Volcano, Jan. 17th 1857.

Dear Sir:

A line from one of your old boyish companions may not come amiss; the news from Washington has arrived, your course in the Senate relative to Kansas matters will secure to you the California delegation, I promise you that — and further Stephen A. Douglas will be the next, you know what I mean. Now "Old Pet" I have worked in your harness over twenty years, I have held one little office in this County — next year I shall probably be the "Democratic Nominee" of the party — "the Douglas party" for County Clerk. — I have accidentally once or twice intimated that I was one of your early and most intimate friends, which you know to be the fact, that might be disputed, now I want you to write me a few lines, without any allusion to this letter

merely acknowledging our old friendship – besides it would be a great pleasure to me read all that you may think proper to write about any-thing. Twenty-years devoted to your service politically I think is quite that much.

I think I will be the next Clerk of Amador County – an office worth over $10000. per year. I am "sum pumpkins" in the mines. I can get office from this time on "No Mistake." From your old friend "Moss Ballard" of Jacksonville and Springfield meaning direct your letter to "Volcano Amador County" California.

yours "Shure!"

A.M. Ballard

Volcano. Cal
Janry 17th 58
A. W. Ballard

2736

Shelbyville Ky. Jan. 17th

My dear Sir:

I intrude on your time once more for the purpose of giving you an inside view of the feelings & action of our late State Convention. Devotion to your fortunes is my only apology.

You will see the Resolutions do not endorse the Administration - They simply damn the President with a little "faint praise," personally - They are about such resolutions as the New Hampshire Democracy recently adopted, after refusing to endorse the Administration - Ours simply express a confidence in the Patriotism -

I have more to say

integrity, good intentions &c
I myself have none either
in his acts or motives—
Our resolutions repudiate
emphatically the infamous
test attempted to be made
by the old tyrant and his
servile minions. This is glory
enough for one short year
in a state where twelve
months ago to side with you
was political death—
I would not have you think
your friends were in the
majority in the Convention—
but they were in such force
that the Secessionists were
afraid to flatly endorse
the Administration and its
infamous conduct towards
you, especially in your late
canvass. Your friends in this
state are generally among
the yeomanry—the office
seekers, politicians and
camp followers—the men
who always make the
most noise—being the
adherents of old Buck—
Permit me to say the
Kentucky Democracy are
too brave and just to knowingly
wrong you or any
one. They have of late I
mourn to say treated you
with great injustice, unkindness
& ingratitude. But it was
because in a moment of
excitement they suffered themselves
to be deceived. In your
darkest hour you had a few
faithful friends, who never
deserted you—The conduct of
the Administration towards
you has disgusted thousands,
and in addition thereto the

number will naturally increase as the true character of the issue between yourself and the P. becomes properly understood. I have an abiding faith in the people - if they do wrong to day, they will rectify that wrong tomorrow -

Trusting that the day is not far distant, in which you will have a home in the heart and an advocate in the tongue of every Kentuckian, I am dear Sir,

Ever faithfully
your friend
Jno. B. Cochran

Hon. S. A. Douglas

~~Y~~ ~~o~~ ~~p~~ W Topsham Jan 17 1858

Dear Sir

I make bold to send to you my ~~name~~ name, that you my send me if you please ~~some~~ some of the public documents of Congress, they would come very acceptable to me for I am a great reader ~~the case is~~ it is the case generaly that the rich men get the favor from the congress men and the poor men go with out

From Austin A Fish
Topsham Maine
Box 9

Austin A. Fish

Topsham, Me

Jan 17. 1858,

Mrs Hoeb

2738

Franklin Vermont Janᵛ 19ᵗʰ/58

Hon.ʳ S. A. Douglass

Dear Sir

I am a Stranger to you but I am a Douglass man and have bin Ever Since I Read your Speach on the bill for the repending of Presadent Jacksons fine, & have taken great interst in your Plan for the Teratorys Bill, & was Pleas with your Speach on the Presadent Speach on the Kansas question & I would wish you to send me your Speach on the Same, & such other Speaches as you may make and others that you may think best send, and Sir I take this liberty of addesing you as you was once a Vermonter and as we have no Democrat Senator in Congress from the New England States & I hope you will be an advocate of the Pension Bill for the Soldiers of the War of 1812 and if Bill Shall it Be only for the Regular Soldiers I hope it may be so ammended as to include the Malitia that was Cald out by the Gouvner of Vermont and Sent in to the State of New York in the fall of 1813 and Suffered in Tents until the 20ᵗʰ of November I was one of them. Yours with much Respect

Horace Gates

Franklin Pa
January 19th/58

Horace Gates

Is a "Douglas man"
- wants you to
advocate "Pension
Bill"
- wants speech

Democrat Office
Placerville Cal
Jany 17/58

D.W. Gelwicks

Wants Appointment
Course wants
Speech & doc's for
himself & Rhes —

Gives names of
Illinois friends
there. Dr Doy
Collector Washington
"is for Douglas."

Democrat Office
Placerville, Jan 17 1858

Hon S. A. Douglas Dear Sir:

The Democracy of California are with you and are prepared to sustain the champion of "equal rights" Our party is united and strong and we feel that the decision of your course & approval of [illegible] will be received with [illegible]

In personal appearance & address of this country, as was to be expected, Lecompton is not the absorbing topic, but the people, the reflecting honest Democracy, are with the author of the Kansas bill. They denounce this Lecompton without a dissenting exception, and deprecate the course — repudiates the unwarranted drivelling policy of the President. The principle of the Kansas bill must be maintained at any hazards. If the people are incapable of self government, let them be [illegible] to a Monarch at once.

As a Southerner, & in parting with the South, in the spirit of its progressive, religious & liberty loving institutions and standard of right, I am for Douglas as the Democ

sas Nebraska bill. I was at a loss to conceive how any true Democrat, any unprejudiced Southerner, can oppose it. In our primary meetings, our county and State conventions, we endorse all the principles, or more correctly, have not the[y] time or volumes at the bidding of any man, it matters not how high his position may be.

Hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you before we vote, & of listening to you for the next twenty in the Charleston Convention,

I remain,

Yours truly,

S. M. Pelletreau.

P.S. If convenient you would oblige me. In '43 & '44 we published the Ill. Clarion in Belleville, St. Clair Co., Illinois, which was adopted State Capitol. Mozandrew, formerly of Gallatin Co., is Sheriff of Jefferson County; L. B. Hopkins, of Lawrenceburg, Dearborn; James Johnson, of Ala., our County Judge; L. Foster, of Ala., Assessor; C. Knox, of Perry Co., and H. T. Howard, of Fayette, our County Superintendent. Illinois is well represented in our County. Maj. Wade, formerly of St. Clair Co., is in the Custom House, at San Francisco, but he is a Douglas man all over. Col. Weller, of the Senate, Washington, would be very glad to receive a letter from Douglas.

Send documents to each of these gentlemen, if convenient. I want your great speech, & wish I had it to circulate. Your son is now with me, and desires to be remembered.

S. M. P.

2740

Margantown Fly Jan 17th 1858

Hon Stephen A Douglas

Dear Sir

you will perhaps be surprised to receive a letter containing the request which this does - from a distant and obscure individual as I. - The only apology I have to offer for the intrusion is my peculiar fondness of and taste for political matters & things and for the Kansas & Nebraska controversy in particular coupled with a pecuniary inability to obtain the requisite books and papers containing full and comple authentic information respecting many of the important events of our Political history. My request is that you will from time to time send to me full and complete information in regard to Kansas and documents of all other matters of public interest. If you will comply with my request you will confer a great favor upon one who though young in years and in knowledge may yet contribute something to the great principle of Popular Sovereignty. I am with you heart & hand in your opposition to the Lecompton Constitution & as far as I can apprised the Democracy of this Section indorse your position as in perfect keeping with the great principle of non-intervention as promulged by the Democratic party from Maine to Georgia during the memorable Canvass of 56

yours respectfully B L D Guffy

P S Address B L D Guffy Margantown Fly

Morgenthau
Feb - Jan 17/58
B. L. D. Griffis
approving of
Pres's docs
speeches -
especially those
relating to
Kansas —

Sacramento City Cal.
January 17th 1858

Hon S. A. Douglas

I as one of your old Illinois friends am pleased to see the Stand you have taken on the Kansas question, to submit a part of any State Constitution and not the whole to the people is an absurdity that I supose, Mr Buchanon could never be guilty of. The mail from Washington has only been here two days, that brot the news of the seeming difference between you and the President and I must say, so far as my knowledge goes, you are universely indorsed. As I wrote you once before, this State has always indorsed you to the fullest extent: and but for Bigler's treachery at our Convention to Elect delegates to the National Convention you would and aught to have had the delegates

You Doubtless will be pleased to know that your old friend, Col Forman, has been appointed Secretary of State, by Gov Weller, The appointment I am glad to say, gives general satisfaction,

I would be pleased to be remembered and placed on your list of persons to whom, you send documents and the doings of Congress generally. The pure Democracy of California, dont go mutch on Hon D C. Broderick he is after the style of man called John Bigler, who believes that Democracy Consists in nothing but fat offices and that he and his friends must have all or it is not Democracy,

Your friend
John T Knox

Sacramento City
Cal.
January 17th. 1858
Mrs. J. Knox

2742

Springfield, Jan 17 [1858]

Dear Sir:

I see the Union of the 12th, in addition to having a thrust at you has a large "supplement" giving the usual Contract advertisements. As there no "administration" papers in Illinois according to the Union's ruling who is to publish Illinois' share of its "supplement?" I can't go its teachings, but I could indorse a portion of its "supplement" with pleasure. It would help me ten or twelve hundred about just now I lack.

If you can, with propriety, do any thing to have Mr P. M. G. Brown send us the advertisements

please do so

I have no late news to tell you other than what you find in the papers. Sanford & Co have things "all right" and shall keep them so I think

Our meeting of Wednesday went off admirably, and will have a good effect. Our friends are not only with you in your present fight, but enthusiastically so.

The enemy are busy setting stakes for the November contest, which they will make a hot one, to secure the Legislature, but our friends are alive to the work before them.

Yours truly

Chas H Lamphier

Oscar H Lamphier
Springfield Ills
Jan'y 7/58.

Wants attention
to some Post Off:
advertisements

2743

San Jose, Cal. Jan 7. 17. 1858

The Hon. Stephen A Douglas

Dr Sir

// Permit me to thank you for the copy you sent to my paper, the San Jose Telegraphe, of your very interesting and able speech delivered in the Senate on the 9th December // upon the President's message. The speech does as much honor to your principles and to your heart as it does to your head, and distinguished as your public career has been by great ability, this last effort of yours will be regarded in future time as it is now by all honest dispassionate minds as the noblest and ablest and best of your remarkable ~~Administrational~~ history. // The public feeling, the public sentiment, the great masses of the Democratic party, here, as elsewhere are enthusiastically with you in this controversy. — How could it otherwise be, unless American citizens have become the fitting subjects for despotic rule? //

It is now more than twenty years, since I

first had the pleasure of forming your acquaintance in Illinois - I was then a partner of Judge Martin in the practice of the law at Alton, and I saw you first at Carrollton -

We have frequently met since, but since 1852 I have resided in California. In that year I became the proprietor of this printing office and have ~~since~~ conducted it as its Editor and Publisher. The Telegraph under my charge has been distinguished for two things - it was the first paper in the State to oppose Know Nothingism, and that opposition led me into the support of John Bigler for Gov.^r a man for whom personally I had no esteem, but whose election I regarded as a less evil, than the success of the Know Nothing party which here and especially in this country was an instrument of the Chivalry for political ends - and it was the first Republican paper in the State. // The Democratic State Convention, which nominated delegates to the Cincinnati Convention, was so completely in the hands of Southern politicians, and expressed resolutions so ~~completely~~ at variance with what I considered true democratic doctrine, that I at once bolted, and on the 18 of March 1856 placed the names of J. C. Fremont and Francis P. Blair at the head of my columns as my candidates for President and Vice President, and so got the start of the Philadelphia convention three months.

Of course I very much regretted the passage of the Kansas Nebraska Bill, ~~not~~ because I did not most heartily approve of the principle it embodied, and was convinced from the first that if honestly carried out, it would prevent the extension of Slavery, yet I was opposed to the repeal of a law, passed under peculiar circumstances and which partook of the nature of a compact between the Free & Slave States. I foresaw & dreaded the very evils which have come to pass by opening again the Slave question, and I had no hope, no expectation whatever, that with every branch of Government monopolized by Southern men, fair dealing would be extended to the free men of the North in the settlement of the territories. //

Pardon me for writing so much about myself, I did not intend it, when I began, and allow me to thank you again for your speech, and to assure you that for this honest and manly effort in defence of the dearest rights of our American citizens, you have my most sincere esteem.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c.
F. P. Murdock

San Jose, Cal
January 17/58
F. B. Murdock.
Political

2749

Brandon Pers, 17th 1858

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir

Pleas send
to my address all Public Documents
of intrest

and much obligd

C. F. Power

Brandon Vt,

C. J. Powers

Brandon. Vt

Jan 17/58

Mans documents

2795

Ill
Vandalia June 17th 1838

Mr Douglass. Sir

I venture a request that you will send me a copy of "The United States Coast Survey", if such is granted for public distribution, if not any public documents or speeches that would be interesting to a student of the legal profession and confer a favor on one of your warmest admirers

A. C. Reed

(Smithsonian Repository Dept.)

A C Reed

Vandalia

Ills.

Sandusky O Jany 17 1858

Hon S A Douglas

Dear Sir Will
be so kind as to send me
a copy of your Speech
and to satisfy you
that your kindness will
not be misplaced I will
refer you to Hon H L Stevens
who is now a resident of
Washington and Hon John McKeon
of New York city who will be
in your city in a few dyes
I do not know of a single
Buchan Democrat in this
part of the State that is one
who supports his Kansas policy
there who oppose you are
now your Strong friends
I Owen

Unless Mr Pugh finds the "facts" very soon he will be told them from the people in such a way that he wont forget them very soon

Yours truly

P. H. Riley

PS Have you a copy of Lieut Herndons Exploration in the Amazon any you publish Dock must that you dont want

Philip H Riley

Sandusky O. June 7/58.

P. H. Riley's Political - Mass Speech - Herndons Exp. Amazon &c. &c.

Belleville, January 1st 1858

Hon: S. A. Douglas,

Dear Sir:

I have been waiting to see what would be the settled opinion of our people on the Lecompton constitution, before I would write to you on the subject. The Old Ranger was for some time on the fence, then was rather for the admission of Kansas as a State at once, but has at lenght come out boldly for Douglas' position on that subject. Although old and childish, he might bring discord into the ranks by taking the opposite side, and we have no strenghth to spare at present. I am not very apt to swallow every story I hear, nor confide readily in politicians promises - but I cannot doubt but your position will very much aid us in electing your friends to the next H. R. of this State. Very many men who never directly or indirectly cast a vote for you, now say that you must be returned to the U.S. Senate: that you have the talent necessary, and the firmeness to carry out the true principles of the Government. Never, in my opinion, did you occupy so high a place in the opinion of the people, as at present. You were distrusted by many, they believed you to be under the control of the Ultra Southern politicians. They say they were mistaken. That you have hazzarded everything of a party character to do right. I write my opinions candidly, my acquaintance is limited; but so far as I can learn

there could not be a better state of feeling towards yourself. Even Dr Finley, in a conversation half an hour since says that however much he may have disliked the Kansas Nebraska bill, he is now convinced it will work out great good— that it will put a final period to the Slavery question— by leaving it to be settled by those in concerns. That the Abolitionists will be left in so insignificant a minority that they will not only be powerless for injury, but will not be able to attract any notice.

By the way, if you can lay your hands on any documents relative to Africa— the Colonization Society or anything relating to the Slave trade, please send to Dr Finley. Also some Garden Seeds— He is now teaching in our town is popular, and will be with us for the future I hope.

I should be glad to hear from you at any time

Respt'y Yr Obt Servt.

W. W. Roman

Belleville Ills
January 17th 1858.

W. W. Roman

Political. Wishes
documents relative
to Africa - Col Society
&c - sent to Dr
Finley. - also
garden seeds -

Indianapolis, Jan'y, 17, 1858.

Hon. S. A. Douglas.

Dr. Sir:

I have not addressed you a line upon recent political occurrences in our State; you will see by our papers, however, that, without any communication with you upon the ~~upon the~~ subject, I have thrown myself upon your position, honestly believing it right and honorable.

It has occasioned me sincere regret that in our recent Convention we could not do more in the expression of your sentiments than we did. No man not a spectator of that contest can fully appreciate the difficulties of the struggle on our part. You have probably heard them in full; but whether you have or not, some other time I will give you my statement of the affair, truthfully and without exaggeration.

In what I am now going to write you, I wish you to understand that I throw myself upon your confidence and honor, expecting that nobody but yourself ~~shall~~ will see this note.

You will, (if you have not already,) recieve an invitation to address the people of Indiana on the 22nd Feb.y. Do not accept it. You will, of course, answer the invitation; be careful that your answer manifest, ~~an a deep~~ an deep interest in the welfare and harmony of the Democratic party in Indiana above all other considerations. You see, Sir, I am making bold and speaking plainly.

The gentlemen who will address you the invitation are all your ardent friends — so ardently, in fact, that they are indiscreet. Now to the point — they are secretly operating with the Republicans, as a Republican, in whom I have unlimited confidence, informed me last night. That co-operation, like murder, will out. Once let that be understood, once let our Democrats get to understand, or even suspect, that you are, directly or indirectly, in person or by proxy, engaged in a conspiracy against them as a party, or against a ticket regularly nominated in Conventions, and, though they will cling to your principle, they will abandon you almost to a man. I would not then give a bawbee for your chances in Indiana. You ruin yourself, and throw suspicion upon us.

Last winter, at the Bates House in this city, you very properly said that you had no rivalry with Bright, and freely spoke your mind on that point. By coming to Indiana ~~Indiana~~ you will convince the world that you have entered the lists against him; and the consequence? State pride will be aroused; Bright will appeal to it; and a host of friends will rally around him, where he now has none; you will have given him a dignity, and importance, where now there is none "so poor as to do him reverance!" Take with you ~~with~~ this assurance concerning Mr. B.— he is from this time henceforth, in vulgar language, "a dead cock in the pit." You have only to do nothing that will give him a ~~Pre~~resurrection.

I understand that Mr. Fitch in the Senate has been interpreting the resolution I had the honor to submit to the Convention of the 8th. This note will not go out until tomorrow; along with it I will send a State Sentinel (of the 18th) containing a letter from me giving the true interpretation; as coming from the author of the resolution you may have occasion to use it.

I hope you will consider what I say. I make no profession of friendship, preferring to prove it by my actions. I will stand by you as long as I can in honor; whenever you do anything having a tendency to divide us in Indiana, with Locke, or proper cause, with the party, I shall Respectfully,

Lew. Wallace.

P. S. My compliments to Mrs. Douglas, to whom I had the honor of an introduction at the Bates House in this city last winter.

Should you see fit to reply, address me at "Crawfordsville, Indiana."

Indianapolis Ind.
January 7th 1858
Lew. Wallace

2749

P. White
Kingsville
Jany 17/58. Ohio
Wants copy of Mexican
boundary Surveys

Kingsville Jan 17 58

Hon Sir

I am very anxious to obtain a Copy of the Mexican Boundary Survey. Will you sir conferred be forward me a Copy if so you will oblige me much as I am very much aware that it is a useful Vol but will give me much pleasure to obtain the above named Document

Respectfully yours Obt Servt
Parkes White
Kingsville Ohio

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

Indianapolis 17. Jan. 1858

Dear Sir.

I have just read the miserable, and perverted account of the proceedings of our State Convention, contained in the Washington Union. It is grossly & grossly false. Appeals to State pride, ~~and to~~ representations of the indelicacy, & lack of Courtesy involved in neglect of our Gov. and his most positive private pledges to observe fairness and give all a fair Chance, led to acquiescence in his call to preside. He carried out his pledges by ~~refusing an~~ ~~amendment out to be~~ first packing the Committee, and then ruling all amendment to the Resolutions reported by the Com^e on Resolutions, out of order. He even ~~refused~~ ruled a division of the question, so as to get a vote on each Resolution separately, as out of order, & that an independent Resolution, (offered by Wallace) could be received only to be referred to the Com^e on Resolutions. Thus the point of those who had conspired to defeat an expression of real public opinion was carried. I doubt not he would have adjourned immediately after the Conspirators had carried their point, the Convention sine die voluntè, but for the fact that he knew well that, unless the majority could give expression to these sentiments in some way

there would be an immediate ~~convention~~ assembly of a heavy majority of the Convention, and a full & free expression, on an actual or suspended some of those already adopted, ~~either~~ or imposed: For some of those resolutions were against the sense of a majority of the Convention, and were only so allowed, with 18/6 dispatch, under the operation of Bd Lands wicked tactics, by a majority, under a monstrous fudge of a decree to do justice to the President, and of fear of opening an apparent attitude of hostility to him. For this reason - and only for it - did Wallace, in my opinion remain in the Chair and put the Question on Wallaces Resolution. The heavy vote on passage of that resolution was real, and shows the true sentiments of a great majority of the Convention, & of a yet greater majority of the people. But the known grounds that action of the convention, which was wrung from it by fraud, tactics, perversion of rules of order, and all manner of party appeals, and thrown into the shade the only action of the Convention which was really free.

We are in a new fix. It is nearly nine months till the election, & time may cure some of our ills: But my conviction is that if we go to the polls without some further action, and expression, in favor of popular sovereignty beyond the Wallace resolution, (yielded as it is by forgery), and on the subject of our Canal, of a veto of the legislature, of an issue upon Canada bank notes, & of an Independent State treasury, we should be defeated to a considerable extent; and mainly so, if the Republicans at their convention should get upon our platform on no. part to those matters, as they undoubtedly will.

"Our sufferings is intolerable": Nor can we release our feelings by giving scope to them, for the want of an independent Democratic paper here. Some by them might to be Capitalist dominion to establish it for us. We have not the means among us. The cause is better than that of bleeding Kansas. Hundreds of thousands could be had to the Document, in that behalf. Surely four thousand dollars might to be forthcoming, in behalf of Righteousness & Truth!!

There will be an effort to set things right, so as to keep us together; but for the want of a free press, at this point, that which may be done will lose much of its effect.

Very truly.

W W Heck

This note is not marked "Private"
Nor is it of any consequence to me
that it should be so held

Yours

Philadelphia Jan.
January 17 1838.
Dr. Dr. Wesley.