

Macomb McDonough Co Ills  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858

Dear J A Douglass  
Washington  
DC

Dr Sir

Will you please  
send me <sup>a copy</sup> the Explorations & Survey for a R.R.  
Route from the Miss River to the Pacific Ocean as  
I have all the Publ Doc't for the last 4 years  
except this as you may not know me I will  
say I have been P.M. at this place under  
Pierces Administration but resigned the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1857  
there is but two Secessions men in this place  
and but few in the County, our State Committee  
comes off next Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> and every  
County in the State as far as heard from  
(except Peoria Co) have passed Resolutions  
endorsing your cause w<sup>th</sup> the Secessions men  
so will give them h — this fall for Representative  
your early attention to the above will oblige

Sincerely  
J. W. Atkinson

McAuliffe  
Masomb, H.C.  
April 17, 1858

Ward, Pac: P.M.R.

Waukegan April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858

Dear Sir

You may be surprised to find me seeking to open a correspondence, since so long an absence of any interchange of feeling between us but you need not be surprised when I tell you that at the time of your attending my school in the old Arnold School house I had a presentiment that one of my scholars would some day be President of the U.S. But things have turned up of late which makes me anxious to open a correspondence. You have warm friends and bitter enemies in Waukegan as in all parts of the country. I claim to be one of the friends but until lately I have felt as tho' you was not what you pass of late proved your self to be the friends to the whole country. I wish you would send me your last speech & I have seen only extracts from it if this is worth answering please drop a line soon and oblige Yours truly  
Sophronia sends her respects &c E.W. Avery  
So Hon Stephen A. Douglas,

C. W. Avery  
(Judge 10<sup>th</sup> old  
Schoolmaster)

Waukegan

April 19, 1858.

Wanted, Speeches

Morris. April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1858.

Honorable Stephen A. Douglas.

Dear Sir:

I rejoice at the defeat of Lecompton. The Administration has but very few friends in this part of the country. I rec'd and with pleasure perused your great speech on the Kansas Question.

I have heard a great deal about the Southern Pacific Rail Road Rout. Report and as I have not seen the Reports I would like to have you send it to me; or if you are not the proper person to apply to, please inform me who is the proper person. Address A. G. Beebe  
Morris, Grundy Co., Ill.

Your friend & servt,  
A. G. Beebe

[back]  
A G Beebe  
Morris Hts  
April 19, 1858.  
*Political*  
Wants, P.R.R.R.C.

J C Cooley  
Oswego  
N.Y.  
April 19, 1858.

Political  
gives names  
for speeches.

(W)

5092  
Confidential

Oswego April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858  
Dr. L.

I have just finished readying  
you late speech "against the admission  
of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitu-  
tion". It is a speech that will meet the approval  
of all right thinking Democrats & particularly  
the rank & file of the Old Boys <sup>many</sup> members  
of this State. Some ~~old~~ <sup>new</sup> Hunker & ~~old~~  
soft shells. We shall send from this County  
to the State convention this fall two if not  
three delegates that will be straight &  
reliable on this question, we shall  
also endorse you if you find we can do  
so emphatically. I send you a few names  
of those who I think it would be well to send  
this speech to, the most of whom will  
most likely be delegates to our county  
convention this fall. Should you  
send to those persons I will send you  
a further list, one half to two thirds I

return to say will also be  
delegates ~~as~~

City of Onyo. B Lynch, S Natigan

N Miller, W B Lourie, Isaac Shepherd

Richard Byrne, Cornelius Dunn

W J Curtis, S <sup>10</sup> Johnson, H B Thurber

John McLeary, W Tiffey, W F Mason

Peter McCroy, Chas T Richardson, Thos. Arthur

Mr. Mayles, Capt B S Benedict, the last three direct

scriba comes.) Le Roy Burd, Hiram Bull,

Cpt Pilling, Rott Van Horne, Jas Barrus

Col M G White, John H McLong, Geo. Cornish,

P Battison, then take one for the Town of Onyo but get their

mail here, If I find that there is more get you

speech I will then send on a list suitable

for the whole County. If it would be accept-

able I would send a list for the counties &

mentioned in a former letter.

Yours truly  
Hon S A Douglas H C Lovelady

R. S. Llyodon  
Dixons Hill,  
April 19, 1858.

Want garden Seeds

Sent to  
you

Dixons Hill  
Apr 19, 1858

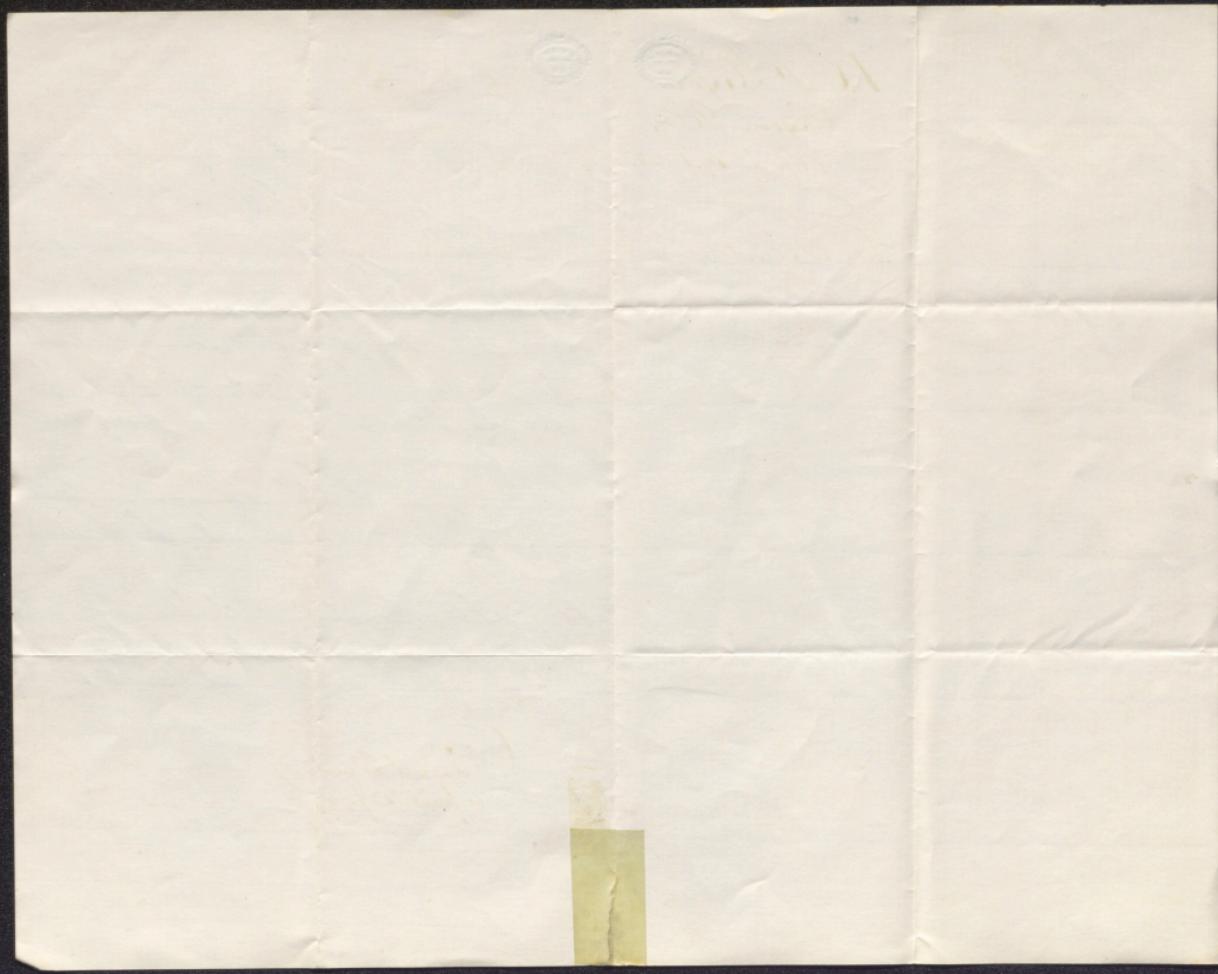
Dear Sir:

Will you have the  
kindness to send me a few  
varieties of garden seeds - I shall  
be under obligations if you will  
do so, and it will be doing me  
a favor -

Truly Yours  
R. F. Dixons

Hon. J. R. Douglas, U. S. Sen.,  
Washington D. C.

(Seed Sent)  
April 23/58.



New Durham N.H. April 19-1858  
Hon S. A. Douglas  
Sir

If it would not be to much trouble I should be pleased to receive from You a Public Document occasionally, or a few Seeds from the Patent Office suitable to grow in this section of New Hampshire any thing of the like will be thankfully received -

Your Friend

J. H. Downing

J H Keweenaw

J H Keweenaw  
New Durham  
N.H.  
April 19, 1858.

Ward, - Speeber,  
Seed Co.

Waukegan April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858  
 Hon. S. A. Douglass  
 U. S. Senator Washington  
 Sir

I am very desirous of obtaining the printed  
 copy of the Report of Lt Col J. D. Graham on  
 the Commerce & Improvements of Lake Harbors

Part 1<sup>st</sup> 1854 = 5

Part 2<sup>d</sup> 1855 = 6

Senate Doc No 16

34<sup>th</sup> Congress 3<sup>d</sup> Session.

If there are any of the above Copy's for  
 distribution, I would be very much obliged  
 if you will have the kindness to forward one  
 to my address.

I am Sir very Respectfully

Your Obe Servt

Auburn Emerson

Waukegan Ills

N.B. I have on hand Col. Grahams  
 Report <sup>on Lake Harbors</sup> for 1857 this with the  
 above would make me a valuable  
 and highly esteemed work  
 R. Emerson

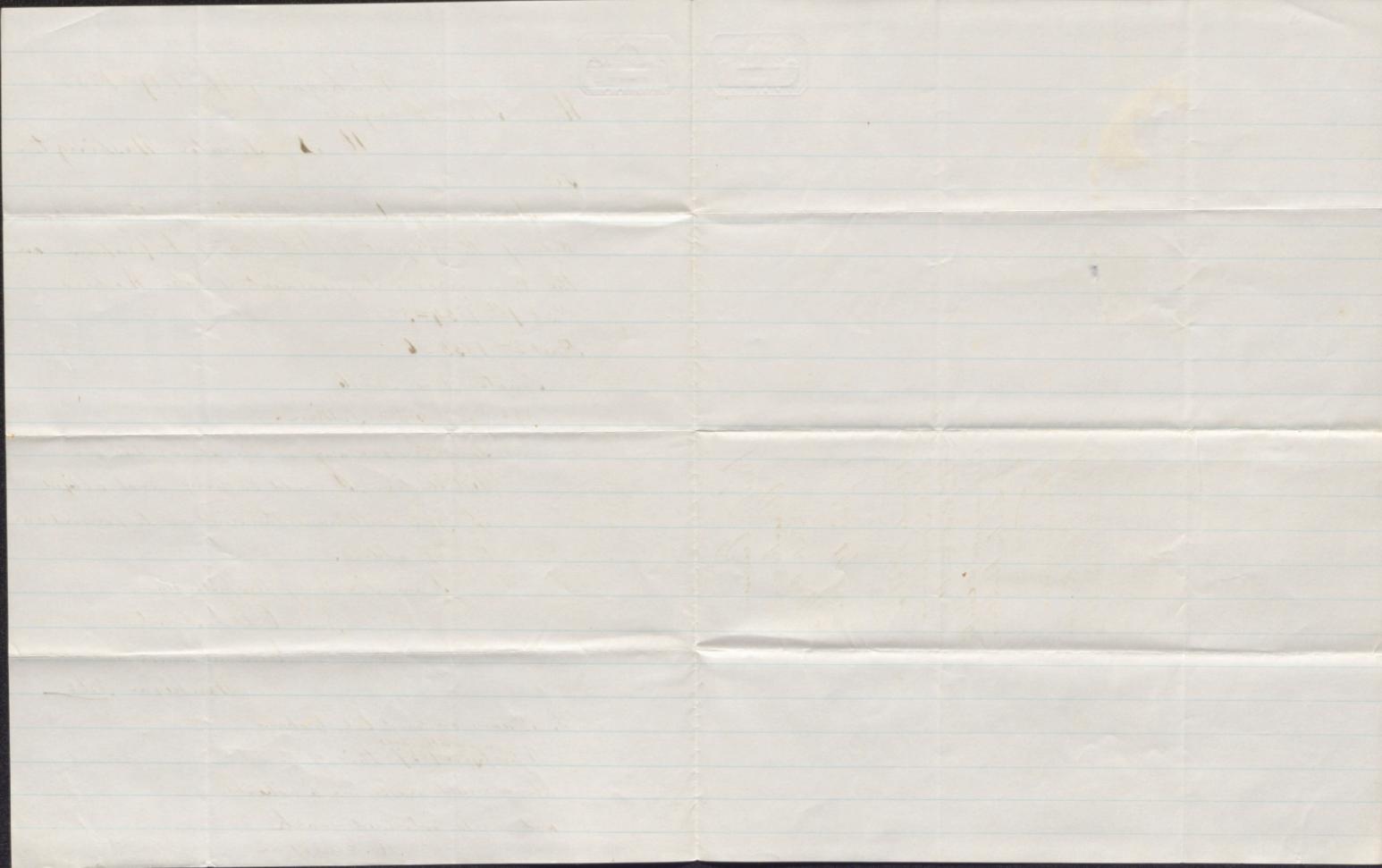
Reuben Emerson  
Waukegan  
Lake Co. Ill.

April 19. 1858,

Counts & Coal  
J. L. Graham's  
Report on the  
Commerce & Shipping  
of Lake Harbors.

Obtained same  
from Post Bureau  
Lewiston April 26/58

J



A. J. Fairchild,  
Dickinson College,  
Carlisle, Pa.  
April 19/58.

Wants Speech



Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.,  
Hon. S. A. Douglas  
Dear Sir,

Will you  
please send me your  
Speech made in the  
Senate.

Yours truly  
A. J. Fairchild



E.P. Ferris.

Versailles

Ind. A.C.

April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858.

Wanted Speech



Versailles Ripley Co Ind.

Apr 19<sup>th</sup> 1858.

Dear Stephen A. Douglas. A. S. S.

Dear Sir.

Please send me  
a copy of your Kansas speech and  
oblige one who desires information.

Yours truly,

E. P. Ferris.



Hudson N.H. - Post Office  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858

Rev. S. A. Douglas  
Washington D.C.

Sir -

I am called upon daily for  
the speech of Mr. Douglass delivered  
in Senate on 22<sup>nd</sup> March - My reply  
to our Democratic friends has been that -  
probably we should get it in some  
of the papers in short time - but as it  
has not appeared I take the liberty  
to ask if you could send me four  
copies that I might distribute to our  
fellow Democratic citizens -

any copies you may have disposed of  
& send shall be generously distributed -

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt  
J. R. Frost  
P.M.

D. K. Frost  
Post Master,  
I. Hudson,  
Penns. Co., Ohio.  
April 19, 1858.

Wants Specie,  
to distribute

S

John  
W. Jones  
Montgomery  
County  
Penns.

Washington Pa Apr. 19th. 1819.

Mr. J. D. Angles. Kind Sir. Please send  
me a copy of your last speech on the  
Penns. Germantown Constitution and I shall be  
much renewed obligations to you.  
No person in this yonate has ever given speech  
all we anxious to see it.

yours truly

Geo J. French

Ira J. Lacobk

Washington

Pa.

April 17/58.

Want Speech

W A Lockwood  
Alfred University  
Alfred Center  
N.Y.

April 19. 1858

Invitation to  
deliver address  
before Society  
of the University  
Lasts, June

W A Lockwood

Alfred University April 19. 1858  
Hon Stephen A. Douglas

Sir I wish to enquire  
if you will deliver an address before the  
Orphidian Lyceum of Alfred University  
on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of June next at their  
anniversary session And if you will  
what your price will be you will  
oblig me much by answering immediately  
direct to W. A. Lockwood Alfred Center N.Y

Yours respectfully  
W. A. Lockwood  
Corresponding Sec



Mr. & Mrs. C. L. H.  
New York, N.Y.  
July 1863  
Dear Sirs  
I have the pleasure to inform you  
that I have sold  
the house at 125 West 12th Street  
to Mr. & Mrs. C. L. H.  
Yours very truly  
John C. D.

New York April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas.

Dear Sir,

I would beg  
you to excuse the liberty I now take, by addressing to you these brief lines.  
We being at present perfect strangers to each other, I feel it is my  
duty to offer this apology.

I had the pleasure the other day of  
looking through the valuable Work, recently issued by our  
Government; entitled, "Explorations & Surveys for a Rail  
Road route from the Mississippi to the Pacific."—  
Being at the time, highly infatuated with it, on account,  
of its containing so much, valuable, interesting and  
useful information, I proceeded if possible to obtain a  
copy of it.

I have been informed, such works cannot be  
obtained except through the kindness of some member of Congress.  
I believe, each member, is allowed, as many as he wishes  
to distribute, among his personal friends. My object  
in writing this letter, is to request you, as a great favor, to obtain  
the above named book, for me, if you can do so, without  
putting yourself to any trouble or expense. If you have  
none to spare yourself, will you not greatly oblige me by  
using your influence, to procure one? I assure you Sir,  
it is a work <sup>which</sup> possesses many claims and attractions

for me, containing as it does such an extensive amount of  
information -

If you will put yourself to this trouble, please direct  
the volume to my address Care Mrs. Bailey Southard & Co  
Broadway

New York  
<sup>Many</sup>  
If I succeed, in ~~crossing~~<sup>over</sup> this wall (through your kindness)  
I shall <sup>not</sup> know how to express my gratitude to you

With great respect, I remain

Your most obedient Servant

Frank M. Lindsay

Frank M. Quincy  
New York Co  
April 19, 1858.

Baggage  
Pass. R.R. Report

Chicago April 19 58

Rev. S. A. Douglas was  
was here in Washington last week &  
and I had a long talk with Dr. Livingston

Boone Co  
is all "OK" Chautaukau June  
17 inst in Dr Motley the delegate  
to opposition and you were  
endorsed fully in the Dr in here  
on his way to Springfield and into  
many delegations will start on the  
morning train. Every day you  
are growing strong with the people  
and I have no doubt that you  
will take several counties in first

District - Some of our friends  
are talking even about Boone  
& Carroll Counties going for  
Douglas - but I have no idea  
they will - Dr Davis and Stephenson  
I am sure will - Bill Jackson  
is delegate with us & he thinks  
McHenry will go for some  
delegation - your lose sight  
of Dr Davis and Stephenson -  
They are sure with little nursing

Fred Shrock I repeat  
is the man for us to  
run for the Senate.  
I spoke of him in my last.  
He is poor but I have  
made it for his interest  
to consent to run & he  
keeps the "Desoto" —

I have been in all the  
Counties in 1. 2 & 3. Districts  
& I tell you again your  
are daily increasing with  
the masses of

old Shrock

Mrs. Moloney

M.S. Malony  
Chicago,  
April 19. 1858,

Political.

✓

Springfield Ill. April 19 1858  
Hon S. A. Douglas M. C.  
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir

I have just finished reading your Speech delivered in the U. S. Senate March 22-

Every sentiment of which I fully endorse. While the nation is false to its best interests & to those great principles on which our fathers organised this government at the first it will sustain you.

I believe the people are with you, & am happy to do every thing in my power to remove prejudice against you in my hands over the State. Any documents you will send me will be highly appreciated.

You will be gratified to know

that our Subscriptions for the  
University is going forward

Ten Thousand have been Subscribed  
in the last two months in the Coun-  
try.

With sincere wishes

Yours

J. B. Scott



J W Scott  
Springfield,  
Ill.  
April 19. 1858.  
Political

Independence April 19, 1858,

Hon S. A. Douglas,  
U. S. Senator.

Sir:

If you have a copy of the Congressional Globe, which you may not wish otherwise to dispose of, you will confer a very great favor by sending the same to me.

Very respectfully yours,

Hon Stephen A. Douglas,  
U. S. Senator  
Washington  
D. C.

Lorenzo Dow

Sorenzo More  
Independence Hs  
April 19/58

Wants Cong' Globe

5104

W. F. MORTIMER,

Roller St., between Adams and  
Jackson, W. D.

N. P. LOBERG,

Ontario St., 9<sup>th</sup> House west of  
Market, N. D.

MORTIMER & LOBERG,

BUILDING MASON'S

CHICAGO.

W E Martine  
A D Söderz.

Card enclosed  
in letter of date  
of April 19. 1858.  
from A D Söderz  
-随附  
Letter relating  
to private  
property.

D

Chas C. Overton  
New York.  
April 19/58  
Autograph

086

New York April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858  
Hon. Stephen A. Douglass.  
Washington D.C.  
Dr Sir

As it  
is a source of pleasure  
to me to possess some  
remembrance of those  
distinguished philanthropists  
and statesmen who occupy  
so important a place in  
our country's history I  
would respectfully request  
your autograph.

I am sir  
Your obt. Servt.  
Charles C. Overton  
115 East Broadway  
New York.

222

School District N<sup>o</sup> 8  
Palatine Cook County Illinois  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858

Hon: H. A. Daglap

Dear Sir! We have latterly  
Established a small School Library in our  
district for the benefit of all under twenty one  
years of age, and wishing to increase the same  
as fast as circumstances will admit.  
We would most Respectfully request Your Honor  
if convenient to send a few Published Document  
such as will be of benefit and interest to the  
same, any such Documents would gratify  
our young readers, and be most thankfully  
received

Respectfully Your most Obedient  
John H. Pahlman  
Lyman Shryles  
School Directors of District N<sup>o</sup> 8

John H. Dahlman  
Lyman Staples,

Dalatine  
Cook Co., Ill.

April 19. 1858.

Want books  
for School Library

Cleveland Apr 19. 1858

Dear Douglass

Enclosed I hand you  
a letter just rec'd from a friend, who is  
one of the Professors of Columbian College  
Do me the favor to advise me  
at your earliest convenience whether you  
can comply with the request, that I  
may communicate your decision to them

My wife & myself have just  
returned from a 3 weeks trip west  
we went over to the Fox River & travelled  
about considerable in Wisconsin, and  
spent a week in Chicago. I found  
the people with you in the stand  
you have taken except now & then  
one who has, or expects an office & if  
there is one place lower than another  
in the infernal regime. (if there be such  
a place) I hope & pray that their office  
saking Gen'ts may be the sole occupants  
thereof - I saw Isaac Cook. of course he  
said very little to me, in relation to you  
but I accidentally heard a P.M. from  
some Town in the interior, Cook & others  
or from that I did not know talk  
about time that would not be sent

sent back to Angrp from Ill & they  
left all of the present Dem-crats out

Cook then saw me & repeated over  
the conversation that I had just heard

I then told the boys that I would  
let them a piso that not a single  
man that voted for LeCompton in  
the North that would be returned to  
Angrp - This they would take (as they  
said) but dare not put up no bid  
now. Business is very dull indeed all  
over the West money scarce & tight

Staelman has not yet sent  
me the piso I lent him when there  
he will do so won't he? I also enclose  
a Democratic ticket, that triumphed  
in an old big Town Vermilion at  
the recent election, We are all well  
make our kind regards to Mrs D  
& the Boys - Will you visit us in your  
way to Chicago & then

Yours truly  
D P H Strader



H P Rhodes,

Cleveland

Ohio.

April 19/58,

Writer, of request  
of Philanthropic  
Society, request  
of political Soc

Answereed.

April 27/58.

Douglas Anti-Lecompton  
Democratic Ticket.

*For Town Clerk,*  
Isaac W. Nichols.

*For Treasurer,*  
Philip Minch.

*For Trustees.*

Sylvester A. Pelton.  
John T. Black.  
Jesse Ball, Jr.

*For Assessor,*  
Chandler Edson.

*For Constables,*

R. S. Harris.  
Geo. W. Bartholomew.  
Zachariah Coon.

*For Supervisor, Dist. No.*  
S. A. Pelton.

BOOKS RECEIVED

RECENT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

NOTES ON BOOKS RECEIVED

REVIEWS

NOTES ON REVIEWS



Dear Sir,

Chicago April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858.

Although an entire stranger to you, I write for the purpose of obtaining a favor, which it may be in your power to grant, and for which I shall be very greatly obliged to you. I learn that Congress has ordered the publication of the Report of the Astronomical Expedition, under Lieut. Gillis, sent to Chili in South America, for the purpose, principally, of making observations on the Planet Venus, for obtaining the Solar parallax. Having devoted a considerable part of my life to Astronomical Science, the work in question will be of great advantage in my investigations; and if published for gratuitous distribution to scientific Institutions and individuals, I shall be glad to obtain a copy.

I have recently removed from the State of Maine to this City, and take the liberty to refer you to Hon. Hannibal Hamlin of the Senate, and Hon. Freeman H. Morse of the House of Representatives, gentlemen with whom I have been acquainted for many years.

I am, very respectfully  
Your Obe. Servt

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

Moses Springer

Modest Springer  
Chicago.

H.C.  
April 19. 1858

Wants Gills' Epistles



CORRESPONDENCE  
RESPECTING  
**POSTAL IMPROVEMENTS,**  
AND THE

## REMOVAL OF THE BOSTON POST OFFICE.

*Boston, April 8, 1853.*

Dear Sir—While I congratulate you and the public upon the improvements which you have made in the administration of the affairs of the Boston Post Office, I beg to allude to the further improvements which you mentioned to me, some time since, and which had been proposed for consideration to the department at Washington.

As the removal of the Post Office is one of considerable public importance, and one in which, in any event, public opinion will be much divided, it has occurred to me that some public explanation of the plan proposed by you to the Post Office department at Washington should so far be made public, that the citizens of Boston may understand some of the details of the proposed improvements and conveniences.

Truly your ob't serv't,  
**CALEB STETSON.**

NAHUM CAPEN, Esq., P. M., Boston.

*Post Office, Boston, April 19, 1853.*

Dear Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, and take pleasure in briefly replying to your inquiries. Your polite allusion to the manner in which I have performed my official duties commands my grateful acknowledgments. Be assured that so long as I have the honor to be Postmaster at Boston it will be my pride as well as my duty to see that the people are faithfully served.

At an early period, after my appointment, I received instructions from the Hon. Postmaster General to give attention to CITY POSTS, with the view "to making improvements in the letter carrier system to the full extent of the law." In New York and Philadelphia his instructions have already been fully carried out, and the people of those cities are enjoying extended postal accommodations. I have been recently authorized to adopt a similar plan in this city. Instead of boxes to be placed in stores, it is proposed to have suitable wrought iron boxes to be strongly fastened to buildings, outside, secured by locks, properly painted and lettered, and so constructed as to be perfectly safe and guarded against storms. These are regarded as preferable, in some respects, to the iron posts of London and Paris. They are to be placed within distances not exceeding one thousand feet apart, counting the central office, and the station at

South Boston. In addition to these, boxes will be placed at the principal hotels of the city for the accommodation of the travelling public. Letters will be collected four times daily from these boxes by government collectors, without charge, and all letters thus posted will be mailed with the same certainty as if they were deposited at the central office. Thus it will be seen that, by the aid of collectors and letter carriers, the post office will be brought almost to every man's door. Other improvements are contemplated, but not yet they are not matured.

It will be remembered that soon after I assumed my official duties, as postmaster, I issued a circular asking suggestions from the public, such as would enable me to know, not only the wants of the people, but to make improvements should any be needed. In reply to this circular, I received numerous communications, both verbal and written, and upon a variety of topics quite interesting, and to me instructive. They were written by persons of both sexes,—and the public is already enjoying advantages the results of suggestions thus communicated. The subject most prominent, however, was the removal of the Post Offce. I was frequently and earnestly entreated by many to give it my earliest attention. With a long and familiar acquaintance with its exterior accommodations, it was not difficult to realize the existence of a necessity so often pointed out, and yet so patiently permitted to be continued. But, as this necessity is now professedly conceded by all parties,—it ceases to be a duty to point out the dangers, difficulties and annoyances of the present locality. They have been too long witnessed and realized by the people of Boston to need any recapitulation on my part. I found, too, that the good of the service demanded different and more extended accommodations.

Having ascertained that it was not the purpose of the government, at present, to erect a new post office, I felt it to be my imperative duty to turn my attention to the practicability of erecting a new building, by private enterprise, that would be safe as an investment and at the same time economical for the government to occupy. The subject of locality, although not a new one,—presented the greatest difficulty which I had to encounter. I could not forget the discussions of the past, when the office was removed only a few

years from Water street to the Old State House, and from the Old State House to the Boston Exchange. With the associations of postal convenience impressed upon my mind, as connected with the neighborhood of State street,—for more than a year past I have been desirous at once divest myself of a natural preference that the office should still remain within the circle so long identified with the business of State and Court houses. I have, however, selected a site as near as possible to the present—that I might be relieved from the labors of discussion and expostion. I examined first of all—the Old State House, which would be too narrow. Besides,—it affords no proper place for mail wagons,—and it is surrounded by streets—other than those leading to the post office—too narrow. Besides,—it affords no proper place for mail wagons,—and it is surrounded by streets—other than those leading to the post office—too narrow.

With regard to the locality most congenial to the removal of the Post Office from its present neighborhood, I did not hesitate to take the further step of considering what was demanded for the future good of Boston's convenience, and what would be best calculated to serve the past and to mark the probable future. It may be proper to remark in this connection that I had no personal interest to subscribe in making out a case for the removal of the Post Office, or speculator, had any knowledge of my purpose until after the site was selected and the government had acted. The negotiation was conducted by the Postmaster General, his agent and agent. It was conducted with his characteristic prudence, candor and uprightness. But to return. I found that the growth of Boston, southward, past Prat street, was so rapid, that it was necessary not to be regarded as one of regret, but of congratulation to the citizens of Boston. The future prosperity of State street depended on the growth of the interests of navigation, on the great and various industrial interests of New England, had united to increase the business of the great Metropolis to such an extent,—as to demand a larger space for the Post Office. This has been frequently illustrated by the acts of the people—in various ways. Facts are more instructive than assertions. The city authorities have, afford ample evidence of their desire by locating the Public Library on Boylston street, and by voting new avenues from State to Summer streets. The same thing may be said of the Post Office.

At first, I made objections to the distance from State street, thinking that many might object to the removal of the Post Office to a residence. When, however, the facts connected with the "Pratt estate," on Summer street, were stated to me, and I that I had reached a path which government could not be expected to follow, and walk with safety. The people of Boston were publicly invited by government in 1854—during a period of several weeks by twice daily papers of the Postmaster General, to consider a site suitable for a Post office and Court house. Seven, only, were proposed, viz: the Court house, the Massachusetts Block, an estate on Bromfield street, an estate on Court street, the Bromfield House, an estate on Batterymarch street, Mill street and Liberty square, and the Pratt estate. These sites were recommended by the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Interior, U. S. Marshal Freeman and by the Postmaster at Boston.<sup>1</sup>

The judgment was instant and emphatic, and it favored the Pratt estate. As far as I have been able to learn, their decision was generally approved.<sup>2</sup> I found, too, that at a later period the site on the corner of Bromfield and Prat street was recommended by the Postmaster General to the government for consideration, without public notice, and favored by some of our most respectable and influential citizens,<sup>3</sup> as a most desirable site. The same site, however, as I have observed, are now counted among the most active remonstrants against the site on Summer street! The distance from State to Tremont street is about the same as that from State to Summer

street, and it is away from the central line of business. The site was selected, approved, and the papers were sanctioned by the President of the United States and by others of the government, but for reasons not as yet made public the contract was not made, and the project was abandoned.

When I found upon examination of government documents concerning the removal of the Post Office from its present neighborhood, I did not hesitate to take the further step of considering what was demanded for the future good of Boston's convenience, and what would be best calculated to serve the past and to mark the probable future. It may be proper to remark in this connection that I had no personal interest to subscribe in making out a case for the removal of the Post Office, or speculator, had any knowledge of my purpose until after the site was selected and the government had acted. The negotiation was conducted by the Postmaster General, his agent and agent. It was conducted with his characteristic prudence, candor and uprightness. But to return. I found that the growth of Boston, southward, past Prat street, was so rapid, that it was necessary not to be regarded as one of regret, but of congratulation to the citizens of Boston. The future prosperity of State street depended on the growth of the interests of navigation, on the great and various industrial interests of New England, had united to increase the business of the great Metropolis to such an extent,—as to demand a larger space for the Post Office. This has been frequently illustrated by the acts of the people—in various ways. Facts are more instructive than assertions. The city authorities have, afford ample evidence of their desire by locating the Public Library on Boylston street, and by voting new avenues from State to Summer streets. The same thing may be said of the Post Office.

At first, I made objections to the distance from State street, thinking that many might object to the removal of the Post Office to a residence. When, however, the facts connected with the "Pratt estate," on Summer street, were stated to me, and I that I had reached a path which government could not be expected to follow, and walk with safety. The people of Boston were publicly invited by government in 1854—during a period of several weeks by twice daily papers of the Postmaster General, to consider a site suitable for a Post office and Court house. Seven, only, were proposed, viz: the Court house, the Massachusetts Block, an estate on Bromfield street, an estate on Court street, the Bromfield House, an estate on Batterymarch street, Mill street and Liberty square, and the Pratt estate. These sites were recommended by the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Interior, U. S. Marshal Freeman and by the Postmaster at Boston.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Edward Everett, Rufus Choate, R. W. Winthrop, and others of similar standing.

<sup>2</sup>U. S. Marshall's Office, Boston, April 17, 1858.

<sup>3</sup>Report, that the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Interior, and Hon. James Campbell, Postmaster General, visited Boston in 1855, and with the postmaster general, examined the sites recommended by the government for a court house and post office, and were decidedly of opinion that the location in Summer street was the most eligible for the two purposes proposed. There was no division or discussion on this subject, the opinion was unanimous. Respectfully yours, WATSON FREEMAN.

NATHAN CAPEK, Esq., Postmaster, Boston.

selected as the present centre of the retail business of Boston,—and it is an interesting fact that more than half of all the sugar and molasses shipped to Boston is landed south of Summer street. Most of our citizens and business men are now, and will soon, be transferred to the inviting vicinity, which is marked soon to be made a part of our city. It is well known that State street is now, and will long remain, a mere name, companies, brokers, and merchants on "Change"—for the brief period of five or six hours—"of the twenty-four,—and are then removed for more permanent abode. The time when they are beginning to be regarded only as places of storage,—and the time is not far distant when the practice, peculiar to large cities, will be adopted of Boston, of sending their goods to brokers or at the counting rooms of merchants—by samples—and not at their stores. That the growth of Boston cannot be checked, is too well known to admit of question. No man, I will, will agree with me in the self-evident proposition, that, if it grows, it must have room to be larger. The present voters of Boston, as represented in the election of 1856, are in the majority as near or nearer Summer street than State street,—and this majority is fast increasing.

It has been asked why the merchants and the people were not particularly consulted, and why the Postmaster did not advise his personal friends with respect to the subject of a post office. A man reflecting over a question of any candal mind, not swayed by interest, that such a course could not be pursued without inevitable disaster and failure. The more I reflect, the more I am inclined to believe that his convenience: the real estate owner by his interest, the mechanic and laborer by their employers, and the friend by personal considerations, would have spoken in favor of Summer street,—by entering the Hall and Library building upon the Pratt estate, and their hall has been considered as sufficient ground for a post office, and the Board of Trade. The mechanics of Boston—have gone still further south, to Bedford street—for a site upon which their splendid building is to be erected. The Postmaster General of the United States have again acted by purchasing the Masonic Temple for a Court House, and our largest merchants are demonstrating the reality of this present judgment by erecting fine and elegant warehouses on Franklin street. Nearly all the wholesale dry goods merchants, and three-fourths of the extensive boot and shoe dealers are south of State street. Summer street may be

Having all the information which could be gathered from authentic sources bearing upon the subject, having been familiar with the condition, growth, and wants of the city, I saw no course to be pursued but to consult my Official Superiors at Washington. They were then engaged in the office to do so, and were swayed by no prejudice or interest. They had upon the files of the Department the accumulated testimony of years relative to the very subject, and had an ample means within reach to judge quite accurately of the postal wants of Boston as any resident citizen. Indeed, with the exception of the Postmaster General, and with their mode of systematizing, upon a scale of disinterested fairness, their decision would be much more likely to be true to the peo-

ple than if made by a compromise of opposing interests, where power too often prevails against principle. The subject was fully and fairly submitted to the Department, and it was promptly referred to the Postmaster General, who, in his present belief that should government appoint a disinterested commission to select a site for purchase, it would be made even south of Summer street, invited me to call upon him for his own judgment. I respectfully invited the Honorable Postmaster General, or his first assistant, to visit Boston, that he might judge of the property of the site.

Before closing I beg to say a word or two concerning the mission of the post office, a subject but little considered and but little understood. It is the duty of every intelligent thinker, that the ends and aims of the Post Office are higher than to give facility for the transaction of business. It is a great engine of civilization, and it is the right of every man and woman has equal right to its advantage." The business classes, only, derive from it cheap facilities a pecuniary profit.

With regard to the site in the neighborhood of the Post Office is to the world,—it is the moving atmosphere of social life and thought. It is a Democratic institution, that advanced elevates and improves the moral and material welfare everywhere. It is the servant of agriculture, commerce and manufactures; it is the servant of science, moral, religious education, benevolence, charity, love and kindred virtues. It is the great servant of humanity—entering alike the boulds of the poor, the cells of the prisoner, the secluded denizen of the pauper, the pangs of the merchant, the mechanic and laborer of his interest, the wife of the master of the family, the friends and creatures of woman, the counting rooms of the merchant, the palace of the king. No class can claim to own it, nor the families of the living, as equal right to share it, without concerning its government. Half of the whole population are women, and should for a Post Office, either in the city or country, be favored with a due respect in regard to their comfort and convenience. A very large proportion of the women who have a desire to visit the Boston Post Office, are worthily entitled to the same consideration as belong to the best families of Boston, and if there are exceptions to be made, it must be considered that those exceptions would be more than balanced by the number of other classes who would claim position on account of wealth, but who cannot sustain their claims on account of character.

If it is so much the number of letters to be delivered, as the number of persons who are to receive them, to be considered. The number of persons who have occasion to seek postal assistance, the Post Office is the right place. These are to be consulted, considered and accommodated.

I remain, with acknowledgments of respect and regard, your servant and friend,

NAHAN CAPEK.

HON. CALER STETSON, Boston, Mass.  
Press of Boston Post.

Caleb Stetson.  
Boston,  
Mass.,  
April 19. 1858,

Postal Proprietary  
A Removal of Boston  
Post Office

Phila April 19-1857  
Judge Douglas seen by

The Lecompton  
men here want to come back  
to the Democratic ranks  
and at a Public place  
I was asked what I thought  
about it - I told them I could  
not speak for the party but for  
myself I was willing they should  
come back provided they  
stand by the principles and  
Platform of the Democratic party  
and if the President desires to  
come back let him come he can't  
do much damage now any how  
My motto is as Sam Waller used  
to say - while the lamp holds  
out to burn on || The above  
view appeared to give  
satisfaction

Respectfully yours  
Bailey Thomas

Bailey Thomas.  
Philadelphia  
April 19. 1858,

Political  
✓



Jas. B. Webster, Jr.

Walton

La Salle Co. Ills.  
April 19/58.

Want speech  
for distribution

Walton. Ills. April 19. 1858

Rev. J. A. Douglas

Df<sup>n</sup>  
Hill

You pleas lend me a  
few of copies of your  
Speeches. as I can distribut  
them to good advantag

Sincerely yours  
James. B. Webster Jr

W. H. Smith  
London  
England  
1860

Dear Sirs

We have just received your  
Circular and it is very  
interesting and useful.

Yours very truly

Hon S A Douglas

Sir Sir

Please a citizen  
of the State of Ohio for intruding on your  
attention your fame is not exclusively  
the property of the State Illinois, but of the  
whole Country— your devotion to the  
Landes & Nebraska bill has buried the Black  
Republicans of this vicinity, (who ~~began~~ <sup>had</sup> hung  
~~burned~~ <sup>gov.</sup> in effigz. a few months since) ~~for~~  
That party is extinct — All claim you  
as their especial leader —

your destiny is sealed. If life is spared  
the American people will confer on you  
the office once occupied by Washington  
& Jefferson — We ~~are~~ have been buried  
by Black Republicans, but ~~and~~ the odds  
are now the other way — There are ~~now~~  
twent Democrats here, who want you to  
send us some documents, for we get none —

(Very Respectfully  
= I D W Wright)

Mornin. Sir Co. O; April 19<sup>th</sup> 1858

J. W. Wright  
Florence, Cuyahoga,  
Ohio.  
April 19, 1858.

Wants Speakers,

