Pittstown Rens Co
New York.
Jany 31st 1858.
Norman Baker Esq.
Sends you to Land
Documents to
his Post Office
for distribution.
Many good
Democrats.

Pittstown Jan. 31st 1858
Hon S. A. Douglass M. U. S. S.
Dear Sir

If you will take the trouble to forward public Document to this Office they will be thankfully received by the Democracy in this Vicinity. We have a Republican to represent this County in the house and I am not acquainted with any Democrats in the house

Respectfully Yours &c
Norman Baker
Pittstown
Rens. Co
N. Y.

The following named persons are very prominent Democrats that get their Mail at this Office

James A Halsted P.M.
Joseph S. Patterson
Charles Read
Horace A. Wadsworth
Norman Baker
William J. Borie
Asa Chapman

Fairfield Ills Jany 31st 1858

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir.

Directed as your mind and energies have been, and are, to the maintenance of the principles of popular sovereignty, I am loth to intrude upon you, or ask of you a moments consideration of my aspirations and desires.

Since my acquaintance with you at Christy, Sparta, Tamaroa, Carbondale &c when you were lashing the friends of the "Wooly Horse" I have had my eyes directed more than usual to the doings of the political world, and I find your star is ascending and your power over Illinois, increasing if not complete. You have some little knowledge of me, and of my capacities. I desire you to do for me, as you would have me to do for you if I were Douglas, and you were crowded into the small corner that I occupy.

Lest, in the din of the battle you are fighting, you may forget the little skirmishes I have had, I will remind you that I was wounded in Mexico during that conflict, the last time, acting as Lieutenant of a Company. I have been twice to California, and have got always been an Illinoisan. By the bye, and to the point, I would like for you, and other half brothers, of "Uncle Sam" to consult together as to the justice of giving me a little lift that would enable me to live in Illinois (where you once

advised me to remain) and regulate my "Domestic Institutions" when I get one, in my own democratic way: For the new States and territories are many places of trust and profit that I would be proud to fill faithfully. In Utah there is an opportunity (or may be) for a strag. company of Illinois volunteers — but I am too lengthy, if you remember me and can do anything for me, it shall be all right. If you do not the longer my prayers the farther from grace

I am as ever
Your Obedient Servt
R. S. Barnhill.

P.S. Though I became acquainted with you personally at Chester etc. this is the place of my nativity — my home.

R S Barnhill
Fairfield. Ills
Jany 31/58
Wants service
as Volunteer in
Utah.

Plymouth Ills Jan 31 1858

To the Hon Stevin A Douglas
of Washington City D C

Dear Sir

You formerly thought of me once in the While & sent me some public &c & speaches which I felt very Grateful to you for But of Late years you have it would seem that you have Entirely forgotten me But perhaps I am wrong you it may be that the Interest of the Nation has required your services so much so that you realy have not the time to write on so small matters But permit me to Congratulate you upon the Ground you have taken on the Kansas Question for I can assure you that you have made many friends in Illinois by your noble stand in behalf of popular Soverenty however it is only carry out the principals that you have allways advocated But there was a Great many that Charged you With insincerity but now that you still carry out the principal in fact they have to acknowledge that you meant what you allways said & your political opponents in Illinois flock to democracy now by thousands & they no longer call you the pro slavery man they use to more than

Well there is an other Mormon War now on hand & I suppose that there is thousands of applicants to fill the necessary offices belonging thereto I served my Country for 16 months & 4 days in the war with Mexico about months of that time as a private in Capt Guthrie's Company (K) 15 regiment U S Infantry Capt Bowie succeeding Capt Guthrie & the last 10 months the raised me to the high Command of 4 Corporal

In which capacity I served until the End of the War Now if there is a vacancy for a Quarter Master or any such office paying one thousand dollars a year or upwards if you can obtain it for me it will be very thankfully Rec'd & if not I am still willing to bide my time I claim to have some skill as a military man altho it came very near costing me my life several times & may yet some day Were it to fight a foreign foe I should be willing again to go as private and work my way but as it is an Internal War I would prefer an office to stay at home I hope to hear from you ere long & if you can strike a lucky hit for me just do so If you have a spare Book or two of the president's messages & speeches of Congress just send them to me or any of the Government Books Report of the Smithsonian Institute or any of that kind it will be received with many thanks The weather still continues pleasant we have scarcely any winter here yet

I remain at present but
I remain yours as
Ever
Thos L Cannon

Thomas L. Ellis
Fanin 8 1862
Thos L. Cannon
Political —
Hands the address
of the leader of
Calhoun in the
army — also wants
Smithsonian Report
when it is published —

Smithsonian Report
Sent April 20, 1868.

3160

Dayton Ohio. Jan 31st 1858

Dear Sir

Permit me to thank you for a copy of your Speech on the Presidents Message, received today. Allow me to say that the position you have taken in regard to the affairs of Kansas is approved of by at least two thirds of the Democracy of this Community, whatever representations made be made to the Contrary from other sources. The Democratic paper of our City with a few others now support the views of the President, but the majority of the Democracy understand and have heretofore explained the Kansas Nebraska bill, to mean what you say it does, and if Kansas is now admitted under the Lecompton Constitution as presented the Democracy of the North are shorn of their strength for the next four years, How shall we sucessfully meet our opponents if we now sacrafice the great principle of Popular Sovereignty, for which we so earnestly Contended and upon which the present

administration was Elected, or allow it to be frittered away, just at the time when its advantages ought to be enjoyed by the people of the territories for whose benefit more especially it was advocated.

Born and raised in the same County with Mr Buchanan I had the honour of nailing up the first Buck horns and raising the first Flag in our City for him for President, after his nomination by the Democratic Convention and no one now desires more than I do to give to his Administration a free and Cheerfull support if it can be done without a sacrifice of the leading principles for which we then Contended, and should those principles now prevail I hope to have the honour and the pleasure of elevating the first Flag in 1860 for the Little Giant and to see our great party once more triumphant

Very Respectfully
A. Geiger, M. D.

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dayton. O
Janry 31st/58

A. Geiger. M.D.

Thanks for yr speech
rec for you in 1860

no

3161

Clinton Hurd
Rock Stream
Yates Co
N.Y.
Jany 31/58.

Wants Patent Office
report for 56

Rock Stream
Yates Co. N.Y.
Jany 31st 1858

Hon S. A. Douglass,

Dear Sir,

Will you be kind enough to favor me with a copy of the Patent office report for the year 1856, and any other books of interest that are for distribution, and comes into your way,

Yours Truly
Clinton Hurd

Augusta, Me
Janry 31 1858.

Wm R. Porter

Enclosing list of Dem members of Maine Legislature. Say the Democracy is with you —

✓

Augusta, Maine,
Janry 31st. 1858.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Enclosed I send you by request of Ezra Carter Esq. late Collector of the Port of Portland, a list of the democratic members of our State Legislature //

I find but one sentiment among the democrats of our State & that is of a decided & manly support of the position of Senator Douglas upon the Kansas question — the party of our State is with you & the democratic party of Maine will yet have a future // As I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr Douglas, it may not perhaps be immodest in me to

(over)

to state that I have represented the Cumberland District in the Senate of our State & have never belonged to any other Party than the democratic ——— for the success of which I have felt a deep interest & contributed my share of labor — —

We have no better democrat or truer man than was our late Collector Hon. Mr Carter. A petition for his re-appointment can be seen at the Treasury Department containing the names of more than nine tenths of the Importing Houses & Merchants of the City of Portland — also the leading democrats of the County & State — The request of the party however was unheeded by Mr Buchanan — & Mr Carter resigned for no other reason than for preferring Genl Pierce, yourself or some other line & tried democrat to him who was the successful Candidate of our late National Convention — —

Wishing you success in your effort to preserve the democratic party from the foes of its own household

I am Very Truly
William R. Porter

Genl

G. G. Read.
Reading Centre
Jany 31/58. Conn —
Approves your
course & wants
speeches —

Reading Conn Jany 31st 58

To the Hon Stephen A Douglas
Hon Sir

Pardon the liberty I have taken by addressing you the interest I take in your course in regard to the Kansas difficulty must be my excuse. here in our quiet town the Administration Democrats call us Douglas Men and sort of political backsliders we glory in the first charge and repudiate the second claiming you represent the true Democracy of olden

times we have but few facilities here for obtaining Reading Matter on the subject and I write to beg of you the favor to send us occasionally such Speeches & other Matter as will enable us to present to our Administration friends the subject in another light from Seg Sonegs deluge of Administration pamphlets Speeches Statistics &c &c and we will not be slow to use them and hope for profit both to them & themselves

Yours Truly
G. G. Read

Address G. G. Read
Reading Center
Conn

3164

Ellen Ville, Jany 31st 1858.

Honored Sir,

With mingled feelings of pleasure and fear I take this opportune moment to address you a few lines in my humble manner, conscious of my deficiency and inability. With pleasure I enjoy the privilege of addressing the most noble and respected Senator in the United States. With Fear as I feel myself incompetent and humble to converse, with my limited powers, with him, upon whom the eyes of the Nation are bent in earnest pride. If I have done amiss I trust you will pardon me for my unintentional imposition on your time.

You, indeed, occupy an embarassing but truly noble and worthy stand on the "Kansas Question" and the mind of every calm observer

must acknowledge its truth and excellence. Upon the minds of the community round about here, there is an evident satisfaction and pride existing, which will yet add greatly to your already enviable reputation.

You deny that you will proudly ride through the conflicting sentiments of adverse Public Opinion. Public Sentiment throughout the entire length and breadth of Ulster County in the "Democratic Party" supports and praises the position you have assumed.

Being considerably interested in your course of political life a few years heretofore and I am now watching with intense interest and gratification the course you are now maintaining. My express purpose in this letter was to request you to send me a copy of your Speeches on the "Kansas Question" and a copy of the "Lecompton Constitution" and if possible of the "Kansas & Nebraska Bill," at the earliest opportunity. Pardon my burdening you with this weary letter, but I have done it at the earnest solicitation of some prominent Democrats around the village. Hoping you will do me this favor. I remain

Your friend, forever

Sam'l H. Schoonmaker

Hon. Stephen Douglas.

Ellenville
Ulster Co: N.Y. Janry 31/58
Saul A. Schoonmaker
Political
Want of speech.
Secumpton Cow:
H. N. Bill.

Ephraim Sears
to
F. Barnes
Barnesville
Ky. Jan'y 31/58.
Want Speeches
of L. H.

3165

Co Ky

Barnesville Bracken
Jan 31st 1858

Hon S. A. Douglass Dear Sir
I would be Glad to hear
from you in Regard to
what is going on in Congress
I would be Glad to have you
send me some Documents
so that I can have a Chance
to read them you will confer
a great favor by sending
some to Me as well as
F. Barnes Barnesville post
office Ky. yours Respectfully

Ephraim Sears

Richmond Jany. 31st 1858

Sir,

I have for sometime been deliberating upon the propriety of writing to you a few lines. I am now prompted to do so, solely because I consider myself your friend and not with the intent to incommode you in any way. The position which you have for years occupied before the country has made your name familiar to us all; and the noble and patriotic stand which you, with such signal ability have occupied upon all important questions which have come before the country has gained my confidence. To yet further induce a favorable hearing of you, I will say, you have been my first choice for the Presidency of the United States for the last twelve years, and you must pardon me for saying that I feel great concern for you in consequence of the position which you now occupy. I mean your apparent estrangement from the party with which you have so long and so ably acted, and with which you have been so long an admitted and able leader. I say apparent estrangement. Simply because I believe it is impossible that you can ever belong to any other than the democratic party. Then to the point. Why is that there is such a hubbub about the Kansas constitution? What has congress to do with it, or the manner in which it was formed? I am, as you are, what is called a strict constitutionist. I have for a long lifetime looked to the constitution of the United States, as the only mean of determining the powers and duties of the Federal government. Upon looking at that instrument; it is very plain to my mind that the power to admit new states into this union, ~~that the power~~ is entirely one of discretion, but one of sound legal discretion. The only provision in the constitution bearing directly upon this point is in article IV sec. 3. "New States may be admitted by the congress into this union". Now I cannot find any requisition in the constitution that, before a new state shall be admitted into the union, it shall adopt a written constitution. It is clear that whilst the people remain in a territory they can have no constitution, as that word is understood by us. It has been usual for the people of a territory previous to asking admission as a state into the union to prepare a written constitution. It is submitted that, this is a mere custom, and not required by any provision of the constitution. It is objected by some that this custom is right because it enables

Congress to determine whether people of the territory have adopted a republican form of government. Had it been sufficient to refuse admission to a people who have adopted no written constitution, Congress can without the authority of any people admit them as new states into the Union, Congress may offer to admit a new state into the Union, if the people of the state come in, then they become subject to the constitution of the United States and the treaties and laws made in pursuance thereof. The people may or not have a written constitution, which no government has republican right. I have a written constitution which has not yet been seriously contended for. It is submitted that whenever a new state is admitted into the Union she must come in on the old one, without limitations upon her acts, equal and as are imposed upon all the other states in the Union by reason of their having members of the Union, and without restriction upon her rights. "The United States shall guarantee to every state in this Union, a republican form of government." Article IV Sec. 4 Con. U. S. The United States have no power to guarantee to the people of a territory or any other people except the people of a state without the Union a republican form of government. Now it is the time, that friends and falling out and wounds, animosity between those who should be fast friends? Having shown that, Congress may if it motion admit a new state into this Union without any application from the people to be admitted, and that when they come in they are entitled to all the privileges of the other states. For what good purpose does Congress require the people of a territory to adopt a constitution and present it to that body before they will admit them into the Union? Custom demands it. The constitution does not require it. This custom, like all others which have grown up as a gloss upon the constitution, has only been the fertile source of dispute among politicians, and lessening the love of the people for the Union. It has always produced wrinkles, some good some bad. Let this custom then be abandoned if such has been its invariable and uniform effect? Certainly, every patriot will say. Then why should Congress look to the paper called the constitution of Kansas? Why not admit her into the Union without looking at it, if she should be admitted at all? What right has Congress to exercise any opinion, about the constitution of a state? A proposition was made in the convention to give Congress a supervising control over the legislation of the states, this was voted out, then showing that a majority of the convention did not believe that Congress should have any control over the states in their legislation. And yet under this odious custom, Congress assumes the right to supervise the constitution of the people of a state. To wire the act of the people themselves, in the framing and adopting of their ~~laws~~ What right have you as a member of the United States Senate, acting in your official capacity to look into the constitution of Kansas? If you claim any such right from whence is it derived? Clearly not from the Constitution of the United States? I admit. To what did the Kansas bill give a right to look for power, such as we are now exercising? I think you will say no where. Now is there that you are undertaking to determine whether or not the Constitution of Kansas be a rightful or wrongful one, if you have no warrant in the Constitution of the United States to look into it for any purpose? Whenever Kansas shall be admitted into this Union by Congress, Congress will be bound to guarantee to her a republican form of government and nothing more. Suppose a constitution should be adopted by fraud upon the rights of the people of Illinois? Would Congress have any power to interfere? Clearly not if she had a republican form of government. In the convention which formed the Constitution of the United States, the resolution being under consideration, from which originated the provision contained in it "to guarantee to every State a republican form of government" The eighteenth resolution. The original resolution was in three following words: "that a republican constitution and its existing laws ought to be guaranteed to each state by the United States" Madison papers page 1139. These words being changed, and the present substituted, it is submitted in conclusion upon the power of Congress to look into the constitution or laws of a state. Now if Congress will pass a simple resolution or act admitting Kansas into the Union as a state, without reference to anything which has been done or may be done there the whole difficulty will be remedied, and the country will have peace and all patriots be friends again. And Why should this course be not taken? I cannot imagine one good reason. May not even a pleasantry operate. All admit Kansas ought now to be admitted into the Union as a state. All consider she alone has the power and right to make her constitution and her laws in her own way, and to enable her social internal institutions as she may choose. Which as now you and I may consider that friends have been committed in Kansas, and as individual now may say too, right. I do not believe any member of Congress nor the president of the United States can find any constitutional warrant for squinting so to speak. I know you mean, or expected in your speech. I ask you for not thinking them satisfactory. My dear Sir, I am not ashamed and pardon the write. I am a plain old Whig. I write for all my neighbors friends we are all agreed to think you are about to throw away the finest prospect we ever had. All we can say is, save the Union and we will give you. I fear that was a very near reach because that you politicians think. Those divided where all are by expectancy you the south will not. Know you and the south cannot. We have had unbounded confidence in you as a statesman & patriot. I hope we never to this unity because, my name

could add nothing to what I have said. Read carefully what is said and get the country out of its difficulties as best you can; and you will be called a benefactor. I am an old man. Possibly you may hear from me again.

Truly yours
Sennet.

Richmond, Va.
June 21/58
"Sennet"
Political

W

3157

Vicksburg, Mississippi,
January 31, 1858.

Sir,

I take the liberty of asking that you send me your late speeches on the question of admitting Kansas into the Union under the constitution established at Lecompton. I have been unable to get your speeches elsewhere. The papers in this country do not publish them, not that they differ from you. My desire to read them however is just as great as their unwillingness to be the means of their circulation. I desire to hear whatever you have to say; for I have, ever since I grew up, been accustomed to regard you as the most admirable type of that brave and patriotic statesman whose presence and influence is so necessary to the safety of our country.

Yours, most respectfully,
Thomas W. Walton

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas,
Washington.

Vicksburg. Miss.
Jan 31st 58

Thos. Walton.
Wants Kan. Speech
Congratulatory.

Rec.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, U.S.S.
Washington.