5139

Washburn Ills. Apr. 21 58

Friend Douglass,

I recd from you kind the speech of Hon. J. J. Crittenden, (the last mail) for which you have my thanks. Please send yours of Dec. last (I believe) and Mar. at least all that you are in possession of on the Kansas question, and all others will be thankfully recd

Yours &c

Pache.

Washburn

Woodford Co.

Illinois

Hon S A Douglas

U. S.

P Ashby
Mentibum
Ills
April 21/58.

Wants Speeches

5140

Kalamazoo Mich. April 21st 1858

Sir

A former townsman in Middlebury Vt. – a life-time democrat – one who prides himself on being "the original Douglass man" of Michigan – a constant admirer and supporter, and one who expects soon lose his official head as an "Anti-Lecompton, Douglass office holder" – begs leave to take this opportunity (when no concealed designs may be surmised) to assure you that the "rank & file" of Michigan are with you now & hereafter.

Having read your great speech in the "Press", I wish to procure a copy in pamphlet form for convenience in binding, as I have a passion for keeping all such matters duly filed for ready reference.

Begging pardon for the liberty taken, I remain Sir, with high respect

Your Obedient Servant

J. Adams Allen.

Hon. S. A. Douglass
U. S. Senate

J. Adams Allen
Kalamazoo,
Mich.
April 21. 1858.

Political

5141

Wataega Knox Co Illinois

Hon S. A Douglas

Sir will you please to send me Agricultural Patent Office Reports for 1855 & 1856 and much oblige your humble serv't You will observe that nine tenths of the once Buchanan men in this section are now Douglasites.

Yours truly

Ransom Babcock

Wataga Knox Co

Illinois

Hon Stephen A Douglas

M. C.

Sent April 21/58.

Ransom Babcock
Wataga
Ills.
April. 1858.

Wants Pat. Off. Rec.

Sent April 21/58

5142

Versailles Indiana
April 21 1848

Hon Stephen A Douglas
Dear Sir

Will you oblige me with a few copies of your Speech against Lecompton delivered March 22./48

Yours truly
John G Berkshire

Jno G Berkshire
Versailles, Ind.a
April 21/58

Wants Speech.

5143

Baltimore April 21st 1858

Honorable Sir

I beg leave to return you my sincere thanks for the five copies of your report and one copy of your first speech against the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution. You will confer another favour on me, for which I shall be very thankful, if you will send to my address, six copies of your last speech upon the same subject

Respectfully
Your
Obe'nt
Serv't
Joseph C Booth

Address
No 83 Penn Avenue
Balto
Md

Joseph C Booth,
No 83. Penn: Av:
Baltimore
Md.
April 21./58

Wants Speeches

5144

Wm. W. Bragg Jr.
Boston
Mass.
April 21/58.

Autograph
Sente

Boston April 21/58

Hon. Senator Douglas
You will confer a favor upon me if you will please forward me your autograph

Yours Respectfully
Wm. W. Bragg Jr.

5145

Cincinnati April 21, 1858.

Dear Sir —

You would much oblige me by sending me your speech on the Lecompton Constitution made on the night previous to the vote taken in the Senate on the final passage of the Bill in that body.

I have a collection of some 22 Senate and 42 House speeches, and find my collection entirely imperfect without your great speech on the occasion alluded to. When I left Washington it was not yet out in pamphlet form, or I should not now trouble you to furnish me a copy.

Believing your position right on the doctrine of popular sovereignty, and hoping these principles may, with their present able expounder, soon take their proper position in our national affairs, I subscribe myself

Yours Truly

Chas. S. Bryant

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

N. B. I had the pleasure of a short interview with yourself and lady at your own house in company with Mr. A. Lane and Mrs. Morris & English, in Montrose, and was much pleased with the reception and interview. I state this circumstance, as one additional reason why I wish to procure your speech, which I consider the speech of secession on the Lecompton Constitution.

E. S. B.

Chas S Bryant
Cincinnati
Ohio.
April 21/58.

Political

W.

5146

New York, April 21st 1858.

Dear Sir,

We take pleasure in introducing to you Mr James Eddy, an associate Director with us, and the General Superintendent of the American Telegraph Company.

He carries with him our answer to the memorial of the Hon. Amos Kendall and others, relative to requiring all telegraph lines approaching the borders of the United States, to connect, on terms of equality, with all lines in the United States.

We have in lively remembrance the effective efforts made by you in behalf of the Atlantic Telegraph; and if you can aid us in this matter, we shall feel under great additional obligations.

We are dear Sir,

Yours most truly,

Peter Cooper

William Orton

Hon Stephen A. Douglas
Washington City.

Peter Cooper
New York

Apr 21

5147

Portsmouth Virginia
April 21st 1858

Sir

Though a stranger, yet if you do not think it too much trouble, I shall be much much obliged to you, to send me your speech on Kansas, and any document that you may think calculated to inform the mind.

Your's with great Respect.

Wm. Emmerson

Hon

Wm Emerson
Portsmouth
Va.
April 21/58.

Wants Speeches

5148

Cordova

Rock Island Co

Illinois April 1st 58

Hon Stephen A Douglas

I take the liberty of enquiring if the Report of the Pacific Rail Road are for general distribution if so I am in want of a copy and shall be under obligations if you would furnish me one as also any other document of interest

Yours Very Respectfully

Geo M Jones

Geo. M French
Cordova
Rock Island Co
Ills.
April 21. 1858.

Wants Pass
R R Rep. &c

5149

Henry S. Garrett,
Baltimore
Md
April 21/58

Wants name & address of Illinois State treasurer &c

Ans'd 6th May 1858

Balto. April 21. 1858

Dear Sir

Can you oblige by giving the name & address of your state treasurer and Commissioner or trustee of State Sinking Fund.

Very Truly
Your friend

Henry S. Garrett

Hon S. A. Douglass
U. S. Senate
Washington

5150

Apr. 21. 1858

Mrs Stephen A. Douglas
will you please send me the
patent offie report this
is from your friend in
Democracy

J. F. Goff
Ills
Henderson Knox Co. Ills

Sent April 24/58.

J. S. F. Goff,
Henderson. Ills
April 21/58.

Wants B. Off
Reporter.

Sent.

5151

Wm H Hollister
Geneva
N.Y.
April 21. 1858

Autograph.
&
Speech.

Sent

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
U. S. Senator.

Respected Sir

If perfectly convenient for you to send me your Autographs you will greatly oblige me by so doing.

And also if it is convenient to send me your late Speech you will greatly oblige me by so doing

I have the honor to remain
With Great Respect
Your Ob.t Serv.t
William H Hollister

Geneva N.Y.
Apr. 21st 1858

Confidential

Glen Ocean
St Louis Co Mo. 2nd 58

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir

Several weeks since I wrote you in reference to what I considered a most fraudulent transaction on the part of the Secretary of war in letting out contracts for mules for the contemplated Utah expedition, Since writing that letter I saw a report made by the Secy and Qr Master Genl purporting to give out the contracts that had been made. that report does not show the whole truth, on the contrary it completely omits to show the particulars of contracts made with Col. D. D. Mitchell. Mr Trigg, and a Mr Kirk of this state. the contracts, with the persons above named were in that report suppressed, and for a very obvious reason, for it is well known that the contracts made with them were most infamous and the Gov. in consequence did be swindled out of many thousand dollars. I am particularly anxious that this whole mess matter should be exposed. and I am determined it shall be if in my power to expose it. as soon as my health will permit I intend to visit Washington and look into the matter in person if I cannot get some one to expose the fraud for me, I have been extremely ill, confined to my room for the past six weeks which is the reason I have not acted more promptly in the premises

I should like to know whether my letters

reach you. It would afford me great satisfaction to have your advice as to what course I ought to pursue under the circumstances, if you do not feel disposed to take any part in expediting the sick of war have the kindness to let me know in order that I may not trouble you with any further letters on the subject.

With considerations of high regard &c
I have the honor to remain
with great respect &c
Thos B Hudson

Thos B Hudson
(Glenburn St Louis Co)
St Louis
Mo.
April 21. 1878.

Concerning certain
Contracts of War
dept for Mules
which he thinks
corrupt &c

For information
of Gen Sherman
Respectfully
T. J. Dickson

5153-1

J. M. Kelley.
Quasqueton
Iowa
April 21/58.

Wants Speeches.

Quasqueton Iowa Apr 21st 1858

Hon S. A. Douglas.
Respected Sir.

Will you do me the favor to send from time to time. Some of the speeches de=livered in the Senate, together with reports of the proceedings therein, had

This is a great favor to ask I am aware, but trusting that you will pardon this instance of interruption from the fact that I have ever been one of your warmest supporters, and for the last five years one of your constituents. I am with much respect

Your obt Servt
J M Kelley

Hon S A Douglas
U S Senate.

J. M. KELLEY,

Attorney and Counselor at Law,

NOTARY PUBLIC

AND GENERAL LAND AGENT,

QUASQUETON, BUCHANAN COUNTY, IOWA.

Will attend to the Payment of Taxes. Collections made and promptly remitted.

The best Eastern and Western references given if required.

5153-2

5154

Philada April 21/58

Hon. Stephen A Douglas M. C.
Washington City
Dr Sir
In
answer to my request of
the 17th am favored
with copies of Speeches of the
following Honorable gentlemen;
viz, Mesrs Douglas, Crittenden
Stuart also "Minority
Report of the Committee on
Territories" for which
favors you will please
accept my warmest thanks
I Remain
Yours Respect.
Thos W Larsen
Box 82
Philadelphia
Penna

Thos W Larsen,
Phila Pa
April 21, 1858,

Thanks for speeches

5155

Brockport N.Y. April 21 1858

Dear Sir

As I wish to procure, a copy of the Agricultural Report of Patents for 1856 & I have taken the liberty to address you. By sending a copy of the above to me you will confer a favor on

Your Obdt Servant
Thos. L. Olden

Hon S.A. Douglas

Brockport
Monroe Co
N.Y.

Thos L Olden
Rochester
Monroe Co. Ny.
April 21. 1858.

Wants Pat Off
Refts

Henderson Democrat.

JAMES W. LYND, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS, $2 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

HENDERSON, SIBLEY COUNTY, M. T.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1858.

Letter from Hon. J. R. Brown.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 31, 1858.

MR. EDITOR:—Although I have been in this city some time, I have delayed writing in expectation that some thing would turn up important to Minnesota that I might write about, but I have thus far waited in vain.

Nothing has yet been done of a business character between the government and our Indians, and I doubt whether anything will be effected. Our Minnesota Sioux, however, bear themselves nobly, and are about the best behaved portion of the visiting population in this city. They are in the enjoyment of good health, and much pleased with the curiosities they encounter about the city.

Kansas has passed the Senate, and for several days that body has been grinding at Minnesota, but they can not or will not put her ahead. To-day, they have decided to give her two representatives in the House, but did not pass the bill through. Minnesota is indebted to Mr. Douglas for her present position. Had he reported her ahead of Kansas, we would have gone through, and had our proper position and voice in the two houses. As it is, Minnesota will not be admitted until after the Kansas question is settled in the House, and that may not be for several weeks to come.

In the progress of the senatorial proceedings, it is amusing to observe with what unanimity the opponents of the Lecompton constitution in Kansas oppose the interests of Minnesota, and hold her back from a participation in the legislation of the Union. The friends of the administration have steadfastly advocated the admission of Minnesota without delay, with three representatives in the House, while the anties propose to admit her at some future time, with but one representative. Why is this? If there is any truth in the position of the republican party, why do they wish to cripple the representation from the free states of the great north-west? Why should Harlan, of Iowa, and the abolition senators from Wisconsin, wish to curtail the representation of an adjacent state, the interests of which are identical in all respects with their own? The reason is, there is no truth in the position of the republican party. They are governed solely by a desire to distract the operations and disturb the harmony of the government, and care not by what means they effect their object.

Among railroad men, the Minnesota loan bill appears to attract much attention, and the action of the people at the approaching election is looked for with much solicitude. Not so much to learn whether they will sanction the loan of the state credit, as to ascertain how the people stand in relation to railroads, or any system to insure their speedy construction. The safeguards that have been thrown around the bill which passed the legislature has, in the opinion of moneyed men in the east, completely taken away all cause for objection to its provisions, and the failure of the bill will be regarded as a declaration by the people of Minnesota that they are opposed to any and all provisions of legislation calculated to promote the speedy construction of railroads, as a means for the development of our resources. If the people, by a fair majority, shall indorse the action of the legislature, that alone will give the several companies a position that will insure their obtaining capital for the prosecution of their works, independent of the credit of the state; but if the bill is defeated, or merely sustained by a small majority, the conclusion will be that the people are not strongly in favor of railroad improvement, and that impression made, capitalists will think twice ere they permit their money to go into a state the people of which are opposed to railroad improvement.

I do not wish to be understood as believing that the failure of the bill before the people will in fact indicate an objection to a judicious railroad system. I only say that it will be so looked upon by eastern capitalists.

But I have no fear for the result of the question before the people. The bill is so guarded as to preclude all danger to the people under its operations. But supposing there was danger of increased taxation, through the workings of the loan, would not the increased value of property, the increased value of produce, the increased business, and the settlement and improvement of the interior portions of the state, more than trebly compensate for any and all additional taxation which might result to the people.

I can therefore see no reasonable objection that can be urged against the proposed loan of the credit of the state.

Yours, &c., J. R. B.

VIRGINIA INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.—The Virginia legislature have appropriated $2,250,000 for railroads during the present session, as follows: The Alexandria and Orange extension has $400,000; the Manassas Gap $250,000; the Norfolk and Petersburg $300,000; Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire $300,000; the York river $200,000, and the Covington and Ohio bill $800,000.

The N. Y. Times says that Col. Burnham's regiment of volunteers, recently organized in that city, has been accepted by the President, and the other regiment authorized by the new bill will be taken from Pennsylvania.

ERSON DE

to the Interests of our young State.

MINNESOTA TERR

cook to provide supper, which he hop
would excuse.

When supper was over, and the glas
gone briskly about, Mr. Quin told
was "now time to enter upon busine
Thomson declared he was ready to
him as far as his capacity would rea
anything he could command, (thinkin
was come about some affair relating t
drama.) "Sir," says Quin, "you n
me; I am in your debt. I owe
hundred pounds, and I am come t
you."

Thomson, with a disconsolate air, r
that, as he was a gentleman whom I
never offended, wondered he should se
opportunity to trifle with his misfortu
"No," said Quin, raising his voice, "
I owe you a hundred pounds, and th
is;" and, suiting the action to the wor
mediately laid a bank note of that val
fore him.

Thomson, astonished, begged he
explain himself. "Why," said Quin
will tell you. Soon after I had read
Seasons, I took it into my head, that,
had something to leave behind me wh
died, I would make my will. Amon
rest of my legatees, I set down the a
of the Seasons for a hundred pounds;
this day hearing that you were in
house, I thought I might as well have
pleasure of paying the money myself,
order my executors to pay it, when pe
you might have less need of it; and
Mr. Thomson, is my business."

How a Prize Fighter was Conve
—The celebrated Orville Gardner, fa
ly known as "Awful Gardner," prize
er and trainer of pugilists, has been r
ly brought under the influence of the
ral revival. He is now at a small to
the vicinity of New York, where his
er was recently converted, and whe
himself has been led seriously to co
the subject of religion. He attended
quiry meeting held in a Methodist ch
and to the surprise and pleasure of th
ter class of his friends, requested the
ers of the congregation—a request wh
three different occasions he repeated.
ing some unimportant business to do
city, a friend asked him if he wou
down and attend to it. He replied t
had more important business to att
first, and should not go to the city u
was done. He has at present und
training three men for a prize fight
being asked if he would give them
lessons, he replied that he would
them soon; but on a different errand
that of boxing and training, and th
would try to persuade them to gi
their fighting, to reform their characte
to embrace religion. We learn that h
nesness and seriousness are un loubte
that he has become hopefully converte

Ship Canal.

Captain Paulding, who was sent o
our government to examine into the
bility of a canal across the Isthmus of
en, has recently made a report (to the
Department) which appears to be h
favorable to the enterprise. The only
ous difficulty in the way of its accom
ment is the climate, as it affects labor.
far as the Isthmus itself is concerned,
rious obstacle to engineering skill seem
present itself. The whole extent from
Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean is made
swamps, hills, and plains, and the hi
point of land where the railroad pass
no more than two hundred and eigh
feet above the level of the sea. O
whole route, most, if not all, the hills t
which the canal would pass, would b
quired for embankments over the
and swamps. The length from sho
shore is 43 3-4 miles. The prism of
is to be 150 feet wide at the surface
31 feet deep; the locks to be 400 f
clear length of chamber, and 90 feet in
width. The summit level will be 15
above mean tide at the Atlantic and P
Oceans. The summit cut will be abo
miles long. The deepest cutting on
level will be 136 feet, and the average
of the cut will be 49 feet. The river
gres yields an ample supply of water f
canal at all seasons of the year. The
mit level will be supplied with a f
about 24 miles long, which will tap th
er Chagres about 21 miles above the
of Cruces, where the level of the ri
about 185 feet above the mean tide, a
feet above the summit level. The co
this canal, including the requisite h
improvements at each end, will not ex
$80,000,000. The bays on each si
the Isthmus will afford ample room fo
commerce of America and Europe.

THE

HENDERSO

e well
Anna
France
ngdom,
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Louis
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Mexico
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Yan-

Poetry.

POOR PETER GRAY.

Here is a song as is a song, as Capt. would say. The tender sex are advised warning from the sad fate of the fair, un ate Lizzianny .—

My song is of a nice young man,
Whose name was Peter Gray ;
The state where Peter was born
Was Pennsylvania.

This Peter Gray did fall in love
All with a nice young girl ;
The name of her, I'm positive,
Was Lizzianny Querl.

When they were going to be wed,
Her father he said "No!"
And brutally did send her off
Beyond the Ohio.

When Peter found his love was lo t,
He knew not what to say ;
He'd half a mind to jump into
The Susquehanni-a.

A trading he went to the west,
For furs and other skins,
And there he was in crimson dressed
By the bloody In-ji-ins.

When Lizzianny heard the news,
She straightway went to bed,
And never did get out of it
Until she di-i-ed.

Ye fathers all a warning take—
Each one as has a girl—
And think upon poor Peter Gray
And Lizzianny Querl.

Our Progress.

5156-3

Mr. Brown's Letter.

We publish, in another column, a letter from the Hon. Jos. R. Brown, who is still at Washington, with the Sioux deputations, waiting on the interminable Kansas question. The views of Mr. Brown upon the delay in the admission of Minnesota, time will prove to be correct. Douglas has shown himself, throughout the whole of this bitter opposition, an arrant trickster and political demagogue. With the Kansas bill in one hand and the Minnesota bill in the other, he has ranted and spouted throughout the session, professing an honest opposition to the former, and showing a hypocritical friendship for the latter. And what was it all for? Why, merely that the Senator from Illinois, by making the biggest noise, might appear the biggest gun. The great men of this century have died out; and now the field is clear for the little ones to *squeal*.

Mr. Brown, in his letter, alluding to the opposition of the republicans to the admission of Minnesota, says, "There is no truth in the position of the republican party. They are governed solely by a desire to distract the operations and disturb the harmony of government, and care not by what means they effect their object." Here we differ with Mr. Brown. At least, we give that party credit for an honest opposition and pure motives. The republicans, as a party, are not opposed to the admission of Minnesota, though placed seemingly in opposition to it by the Kansas question, which bears precedence in Congress. With them we can sympathize; for they act upon principle, and are merely fighting for honest opinions. But we think no one can blame us for being at war with the hypocritical pretensions of a demagogue, whose sole object is the advancement of his own interests and popularity.

Minnesota might have been admitted when application was first made; but it was opposed at the most opportune moment by those very persons who, now that it is impossible to admit her until the Kansas difficulties are settled, make the most noise about the injustice done her. This is friendship, with a vengeance.

Alex. Ramsey,
St Paul, Minn.
April 21/58

Political

5156-1

(Private)

5156-1

St Paul Apl 21, 1858

My dear Judge

Inclosed you will find a copy of the Henderson Democrat published at the town of Henderson on the Minnesota river - the chief proprietor of which is Joe Brown - the Sioux Agent - it is the seat of a Land office.

Brown is by all here considered an unscrupulous politician & with Sam. Medary, managed to cant me out of the office of Gov. of Minnesota to which place I was elected by 1200 majority.

I have marked a letter which Brown addresses to his paper from Washington: he is at the latter place

prefs a new treaty for the extinguishment of the title of these Indians to a small portion of the Reserve secured them in the Treaties of 1851 — A number of traders, having claims against these Indians, are with Brown urging the treaty, Brown himself it is said has a large claim.

To show how these fellows are all trading about the administration & abusing you I enclose you this.

Your friend

Thos. Ramsay

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

5157-1

Haddonfield, N.J. April 21/58.

Sir. I received those very kind cheeses, that you sent me, a gift for which I tender my most hearty thanks. Your speech has placed you among the foremost statesmen in the land. The universal praise responded throughout the land. My humble opinion is that you would gain the popular sentiment by visiting the North & West, after the adjournment of Congress. And to see more than yourself, would my hospitable mansion be thrown open to receive you.

We consider here in "poor despised Jersey", that you have safely vindicated her, among her sister States, and placing your name & fame as a candidate for the Platform of vindicating Popular Sovereignty, as Chief Magistrate

of this Union. No state will come up to a greater standard Bearer for your election. Many, many your Senators have killed themselves by their unwise policy for ever — Expecting to visit Washington before the adjournment of Congress, I shall be happy to make your acquaintance. In the meantime accept my most sincere wishes for your prosperity and welfare. I remain Your

Most Respectfully,

Yours &c. Redfield

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas,
Washington City,
D.C.

5157-2

Jos J Redman
Waddonfield
N.J.
April 21/58

Political

Private

Warrenton Va April 21st 58

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas

My Dear Sir

May I request you to be so kind as to send me if you have it to spare a copy of Col Benton's Report — My own Representative Gen Smith has heretofore ~~left~~ sent me Various Public Docs but omit his late ridiculous speech in the House which he requests me to publish in the "Whig" (and which was so signally answered by Mr Marshall of Ky) — and which I refused to do — I of course do not expect any more from him — The Position occupied by yourself and Gen Wise will eventually be sustained in Virginia despite all that Mason Hunter or the State Legislature may say to the contrary and as I make the prediction marke it Henry Wise tomorrow before the people of this State would scatter his opponents like chaff before the wind — Let the time for action come and you will find in this State legions of patriotic men who will flock to your position and that of Gen. Wise — I am sorry to see that The Pacific Rail Road has been defeated as the Presidential

forward that proposition in this Message || Why do not his good friendings and Saints Mason Benson "et id Omne Genus" I have read the reply of Col Marshall of yr State to Gov Smith – he really is crushing. If Col M Could distribute 500 copies of that Speech – this Mis Destiny I would make the Gov feel uncomfortable and if he will do it I will send me the PO and Names of men that name in (this) Fauquier Co. I hope the Congressional House Committee will not recede.

Pardon one My dear Sir for thus writing you these lines and rest assured that I sympathize entirely with you in your position. It was my good fortune to hear you on the 23d Ult – It was in My judgment a most triumphant address

Yours very Truly

J. Emmett Scruggs

Hon L. A. Dougherty
Washington D.C.

J. Emmett Scruggs
Warrenton Va
April 24/58.

Dear Sir,
Inclose you a copy of Hon J. S. Marshall's Speech delivered in this place last Sat. Would Congratulate Republicans

5159

A T Stewart & Co
Broadway N.Y.
April 21/58.

Send deep pattern

Broadway Chambers & Reade St
New York
April 21/58

Agreeably to Mrs Douglas' esteemed request of yesterday A T Stewart & Co have the pleasure to forward two Grenadine Robes for inspection —
Viz: 1 Blk Grea Robe 2 Flounces $35.00
1 Blo " Double Skirt - $30.00

A T S & Co would remark that as their stock of Choice Grenadines is limited the Robes sent are all that can spared ~~from Stock~~

Washington D.C.

Peter Sweat
Peoria. Ills
April 21. 1858.

Relative to
G W Raney if
sent to Senate
as Postmaster at
Peoria.

Private

Peoria Apl. 21 1858

5160

Hon S A Douglas

My Dear Sir

A G W Raneys
name is sent in to the
Senate for P.M. at this
place you better ~~get~~
git the papers that is
on file in the P.O. Depart-
-ment they show him
up in his true character
If the Senate will
confirm him then let
them do it I am well
sustained by administra-
-tion men which letters
and petitions are on file
We must fight them but
keep it to ourselves

Yours most
obt &c

P Sweat

Port Byron Rock Island county Ills.

Hon. S. A. Douglas }
Sir }

April 21st 1858

The Sec. of War has advertised to sell on the 31st day of May next some 700 acres of land on Rock Island belonging to the War department. If sold will in all probability be at low figures and enrich individuals and be of no great benefit to the department. "The greatest good to the greatest number" is the true motto. We have been struggling for four years to build a Railroad that would embrace in her iron bands the Upper and lower Rapids in the Mississippi. From Port Byron to Warsaw 117 miles we lack some $2 to 300.000 means of completing the work. A grant of the above tract would at once give us means to finish our Road. We believe it is right and just that those lands should be so donated and would do more to improve the Rapids than all the appropriations ever made for that object. We are perfectly willing that Congress should as they would undoubtedly do, guard the grant in any way whatever so as not to destroy the grant, they may deem proper. A grant thus made would meet with entire approbation of the people on the Upper Mississippi. In 1857 there passed between these points 1.000 Boats and I am told 100 passengers to a boat would make from March to December (8 Months) 100.000 passengers. Who would nearly all take the Road in preference to the River with Rapids + Bridge to en-

- counties. Like grants have been made and those lands have remained on that Island to improve the Rapids adjacent. This is their mission to perform. Our Road keeps the bank of the River from Warsaw to Keithsburg 68 miles in Mercer county where it strikes a North East course to Rock Island a distance of 34 miles, while from Keithsburg to Rock Island via the River is 63 miles. From Rock Island to Port Byron along the River 17 miles. 7½ miles of this is in operation by the Rock Island & Chicago Railroad. It is nearly finished ready for the iron & 25000 will put it ready for the iron and this grant would iron it and take our people safely around the Upper Rapids & Bridge or it would enable to finish our whole Road from Warsaw to Port Byron ready for iron and we have several propositions from companies to put iron & Rolling Stock on our Road as soon as the Road bed is finished.

Rock Island through her Mayor Mr Buford applied for these lands for their city for schools &c. Mr Buford is home feels grateful to Senator Douglas and others for their kindness but is satisfied Rock Island cannot obtain it. We ask it for a different object, no better, but for the improvement of a great National thoroughfare. The great barriers between St Anthony and New Orleans are these Rapids. I have written Messrs Washburn & Kellogg would refer you to them. I gave Mr Kellogg a list of the direction of our Road. You will find them good men. If the President of the Road would be of any advantage to go to Washington let me know of it. Or any information you may desire will be cheerfully given.

We do hope you will give this your early attention & save those lands for the aforementioned purposes. It is of best importance to the people who do business on this great River. Those lands are in Illinois and the country is entitled to them under every consideration. Will be glad to hear from you. At Millersburg Mercer County Ills.

Aside from the above no man stands out so prominent before us as S. A. Douglas. I am on our Road a great deal and hear much of the sayings of the people. Your position is a proud one, to be right and know it. Have you proved recreant to the trust you now could have sustained yourself. I am an old line Whig but for S. A. Douglas for President in 1860. These are my honest sentiments. Any thing I can do to that end honorably is at your service.

Very respectfully yours
A. M. Thompson

H. W. Thornton
Port Byron, Ills.
April 21/58.

Wants the
Fort Crawford
Reservation
donated for
Rail Road
between the
Rapids of the
Mississippi

5162

Freeport April 21/58

Hon: S. A. Douglas

My Dear friend

I have just heared from my lawyer at washington. m Gilbert he says that my claim for an invalid pension has ben suspended by the commishoner of pensions I now wish to put it through congres hoping to get justice done your honor will remember that when I cauled on you at your residence in washington you was very mutch crowded with company and business I did not feel disposed to hinder you at the time I would state to you that I recieved my injury in 1814 while in the service of my country and have suffered ever since that time I am now 63 years old if I could get some thing from the government

to assist me in my crippled
old age it would come
very acceptable all the
assistance you can give
in the case will be
thankfully recieved by me

I Remain respectfully
yours

James Van Pelt

P S there is but four
Lecompton men in the
City of Freeport Mr Bragg
is one he has just returned
from Washington and says
he has the Post office
he is a fine spesimen of
Democracy We can spare
him yours J. V. P

Jas Van Pelt
Freeport, Ills.
April 21. 1858.

Wants pension

5163

Raymond Me.
Cumberland Co.) April. 21. 1858.

Mr. Douglas:-

Dear Sir- Will you please send me one copy of the speech delivered by you in U. S. Senate Dec. 9. 1857 in reference to the Lecompton Constitution. Also one copy of your speech upon the same subject delivered at or near the close of the debate before the vote was taken for the admission of Kansas under that Constitution.

Respectfully yours
Obt. Servt.
Isa Witham.

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

Ira Witham
Raymond
Me.
April 21/58.

Wants Speeches