

W R Johnston
Sidney, Ohio.
March 2, 1858.

Sanctatory

W

3931

Sidney, Ohio March 2, 1858
Mr Douglass

Though personally unacquainted
with you permit an old whig to address
you respect to your course on the discomfition
Constitution; though opposed to the president
in your views the word is now among
us is our Douglass on old lines and loud
noise seems to be broken and hundreds
are now pledging themselves that if it is
so you are the nominee of '60 they will
support you for the highest post in the
gift of the people and you will pardon
me for addressing you being at a distance
though believing as I do that when we
have a faithful public agent it is
his right to let them know the feeling
of the people especially when they
have the opportunity to contend with you
here at present

How soon except of my best wishes
for your recovery while I remain

your obedient servant

R. C. Johnston M. D.

Wm J. Douglass

W. J. I think my son Wm E
Johnston wrote me he had some
correspondence with you when
you were in Harris

West Waterville, Me, Mar 2^d 1858
 Hon, S A Douglass
 Sir

Will you favor
 friends here by forwarding a copy of
 the Leconte's Constitution - or at least
 a true copy of that portion which relates
 to the right of suffrage under it. -

If that instrument is forced upon the People of
 Kansas there can be no more Democratic party
 at the North -

Yours Truly
 Wm J Jordan

Wm Jordan
West Waterville
Maine

March 2./58

Wants copy of
Second Com. Cont. Lit.

Wm. Stephens A. Douglass.

Sir -

I respectfully solicit the
favor of your autograph, in return for which I offer my
hearty thanks -

Respectfully -

Mary C. Kingsley

Mary E. Kingsley
Brighton
Mass
March 2. / 58
Autograph.

PAID

Wm. Walker & Douglas W. A. C.
Washington
D. C.



Office of the Comm. Reporter.

Washington, D.C. Pa.

Mar. 27 1858.

Hon. S. A. Douglass.

Dear Sir:

Will you have the kindness to favor me with a copy of the fifth volume of "Explorations and Surveys for a R. R. Route from the Mississippi River to Pacific Ocean." I desire very much to have the work complete and the fifth volume is not yet received. Why I have not been favored with it from our own Senators or Congressman is undoubtedly owing to the views advocated in my journal and the stand I have taken upon the Leconteian Constitution, hence cannot ask nor expect the desired favor from those quarters. It will afford me much pleasure to receive such documents as are at your disposition as United States Senator, and shall at all times be at your service in return.

Very respectfully Yours

J. L. Kirtz.

J. G. Kutz
Carousburg
Centre Co Pa
March 2, 1858,

Wants
5th Vol. P.R.S.

FREE



Stephen A. D. Van.

Washington D.C.



H. N. Otterson

Andover,

Mass.

March 2. 1858.

Wants Report.

Andover, Mass. at 2nd 58.

Dear Sir

Will you please furnish
me with your report concerning
the admission of Kansas.

Yours very truly

H. N. Otterson

Tr. of
H. N. Otterson }

Andover,

Mass^{ts}

W. H. Miller
London
1841
London

London

North Barnstead, N. H., March 2, 1838.

Dear Sir:-

Not having any Democrats in Congress from our State to send us Public Documents, and as you are a very prominent Democrat I thought I would send you my name, with a few of our best Democrats at this Post Office — If it would be convenient for you, we should be pleased to receive any printed matter — books &c. which you may think proper to send us — and we should like for you to hand our names to some of the other members — as it is impossible for us to receive anything from our members.

Hoping to hear from you

I am Very Respectfully -

Wm Thomas Pitman

Hon Stephen A. Douglass USG

I send you a few names

by: — Wm Thomas Pitman

Asariah Holmes

David Pitman

George H. Jones.

Ebenezer Jones

R. O.

North Barnstead
New Hampshire



N^o Thor Ditman
North Barnstead
N.H.
March 2. 1858.

Wants Speeches

I
gives names.



My dear Mr. [illegible]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in the first column of the letter body.]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in the second column of the letter body.]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in the first column of the letter body.]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in the second column of the letter body.]

Camp in Pecos River Texas
March 2^d 1858

My dear Judge

I have read with great interest and attention your speech on the subject of accepting the second -
-tion constitution and the replies of Gen. Bigler & Fort -

I have been so much struck with the force, precision and completeness of your argument, that I cannot refrain from expressing to you my admiration for your speech & my firm conviction that no reply can be made to it -

In the midst of the cloud of sophistry which has been thrown round the subject by the arguments and views of the friends of Mr Buchanan's suggestion, the main question stands untouched viz: Is it a compliance with the guarantees of the Kansas Nebraska bill either in letter or in spirit to admit Kansas as a state with a constitution in known violation of the wishes of the people to be governed by it? -

That is the question & the only question and it yet remains unanswered & intact by the friends of the Administration -

It is not at all to the purpose to say that, as Kansas, Illinois, Michigan or any other new state has been admitted into the Union without an enabling act & without submission of their constitutions to the vote of the people - This may be the fact in each or every case of the new states, but if so, it is very certain that no objection was made by the people and that Congress believed the constitutions presented ~~that~~ was an expression of the popular will - Had it been believed or seriously

suspected that the reverse was the fact, as is certainly shown in the case of Kansas. I suppose no man believes that in any one of those instances the popular will in a matter so vital to those concerned, would have been ignored by Congress -

It is not therefore the point in the present instance to say that one half or even all of the New States have been admitted without the action of a convention legally authorized or without submitting of the Constitution to the popular vote. It is amazing in the first place, to make any thing like a parallel case to that of Kansas, to show that a State has been thus admitted, in spite of ^{the} thrown opposition of the people to a constitution made by a convention representing a minority - But if this can be shown there is not the least resemblance to the present case & even if this can be proved to be ^{the} case in any one instance, another & far more important point remains to be shown, before any analogy with Kansas can be established - And this point exhibits a direct & manifest contradiction to the statement that no new principle was established in the Kansas Nebraska bill - The new principle is plain & well marked, viz. "that the people shall have the right to make their domestic institutions in their own way" - Was this principle ever before admitted by Congress? - Surely not, since by the very Missouri Compromise which was abolished by this bill, not only was this right of the people of the Territories now Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas & Nebraska denied, but Congress ^{in fact} actually in this compromise, legislated themselves on the most of the "domestic institutions" to be established in any of those territories - It is plain therefore that Congress not only assumed but asserted their own right to regulate "the domestic institutions," and by direct ^{and} ~~direct~~

implication their right to do so in case of any other local matter pertaining to the Territories, for if they could thus settle any one of the details of the Constitution of new States they could with the same propriety settle any other - It is therefore a fact that up to the passage of the Kansas Nebraska Act, Congress, claimed & exercised the right to settle as ^{the} pleased the domestic institutions of any Territory applying for admission into the Union, & under such recognized right, it was not necessary, except in so far as Congress chose, to ask whether the Constitution presented for acceptance had been submitted to the people or not, or whether or not it expressed their will - The Kansas Nebraska bill, asserted this right to the people of the Territories in contradistinction to the right ^{Congress itself} ~~of Congress itself~~ had claimed & exercised, & further guaranteed to the people of the New Territories on the honor of the Government, that this right should be secured to them -

But turn the question of admitting Ark. Kansas, Illinois or any other new State, ^{into the liquid} & the question of admitting Kansas, therefore, no analogy can by any possibility be established -

In the one case Congress claimed & exercised the right ^{power} of legislating upon any domestic matter contained in the Constitution of a State seeking admission into the Union, in the other Congress not only ceded this right to the Territories but pledged the faith of the Government to secure it to the people -

Undoubtedly under ordinary circumstances the presentation of a constitution to Congress for any new State, by the delegate of the Convention that made it, would be "prima facie" evidence that it expressed the wishes of the people concerned,

precisely as the Credentials of a Member of Congress are ~~and~~
= once sufficient to entitle him to his seat, but only provided
no objection be made. If any one contest the right of the Repre-
= sentative to his seat, it becomes the duty of Congress to investigate
& adjudicate & so also it is & should be in the case of the Consti-
= tution of Kansas. Congress is bound by the strongest pledges &
obligations to see that the people of that Territory shall enter
the Union with a constitution approved by her people. It is
an obligation both Thomson of law & of necessity it is the duty of the
Government to go behind fifty constitutions rather than forfeit
^{its} ~~their~~ most sacred pledges. Would a man who had pledged himself
to the payment of a sum of money to his neighbor be held to have
fulfilled his engagement, when he had turned over an amount of
land or other property to a person representing himself as an au-
= thorized agent of the person to whom the pledge was made? -

Should the agent turn out afterwards ~~that~~ that he had been authorized
to make such an arrangement, & if further the man had made
over this property knowing that the agent not only had no authority
but was actually doing what was in direct opposition to the will
of his principal, would ~~not~~ ^{not} the whole transaction smelt
very much of fraud if brought into any court in the U.S.?

Even these are the obligations of the Govt in reference to
Kansas & it is clearly the duty of Congress in justice with our
honor as well as to the people of Kansas, to recognise no consti-
= tution which is not Thomson the will of the people -

It will not do some to rest satisfied because no opposition
should be made to it. The obligation guarantees that it shall
be an expression of the wishes of the people & it is the duty of Congress
before accepting to see that it is their will & to be worthy for granted.



It will not do to say that the Secession Constitution should be accepted as a matter of expediency & to withdraw the Kansas troubles from Congress. They cannot be thus withdrawn without an inglorious act toward the people of that Territory. What! Guarantee to the people that they shall have the right to make their domestic institutions in their own way & then not only force upon them a constitution opposed to the will of the Majority, but impose it for all time unless two-thirds of the population are opposed to it? If the smallest fraction over one third of the people of that Territory be in favor of the Secession Constitution, it must be the established institution of the new State, notwithstanding the will of the two-thirds who have been opposed to it ^{for all time} from the beginning. This would be indeed the establishment of a new principle not contemplated by the Kansas Nebraska bill, viz, the right & power of the Government so to interfere in moulding & fixing upon the people, the constitution of a new State as to secure the right to rule to a minority party.

If they succeed in effecting this in Kansas & in getting such a course recognised, the Kansas Nebraska bill is in fact repealed.

The case is clear & plain & I cannot believe that any man possessing ordinary reasoning faculties can fail to see it unless by intention. Direct & manly dealing with any question is better than policy or diplomacy & I fear Mr Buchanan will discover it before many months have passed away.

I assure you, Sir, when I commenced this letter
I had not the faintest intention to enter at such
tedious length into the subject, but only to express to you
the great, my great satisfaction your speech has given
me & my honest belief that it will place you in a position
before the nation, which has not been occupied by any
man for many long years -

I have spent the winter at hard work upon this
bleak & inhospitable plain, I have experienced to my
active satisfaction the exceeding discomfort of a cold
& tempestuous winter with no better protection than a
canvas tent - The Spring begins to look us in the face
& we shall welcome it heartily -

I have been delayed here thus long solely by a series
of the most perverse accidents, & breakages of machinery
which have greatly retarded the progress of our operations -

I am however in daily expectation of getting through
& moving forward to my next place of experiment -

Please present me with great respect and
 regard to Mr. Dwyer.

Very truly yours
M. R. Pease

Wm. S. A. Dwyer,
Washington
D.C.



John Pope
Camporee Post
Pecos Texas.
Mar 2nd 1881

Political

WD

Windsor N. H. March 2. 1838.

3938

My dear Sir,

Without the formality of an introduction, and without apology, you will allow a citizen of your native state, who feels a just sense of pride in the course you have pursued, in regard to the endorsement of the Secessionist Constitution of Kansas, with its manifold and patent frauds, and highhanded indignities, to congratulate you, and the Country; that one so prominent and influential should have the firmness and self-sacrifice, to break through the most oppressive of all tyrannies, that of party politics, in favour of truth and justice.

I should not have troubled you, in this matter, were it not for what I think I perceive in your Cause, the development of a principle, in free government, which it seems to me has not generally been noticed, or if noticed, certainly not sufficiently heeded, in the public life of the great majority of our public men. I mean the consideration, that a victory gained, at the expense of truth, and order, and decency, and justice, is in the end a disgrace, if not a defeat. While on the other hand defeat, in defence of the great principles of truth and justice, of honor, and morality & religion, is a victory almost sure of its reward, in the present, and absolutely certain of its ultimate recompense. //

This fault, in public life, is more the result of the tyranny of public opinion, and especially of that form of it, which controls the discipline of party politics, in free countries,

and the consequent want of firmness of nerve, in candidates for popular favor, than of any inherent proclivity in our public men towards duplicity, or that shoddy and temporary expediency, which always presents inevitable attractions, both to the weak and the treacherous.

But in my humble judgment it is a fatal misapprehension, to suppose that our iniquity can safely be surmounted by a greater one. And especially is this true in the administration of a great empire. Where there is great power and corresponding crimes, we naturally expect a proportional degree of punishment, and that which cannot be suffered, it will in no case be retaliated by a greater wrong. The people understand this, and they will not long endure, that a villain, even if a child's son, should be maintained, at the expense of every thing moral, & decent, & of good report.

With very kindly dispositions towards Mr. McKean, and a sincere & earnest desire, that his administration might be popular & prosperous, I cannot allow myself to disavow the conviction, that his course upon this subject has been most unfortunate for his administration. And will in the end prove disastrous to the South more, for more, than to the north.

|| You may be very sure, whatever the democratic

press here may report, that you have the cordial sympathy and approbation of every Sincere & true hearted democrat, in the State. And if we were not crushed out, by the suicidal policy, which has sometimes been pursued, for the purpose of temporary, or local, advantages, the majority of the State would be in favor of the great principles of a frank, honest, outspoken & Conservative democracy. || The great mass of the honest yeomanry of Vermont are not, at heart & in spirit, radicals, but conservatives, & they will follow where truth & duty leads, almost regardless of consequences. Sincerely believing in the maxim, that Truth is mighty, & will prevail. If any of you find, in this State, those who repudiate the Constitution, I can assure ^{you} it is a fatal misapprehension, & one that your own wisdom & experience would enable you to correct, if you had opportunity to know us better.

I have expressed myself thus freely, with no reputation, or desire, to obtain any personal advantage thereby, for I feel very sure, that my endorsement is of little service to me, in your position, but I have felt compelled to do it, more for my own satisfaction, than from any advantage, which I expect from it, either to you or to myself. Very truly yours
Charles F. Ripfield.
Chief Justice of Vermont.

James H. Redfield
Chief Justice of Rte
Windsor Vermont
March 2, 1858.
=

Approbatory.

=

✓

Deckerstown, Surinam, N. Free,
March 6. 1858

Now,
S. A. Douglass
Sir

If you can conveniently forward to me, any Anti-Lecompton documents, Speeches, of any Anti-Lecompton democrats or other documents on the Kansas question. I will take pleasure in placing them into the hands of the democrats in this section of our County. The reason I ask it of you is that Mr. Ayler, our representative of this district, is an administration man, and the documents forwarded by him, are all of the administration stamp, and it is the same with our Senators. I am satisfied from the feelings manifested by the democrats in this section of our County, that they are strongly opposed to that Lecompton Swindle. My impression is that four fifths of our old fashioned democrats in this County, will not swallow it altho it may be an administration measure, and will when the opportunity is offered at the ballot box, let their seal

of condemnation on any one that
shall be the means of aiding to carry into
operation that Constitution, and they
feel pleased that you dare face the storm.
With feelings of Respect
Yours &c

Levi Shepherd

Levi Shepherd

Heckerstown

Supers Co. N Jersey

March 2/58,

Wants anti Slavery
documents.

Judge W. says send them; . . .
(500 Sent)

Washington March 2nd 1858

Mr Chandler

Dear Sir

If you should have a surplus of Judge Douglas's Minority report and can let me have some I will see they are properly distributed through Indiana. I have a list of about 3000 names in each County and township in ~~the~~ ^{the} State.

I am commencing a little newspaper and Stationary business in the State Office and have a little private room in which I stand ready to frank and circulate any documents sent to me at that place. If you should have such to send to Indiana direct them left there and they shall receive proper attention.

Very Respectfully
W D Shepherd

A.B. as the preacher said by his flow

I keep constantly on hand all newspapers & periodicals and shall open on Monday next please call at the
Douglas Stand

Wm L. Shephard,
Washington City

March 1858,

Wants Reports
to distribute in
Indiana

— Reports —
500. Sent
March 31/58

Callabrath
Oneida, N.Y.
March 2, 1858.

Wants Report.

3942

Oneida N.Y. March 2, 58
Hon. S. A. Douglas
Sir

In Order to continue the
promulgation of truth, & consistency, I would
be very much pleased to have you send
me as many copies - in Pamphlet form -
of your Kansas Report as you conveniently
can. The Democrats are with you, in the
mild stand you have taken in opposition
to the "Lecompton Scoundrel" and they want
to intrinck themselves firmly behind
your recent Report.

Yours &c

C. A. Calabrath

Pole March 2nd 1858

Mr Douglas Dear Sir

Please send the Patent
Office report of 1857 on agriculture and
all the years Ezra B. Waterbury. Pole Ogden Co N.Y.

Ezra B Waterbury
Solo.
Ogle Co. Ill.
March 20 1858,

-Wants Pat. Off.
Report. —



Ogden Rock County
Wisconsin
March 2nd 1858

Hon^{ble} Stephen A Douglass

Dear Sir

Can you
supply me with a few more
copies of your first speech
on the Exempted Swindle

Also the Patent Office reports
for the years 1855 & 56

Yours very

Respt

W. H. Woodhull

W. H. Woodhull
Ogden,
Rock Co. Wis.

March 2. 1858,

Wants more
copies Speeches.

