

Douglstown

Pa.

Feb 6/58

Jos: B. Brady.

Political
Sustains your
course —

Feb. 6-1858

Hon. Judge Douglas

Sir

The constraining
motives which induce me—a perfect stranger
thus to address you, is the independent
course you have marked out for yourself
and exhibited in the Kansas business.

To cast off the shackles of party which so
firmly bind the most of our prominent
men and assume a free independent bearing
having conscience and a sound discriminating
judgment for the sake of action is so rare in
these degenerate days, that its view it as a
refreshing oasis in the great Sahara of the
present political parties. I am glad to see
your course so generally advocated by the press.
I earnestly hope you may be sustained in
your honest position and that Kansas may
be admitted with the constitution approved by
a majority of her citizens.

It is to be much regretted that so much of the time of Congress is lost to the country by spending it in action which does not tend to its real legitimate good. In this way many very important objects are neglected or lost. And either the country or individuals suffer in consequence. Among the most prominent I would clasp the Bill in relation to the officers of the revolution. Every upright constituent and well wisher of his country would agree to see this measure consummated. But how has it been thrust aside and lost, for want of time or inclination to examine it in its true and just light. Some objected to it last session because the men were not included (so I was informed by Mr. Bigler). But if they had referred to the action taken upon it at the close of the war, they would have seen that Gen. Washington in recommending the provision for the officers, raised this case in a different light from the common men. The latter would find it easy to return to the more common associations of life but the

former taken from their professions, country rooms &c. would find it difficult to substitute themselves in the business which in their absence had passed into other hands - or which they could not again assume from loss of property or some other inability.

Another measure I would mention is the "Funk Spirit Bill" - This debt the Govt. assumed - and is therefore in common honesty bound to pay.

Now sir if you will permit me to recommend these important measures to your special consideration - so that by giving them that attention which is necessary by your influence to bring them to successful issue - I am sure you would have cause to bless a kind providence that you were made instrumental in bringing gladness to many a desolate heart - and abolishing from the fair constitution of our country a black spot which has for too long disgraced it.

Yours Respy Yr. S.

W. Bentley Doylestown Bucks County Penn^a



New York 6th Feby. 1855

Wm. L. Douglass

My dear Sir

You no doubt will remember that at the close of the 31st. Congress, I called upon you to pay my respects prior to my departure from Washington, and at that interview you expressed a desire to be possessed of certain of our New York State publications. — On my reaching home, I forwarded to you by Express, a box containing such books as I had at command, the receipt of which however has never been acknowledged.

Among others, I think I sent you the "Documentary History of N York". — Since that time, nine additional volumes have been published, leaving one (the 3rd) yet to come from the press. I take the liberty of enclosing a receipt of "Adams' Express Co." for a box, in which you will find the said nine volumes, of which I beg your acceptance. I will forward the other as soon as it comes to hand.

I sympathize in your efforts to maintain the principles of your "Kansas & Nebraska Act". Your first speech on that subject this Session I read with great satisfaction. It was in approval of the principle of that Act I was evidenced in Common with a large portion of the Conservative Wing of N York, Pennsylvania, and other States to pursue such a political course, as ensured the success of Mr. Buchanan, and ever since to support National Democrats whenever opportunity presents, particularly in our last State election, and I have felt encouraged to do this, from the

hope that ultimately, the Conservative most of all the old parties, throughout the Country, would be brought to rally under one banner, and thus brought from a great National party. I begin to fear however there are too many extremists North and South.

There was a remarkable move in response to Senator Bright, in which I felt a personal interest. — You said you would never plead the Statute of limitation. — It reminds me of your voluntary promise to furnish me with National documents, in return for such of my State publications as I might send you. — Not having been any I supposed you had forgotten the circumstance; but since the Statute is not to run against me, my hope has revived.

Having a Congressional Library complete up to including the 33rd Congress, I am naturally desirous of perfecting it. — My immediate Representatives to whom I had a right to look, if from courtesy only, have entirely passed me over, and it is only occasionally that some of my old Congressional associates have me in remembrance. — Mr. Stranahan of the 33rd Congress, once it to me to send a copy of the Japan expedition — Foreign Commerce &c. — but never did. — Perhaps these books are all distributed, and I am too late. — Still permit me to say I am ready to a rush for the fact that no Statute of limitation will ever operate with you, whenever you give me opportunity so to do. —

With great respect, I am

Yours very obed^t. Serv^t.

D. A. Booke

New York
16th Feb 1858
D. A. Boker.

Has sent you a
box of books -
approves of course
Wants Can Do

Books sent
Hon: David A Booke
New York.

Pacific R R Surveys
Vols. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7 & 8.

Commercial Statistics.
Vols. 1. 2. 3 & 4.

Coast Survey Reports 1855
do — do — " 1856.

Commerce & Navigation 1857.
Report on finances. 1857.

President's Message of 1856
in 3 Vols.



Belmont N. Feb 6. 1858.

(Belmont co)

Right Hon. Stephen A. Douglas.
Washington.
N.C.

If you could consistently bestow upon
a warm political friend a set of the
Public Doc^{ts} in our "Commercial Re-
lations" my most heartfelt thanks would
be due to your Honor. - I have been unable,
notwithstanding a great exertion on my part,
to come in possession of this work, which I
am very anxious to add to my private
public library of political works.

Trusting your Honor will pardon the request

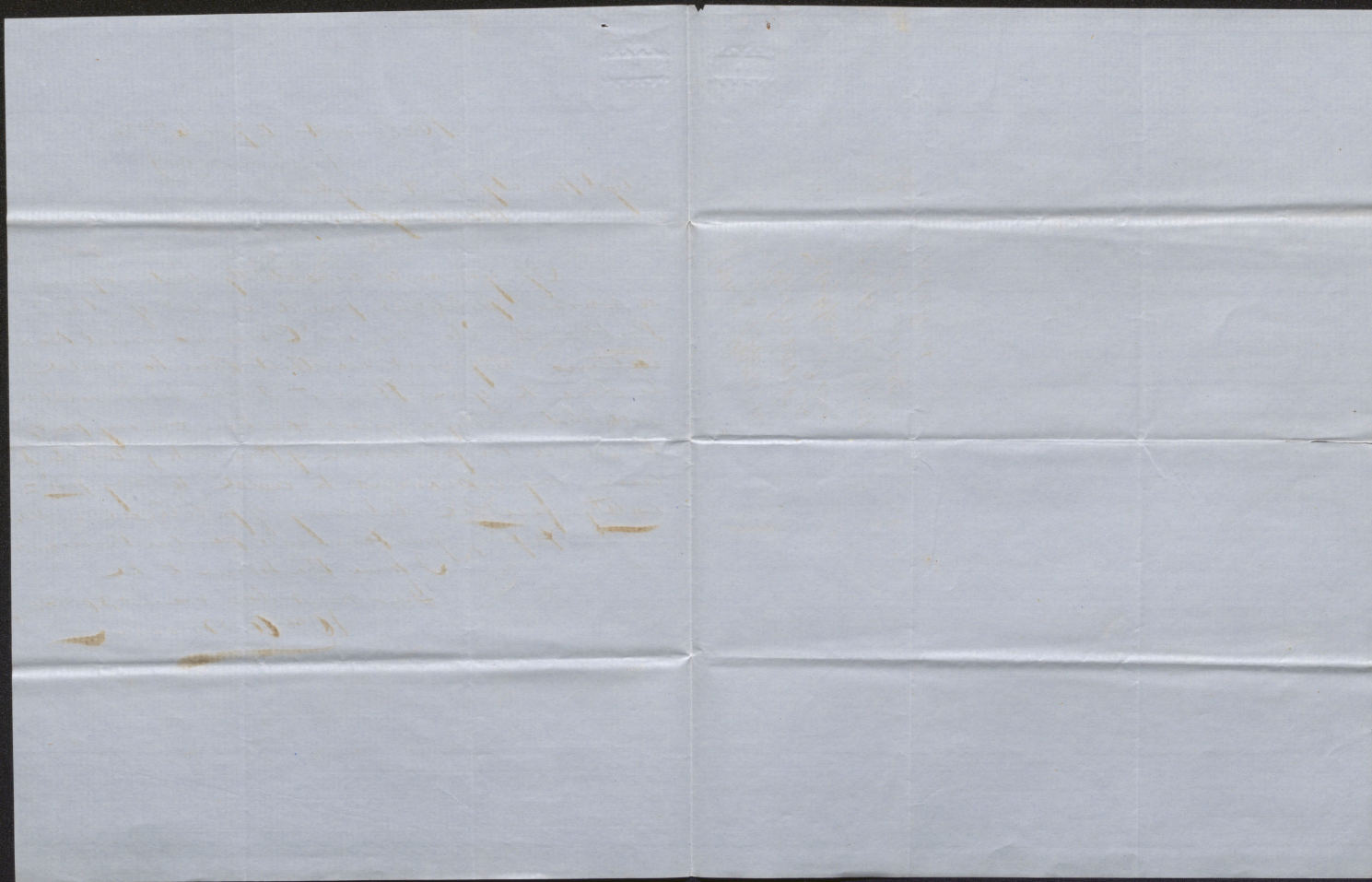
I have the honor to be

Your most obedient servant, & political friend

W^m A. Brown

Wm A Brown
Belmont
Feb 6/58, Ohio

Wants the Report
on Commercial
relations



Preamble and Resolutions

IN RELATION TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION AND WAR OF 1812.

Whereas, more than forty years have elapsed since General Jackson fought and won the last great battle of the late war with Great Britain, at New Orleans, on the 8th day of January, 1815, and few of those who participated in that eventful struggle are left to tell the tale of their sufferings and services; by far the greater number, with mutilated limbs and broken constitutions, have gone down to the grave; many of them in penury and want; now and then we see an old survivor, too proud to beg, with shattered frame and mean attire, walking through our streets or retired to some humble cabin in the mountains, sustained by his descendants. The war of the revolution achieved our liberty; the war of 1812 secured for us and our posterity our free institutions forever. In less than forty years after our revolutionary struggle a grateful congress of the United States passed a general pension law for the benefit of the surviving officers and soldiers of that immortal conflict, at a time when the public treasury was empty, the nation poor in all its resources, and heavy war debts hanging over us. Now the nation is rich, its resources almost infinite, and no debt pressing upon us for payment, is it unreasonable to ask that similar justice be done to the gray headed survivors of the war of 1812, and to the widows and children of those who are dead?

Be it therefore resolved, That, in our judgment, the present congress of the United States ought to extend to the surviving soldiers of the war of 1812, and to the widows and orphans of those who are dead, the same pension system adopted for those of the revolution.

Resolved, That every principle of justice requires that the pensions of those who were wounded, or otherwise disabled during the late war, should commence at the date of the disability.

Resolved, That the pension laws in regard to the widows of revolutionary officers and soldiers, as construed and executed for the last twenty-five years, ought still to be administered with a fair and liberal spirit, and not according to technical precedents in civil or criminal cases.

Resolved, That in our opinion the pensions granted to the widows of officers and soldiers, dying or being killed in the services of the United States, ought to be extended years.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be forwarded to the President and Vice President of the United States, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in congress, with a respectful request of their early and favorable consideration.

DANIEL P. WHITE, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*
JOHN Q. A. KING, *Speaker of the Senate.*

Approved February 6th, 1858.

C. S. MOREHEAD.

By the Governor—

MASON BROWN, *Secretary of State.*

Note -

Passed both Houses unanimously

My dear Sir,

Help the old Soldiers, as
you hope for help now or
hereafter - But few are alive, but
their suffering families are taught
to be felt & appreciated -

Yours Truly

Lottie Combs

Hon L. A. Douglas

Lealie Combs

Resolutions in behalf
of Soldiers of war of 1812
passed by Legislature
of Ohio

No aid asked.

Cincinnati May 4 1838

Honble S. A. Douglas
Esq

Inclosed please find
a Petition asking to improve harbor of Mackinaw City &
suggesting other things, & a proposition to donate the
U. S. Govt. lands at Mackinaw for Fort Light House
& is in hands of Honble C. E. Stuart of Michigan
and a copy of it. in hands of Honble Geo. H. Rusk of
Iowa office. - which please see if desired -
Appropriations are sought for for many inferior unimportant
Lake towns to which, only ^{few} which, but vessels go -
Port by Mackinaw City, must necessarily pass, as the
Lake Commerce. hence of the greatest general interest
being some 100 miles from Chicago, Detroit & Saginaw
with but few good intermediate harbors, at important
points. the wants of Commerce demand the improvements
asked for. The Govt has much to make besides
performing its duty to the Commerce. That point is
a great natural ferry with the Northern Peninsula &
Canada. the R.R. of important R.R. Roads,
make a nucleus from which must radiate
influences giving value & saleability to Govt
lands & developing the mineral resources of
great general interest

An event of a war Lake Michigan being
entirely surrounded by our territory
would afford a safe retreat for vessels
& creating a new navy - The Lake Cities
of Michigan are intended also in a
short at that point affording ample
protection and being to head the commerce
and a custom House should grow
that trade & section -

Much Lake property is insured
then hence to protect it further,
especially so, as Southern Ohio is
largely interested in the security asked
for. I am told that you personally
regard the straits as an important
point to improve in many respects for
good of this whole country. Hence
have troubled you with this petition
and trust you will do what you think
proper in promoting its object.
(The Resolving Captain)

P.S. By inquiry of our representatives you will find
these names made up of one strong man. That point is
now the County Seat of Emmett Co. made so by recent
Legislation since grow up quickly into the highway of the
Lake Country.

Cincinnati, O.

Feby. 4 1878.

Edgar Conkling -

Enclosing petitions
for the improvement
of harbors at
Mackinaw City, Mich.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned Petitioners, residents of the State of *Ohio*, would most respectfully request of your Honorable body to seriously consider the importance of affording facilities and security to the vast and increasing Commerce of the Lakes, by improving the Harbors of MACKINAW CITY, at the Straits of Mackinaw, and State of Michigan.

MACKINAW CITY

Naturally occupies an important Commercial position, commanding the Straits through which must necessarily pass a vast Commerce, at the natural ferry, connecting the Northern and Southern Peninsulas of Michigan, the termini of important Railroads, and central to extensive Agricultural, and unprecedented Mineral wealth, with every facility of becoming an important Manufacturing City; hence its growth must necessarily develop great National interests, and should receive from United States Government that attention which its interests would seem to require, and security to the Commerce of the Lakes, and other public interests should demand.

It is near 300 miles from Chicago, Detroit, and Collingwood, with but few safe intermediate harbors.

Your petitioners do therefore pray your honorable body to provide for the improvement of the harbors of Mackinaw City, suited to the wants of the Commerce of the Lakes, and also to consider the importance of erecting thereat, a Light House, Custom House, &c., and also a Fort to protect the Cities of Lake Michigan, and the Lake Commerce seeking protection in the event of a foreign war.

A. M. Searles

John B. Thorp

Joseph Pierce

W. H. McKinney

J. W. Astell

Isaac C. Copeland

Geo. W. Copeland

J. H. Cunningham

Chas. Woodward

J. C. Davis

All who are friendly to the object of this petition will please secure signatures, and forward the same to Washington City, D.C.

Stephen Moore

Fanny Morton

John W. Martin

Henry C. Cloner

Geo. Horner

W. A. Applegate

W. E. Spencer

C. R. Carter

J. S. Hewlett

John Kirby

All who are friendly to the object of this petition will please secure signatures, and forward the same to Washington City, D.C.

Wm. Goodenow

Wm. H. Pierce

Mr. Weyman

C. Laralde

Geo. Davies

J. P. Gregory

E. S. Hain

V. H. Eckert

Agnes Ferry

Thos. W. Corey

John S. Apple

E. W. Williams

Levis Glendon

Chas. Putnam

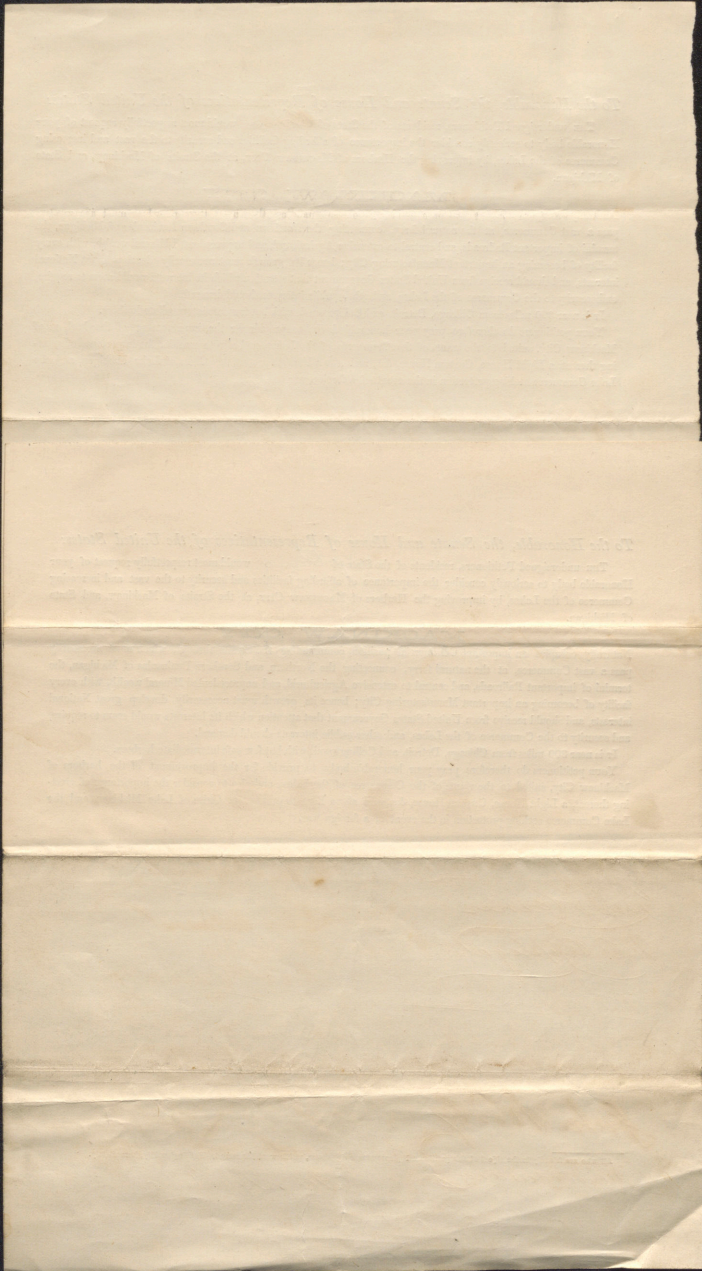
Robt. Hascall

Mr. L. Garberon

Wm. A. Dugan

George L. Stegler

John Whitman



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J. H. Chesser

W. S. Hooper

Geo. M. Glenn

L. W. McLaughlin

W. Hamilton

Geo. McLaughlin

W. H. Powell

A. D. Breed

M. C. Miesing

B. B. Stearns

J. F. Wallace

W. W. Rusk

John Phillips D.D.

W. Anderson

Geo. C. Chase

Henry Alwood

Feb.
The wife of Hatched



EDGAR CONKLING,
ASBURY M. SEARLES, } Trustees.

Principal Office, Mackinac City Company,

Cincinnati, 185

"If one were to point out on the map of North America, a site for a great central city in the lake region, it would be in the immediate vicinity of the Straits of Mackinaw. A city so located would have the control of the mineral trade, the fisheries, the furs, and the immense traffic for the north. It might become the metropolis of a great commercial empire. It would be the Venice of the lakes."—*Fortis' Notes and Treatise of the Great West*, page 183.

"As the center of one of the richest mining regions in the world, at the northern terminus of one of the longest lines of railroad in our country, and the practical western termination of the great system of Canadian railroads now running along this extensive growth, as the natural harbor for a lake region whose commerce is already greatly increasing, Mackinaw possesses elements of growth and prosperity which cannot fail to give it importance—an importance profound and behind the lake city in the next twenty years."—*Railroad Review*.

"We have shown Mackinaw in geographical position to be equal to any point in the interior of America, and scarcely inferior to such points as Singapore, or Constantinople. * * * That the site of the town is remarkably good—that it is healthy. * * * To the most important point of comparison, its position is superior to that of Chicago, a city which in the growth of only twenty years—and finally that by the growth of the Government already made, here will center a system of Railroads, unrivaled in their magnitude and importance. * * * On this site, so favored by so many concuring advantages, Mackinaw City has been built, with broad streets, parks of native forest trees, and public grounds adapted to the wants and convenience of what we may reasonably anticipate, as a future city of rapid growth, of numerous populations, of industrial class, of extensive commerce,—predominating over those magnificent cities—at the Straits of the North."—*Edward D. Mansfield*.

The undersigned, Trustees for the Proprietors of the Lands of, and adjacent to "MACKINAW CITY," have the pleasure of presenting for the consideration of capitalists, business men, and others, what they will concede to be, upon investigation, the most reliable point for investment and settlement, now available in the West or North.

Mackinaw evidently occupies the most commanding natural position for a city of the first class; surrounded as it is, by a widely extended territory, abounding in elements of the greatest wealth, affording the utmost encouragement to the manufacturer and mechanic in their wildest diversity of employment, and without the possibility of a competing city in any direction nearer than Detroit on the south.

They feel, from what has been so truly and ably said by E. D. Mansfield, Esq., a gentleman well and favorably known for his ability and habits of close investigation and comparison, that nothing more is left to be said, but to set forth the policy which they have adopted, and design to carry out, the more efficiently to promote the interests of this location, and at the same time to aid in the development of the vast resources of the surrounding region.

From the map it will be seen that streets are laid out eighty feet in width, and the avenue one hundred and one hundred fifty feet, respectively. In the deed of dedication of these to the public, provision is made for side walks, fifteen feet in width on each side, to be forever unobstructed by improvements of any kind, lake trees excepted, thus securing a spacious promenade, worthy of a place destined to become a principal resort for pleasure and health. Provision is also made for the proper use of the streets and avenues by Railroad Companies, adequate to the demands of the business of the city.

The lots with, the exception of those in fractional blocks, are fifty by one hundred and fifty feet, thus affording ample room for permanent, convenient, and ornamental improvements.

The Park now laid off, embraces the grounds of the Old "Fort Michilimackinac," sacred in the history of the country. These grounds, now in their natural condition, are unequalled for beauty of surface, location, scenery, soil, trees, &c., by any Park in any city in this country; and when the skillful hand of the horticulturist has marked its outline and threaded it with avenues and foot paths, pruned its trees and carpeted its surface with green, it will present the very perfection of all that constitutes a Park delightful. The character of the soil, (it being a sandy loam, with sand and gravel underlying it,) renders it capable of the easiest and most economical improvement, securing walks always dry, hard and smooth.

This Park, with suitable blocks and lots for church and city buildings, market houses, schools, &c., will be duly appropriated to these uses, whenever the proper authorities are prepared to select suitable sites; and lots for colonies and institutions of learning and charity will be freely donated to parties contemplating early improvement. Thus the Trustees propose to anticipate, by avoiding the onerous obstructions, the waste of Mackinaw City in perpetuity, and free forever its citizens from taxation for any grounds required for the public good. They also design to place it in the power of the General Government to secure, by like donation, at an early day, the grounds necessary for such fortifications as the wants of the country and commerce may require, on the simple condition of speedy improvement.

This liberal policy, it is believed, will best promote the true interests of the city and country, and at the same time be productive of the greatest pecuniary profit, both to the original proprietors, and to all others who may make investments at this point.

It is also within the purposes of the Trustees, to expend a large portion of their income from sales, in providing for the public wants, by the erection of Docks at the most important places, and by the establishment of Ferries, in view of which they have secured the land on the opposite side of the Straits. And they will also, as their means will justify, make loans to aid parties in the establishment of manufactures, &c.

Building materials of great variety and in abundance are at hand. Lumber can be had for mere cost of preparation, and the soil at no very distant point, is suitable for making bricks; while for immediate use, Milwaukee can furnish the articles of the best kind in any quantities. The shores of Lake Superior abound with exhaustless quantities of Granite, Sand Stone, and Marble; and Lime Stone and Sand are on the spot.

There are three harbors, the most eastern of which, is well known to navigators, as affording perfectly safe anchorage at all times; and when suitable docks are built, they will offer unusual advantages to commerce.

The surface of the city itself is unrivaled, having a natural grade suited to city wants, and the soil being a sandy loam with sand and gravel underlying it, will form the cheapest and best foundation for streets and a canal.

Evergreen and other trees of full growth now cover the grounds, affording a healthful and delightful shade, and capable of varied embellishment, without the delay incident to artificial growth. The grounds adjacent to the city are of the same character, gradually ascending until an elevation of seventy-five or a hundred feet is attained, affording the finest views of the Lakes and neighboring State.

The following are the terms on which the Trustees propose to sell the property which they have subdivided into lots, as represented in the subjoined plan of the city. Notwithstanding the superior facilities of this point over hundreds of others in the West, where lots have been readily disposed of at ten, twenty, thirty, and even fifty dollars per foot, the Trustees in order to give impetus to the growth of Mackinaw City, and to reward a margin for others to profit by propose to sell all settlers who will immediately improve the property by the erection of dwellings, hotels, dwellings, manufacturing and printing establishments, docks, &c., &c., to donate the lots necessary for such purposes, subject to the choice of the parties themselves; and to those who desire to profit by the inevitable advance of property contiguous to their own improvements, the Trustees will sell lots on long time, if desired at the unprecedented low price of five dollars per foot, front.

Capitalists and non-residents, desiring to avail themselves of the advantages of such a developing policy, and to invest upon a real estate basis, promising a rapid appreciation in value, can possess themselves for a very limited time, of lots, at the same low price of five dollars per foot.

The title to this property is unquestionable, having within five years, been derived directly from the United States Government, as will be seen by reference to a Title pamphlet issued by the undersigned, for the benefit of the parties interested.

Applications by letter will receive prompt attention. Asking a careful perusal of the annexed report on the subject, from the pen of E. D. Mansfield, Esq., (a copy of which will be sent to any party asking for it,) we submit the matter to the public investigation.

EDGAR CONKLING,
A. M. SEARLES, } Trustees.

CINCINNATI, OCT 1857.

"Mackinaw Island being seven miles distant from the channel between the narrow points—is entirely unsuited to the purposes of a fortification. The military position which commands the Straits, is necessarily that which is at the narrowest point, and this principle is adopted by the Government in every other case."
"To enterprising business men, Manufacturers, Mechanics, &c., who are unsettled by the present general financial revulsion and who think of finding a new home, suited to their enterprise and business, 'MACKINAW CITY' with its natural advantages, and the easy terms now presented of acquiring property, probably offers greater inducements than any point either west or north."

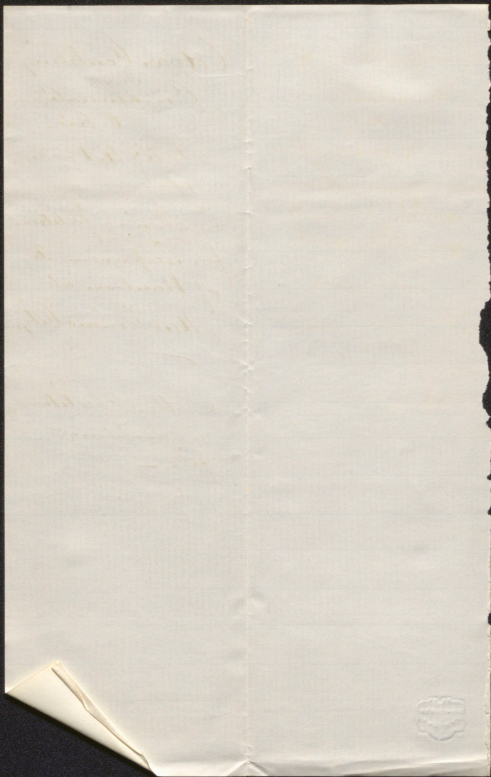
Mackinaw City, is County Real Estate Co. — Mich.

Edgar Coukling
Cincinnati,
Ohio.

Feb'y 4. 1858.

Enclosing Petitions
for improvements
of Harbors etc
Mackinac City,

Letter Petitions
in Senatorial
file—



(Nephew.)

Madison, Feb 6. 1858.

Wm. S. A. Douglass. - Dear Sir - Noticing by the public papers that you have introduced some matters into the Senate for H. O'Reilly Esq., I presume you know where he is or where a letter may reach him; and having some business with him & not knowing his address, I will be much obliged to you if you will forward the enclosed letter to him.

Very Respectfully your friend to
 L. J. Curtis -

Letter sent to New York

W S Curtis
Madison
Wis.

Feb'y 6. 1858.

Sends letter for
Henry O'Reilly,

Sent to N.Y.

Hon Steph A Douglass.
U.S.S.