great anxiety, the Message.

Yours Truly,
Wm. West.

Wm West
Dec 1851
Franklin
State of New York
(interesting)

Wm J Wiley
Lancaster Penn
Dec 14/57

Wants 200 Copies of
Late Speech

1197

Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 14/57.
Hon. S. A. Douglass,
Dear Sir -

Will you oblige
me by sending several copies
of your speech delivered
in the Senate on the 9th.

Although published in
the N. Y. Times and Forney's
Press there were a large num-
ber of persons, who could
not obtain it. At least
200 extra copies of the latter
paper must have been sold
in this city on Saturday last,
and yet not half the num-
ber of persons, ^{desiring it} could be sup-
plied by the agent.

It is the right doctrine.
And it was my pleasure to
advocate

it (whilst editor of the Lincolntonian) at a time when the "home organ" of Mr. Buchanan was as silent as the grave in regard to it.

I have no doubt that Mr. C. from this district will furnish it to his friends in this country, but a large portion of the Democracy will be deprived of it - unless our Senators should
take ^{care} of us.

Yours, very Respectfully
Wm. B. Wiley

Cambridge Mass Dec 14/87

Hon S. A. Douglas;

Dr Sir:

Please
accept My sincere con-
gratulations for the very
able & truthful views con-
tained in your speech on
the Kansas Constitution &c.
And if it is convenient,
will you during this session
of Congress, send me such
public documents as will
be at your disposal, &
Very oblig, your well-
wisher

E. S. Whittmore

E. S. Whitcomb

Cambridge Mass

Dec. 14th '57

Admire your Courtesie
(wants documents)

W

Sent

Wm. A. Douglas
J. A. Douglas

My dear Mr. Douglas
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed purchase of the land for the purpose of building a new bridge over the river at the place where the old bridge was burned. I am very glad to hear that you are so interested in the project and I am sure that the land will be sold at a good price. I will be glad to see you at your convenience and discuss the matter further. Very respectfully,
J. A. Douglas

Wm. A. Douglas
J. A. Douglas

2nd

Horace Wheaton
Syracuse, N.Y.
Dec. 14/57.
Approbatory.

1195

Syracuse Dec. 14. 57
Hon. S. A. Douglass
Dr Sir,

I feel it my duty
as a member of the Democratic party
to say to you, that the position taken by you
in the recent debate in the U.S. Senate is
honorable to you, & I cannot see how
any person claiming fellowship with
the great Democratic party, can sub-
scribe to any other doctrine in this ~~case~~
matter of the Kansas or Leecompton
Constitution. The democratic doctrine
would be to submit the Constitution to
the people for their approval or reje-
ction, & not as is proposed by the framers
of the Leecompton Constitution, & you shall
take it anyhow, but if you do not like
one Section you can strike it out, but you
must take the residue, however odious it
may be. Well I do not propose to go
into any argument on this subject

Nor did I intend to say more than
this - to go on maintain the position
you have taken, on this question, and
you will be sustained by the whole
Country, Surely the whole North.

I have not time to say more this Eve-
ning but should be glad to hear from
you occasionally.

Very truly Yours
Horace Wheaton

Federick Md
14 Dec. 1857

Dear Sir,

I tender you my thanks
for your bold defence of popular
sovereignty; against the unstatesman-
like approbation given by President
Buchanan to the preposterous and
wicked mode proposed, of submitting
to the vote of the people of Kansas, a
constitution framed by an unautho-
rised assemblage purporting to be
a convention of representatives of
the people. Congress ought to rebuke
any attempt to interfere with its
exclusive constitutional right of
admitting new States into the Union.
The admission of new States is the most
important right given to Congress;

Frederick Md
Dec 14 1857.
Chas. Lytle.
Baltimore
Wm. Conrad
West City T
Dover

and its exercise is fraught with
great dangers, as our history
is fast-proving. Let not the
government, ~~there~~, violate the
fundamental principle of self-
government at the very birth
of a State! Let us stand by
the principles and the forms of
our government, and strive to have,
in this country, a practical
politics which ignores the old
political doctrine of necessities
of State to help us in emergencies.
As a pro-slavery man, I do not
want Kansas as a slave state,
against the wishes of a rightful
majority of her citizens. Especially,

I do not wish her to be tripped into
slavery. I voted for Mr Buchanan
and wish his administration may
heal the wounds of the country.
Now I confess I fear the results
of his course in this Kansas
business.

My apology for writing to you,
is simply, that my approbation of
your course is so hearty, that it
forces me from my professional
retirement as a lawyer, to bid
you stand by your principles.

Your obt servant
Samuel Tyler

Hon L. A. Douglas
U. S. Senate

JOSEPH M. WILSON,
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No. 111 South Tenth Street, East side, a few doors below Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

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Philadelphia, Decr 14th 1857.

Hon: Stephen A. Douglass
Washington Af
DC.

Dear Sir

In case
your late speech on the Kansas Question
should be printed in Pamphlet form
please send me a copy -

Having always approved your
Course. I feel in this instance
that your position is the true one
both for our Country as well

as for the Democratic party
I can assure you that
myself in connection with
other Democrats hope just
being from your powers.

Remain

Yours truly
Joseph M. Wilson

Joseph M. Wilson
Philadelphia
Dec 14/57
Wants Copy of your
Late Speech

112
New Haven. Monday

Dec 14th 1853

Hon S A Douglas

Dear Sir

I have had a meeting in my law office of a majority of the leading, working men of the party. They unanimously support you in the position you have taken & are ready whenever it shall be deemed expedient to take a public stand. The integrity of the party depends entirely at the North upon following the course you have marked out. I have arranged to circulate in this State 5000 copies of your speech as soon as it shall be published. I would be obliged if you would send me about twenty of them franked but, not directed. I will send them to certain parties who would feel complimented in receiving a copy directly from you. I enclose you an extract from the Independence Messenger

published in Missouri denouncing in the
strongest terms the Secession Constitution

Most faithfully

Yours

Thomas Keatman

Thos Keatman

Mr Ham

Camt

Dec 14 to 1857.

Sent to Capt's

10