



Attorney General's Office

May 26. 1858.

(Copy)

Sir:

I have just heard that the appropriation of forty thousand dollars for expenses of defending public property in California against the fraudulent claims set up to it was stricken out of the bill to-day by a vote of the House. I have no right to complain of this, for my interest in the matter is no greater than that of any other citizen. But the communications I have heretofore made to the proper Committees and to the Speaker of the House will show, if they are examined, that the Government is very deeply concerned. The title of the United States to all their valuable buildings in San Francisco & Sacramento

including the fortifications which constitute the only defence of the former, is disputed. One person has demanded public property the value of which is estimated at, from ten to twelve millions of dollars and private property worth probably three times as much more. There are many other claims not much smaller & equally entitled to vigorous opposition. I devoutly believe them to be based upon forged papers and supported by the basest perjury. But then fabricated titles have been skillfully made & the false oaths are perilously bold; so much so, that some of the worst cases have found favor in the local courts. To expose & defeat them now will require labor, energy & talents which cannot be got without paying for them. The sum estimated is the very lowest we can get on

with and not half as large as was thought necessary by others who were well informed.

I hope it will be distinctly understood that I have no desire to control this expenditure. I would prefer to have placed in other hands. Thus far I have taken no steps in the business without the direction of the President and conference with other Members of the Government. But certainly it should be made the duty of some one to see that these stupendous funds are wasted unless the Supreme Legislative Power of the Nation shall think it wise and just to give up public and private property to be plundered by a set of unprincipled adventurers. In the latter event I most respectfully ask that this note and my other communica-

tions on the same subject be placed on the records of your Committee, so as to show that I have made a faithful effort to perform the duty with which I am charged by existing laws and by the order of the President.

I do not think the House will insist on its amendment striking out this appropriation unless the Senate should be disposed to concur. Hence I address you in the hope that you will take such measures, with reference to it as in your judgment may be proper.

I have been informed and I do verily believe that the California claimants referred to have their agents, accomplices, and spies in this City and about the lobbies of Congress. I mention this not as accounting for the action of the House but to warn you of the deceptive arts which such persons know

them on the same subject before the
records of your Committee to see to whom they
I have made a faithful effort to perform
the duty with which I am charged by expecting
that and by the order of the President.
I do not think the House will resist in its
management thinking out this important subject
the Senate should be disposed to consider
I address you in the hope that you will talk
about this matter with reference to it as an
important duty to be performed.
I have been informed and I do
very believe that the Committee on Education
refer to the subject of education and
that in this bill and in the various
provisions of the bill that are being
for the action of the House but to some part of
the description and which are being

so well how to practise.

I am

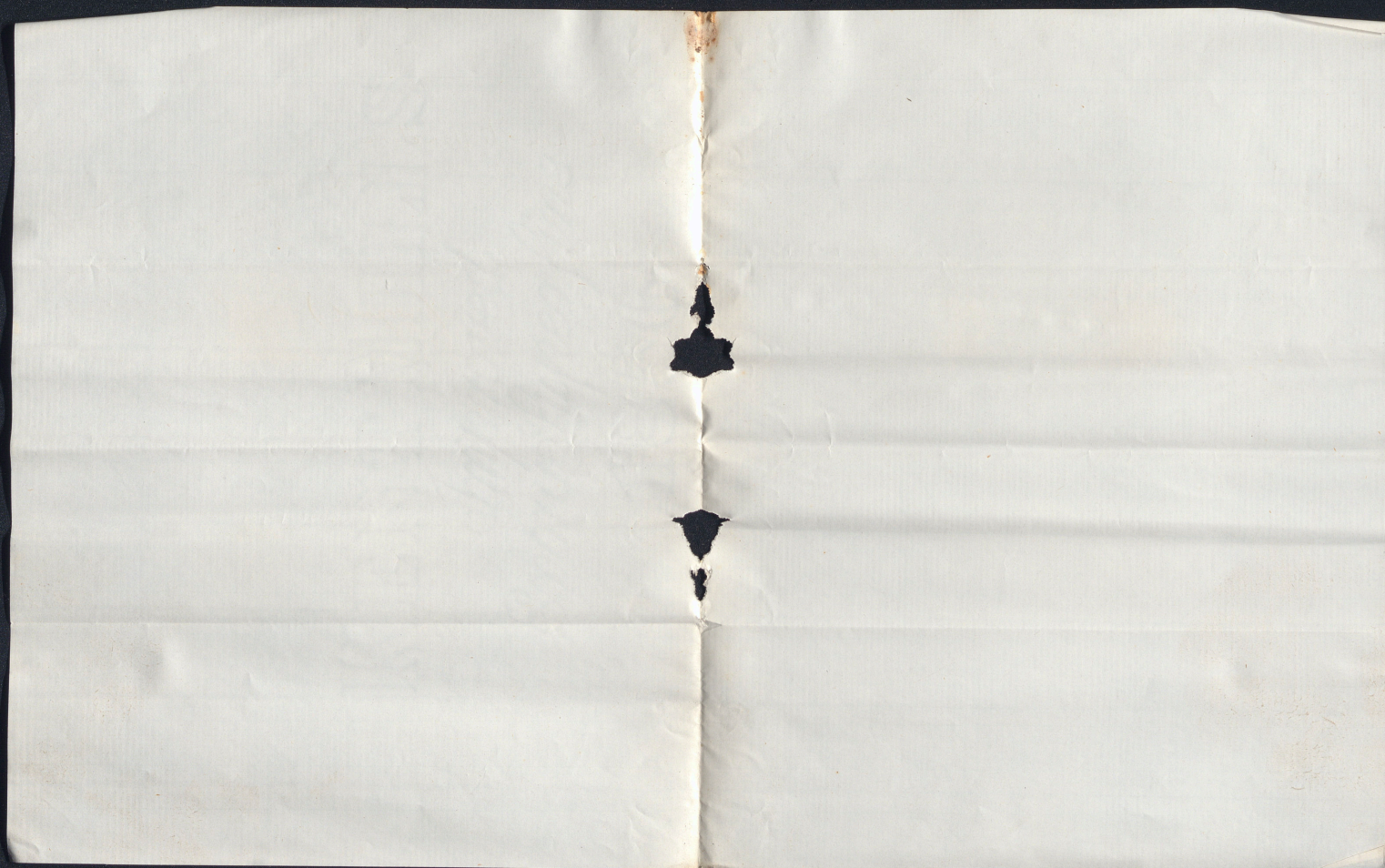
With great respect

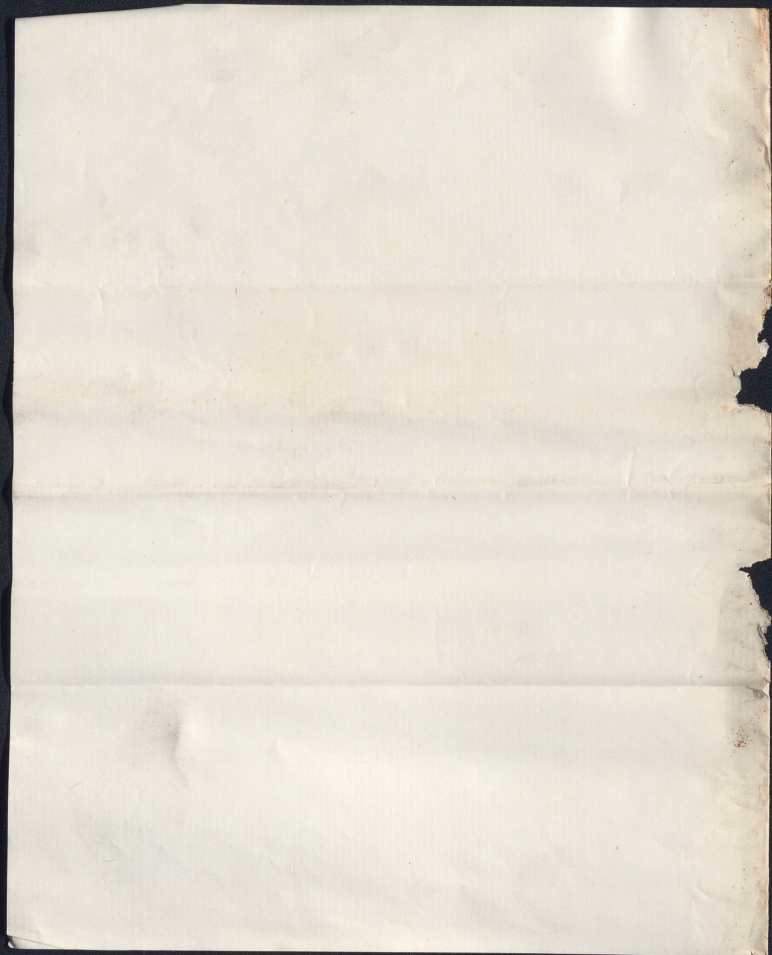
Wm R. M. T. Hunter

Yours &c

(signed)

J. S. Black-





Thos C Campbell
West Haverford,
Pa



5162
West Haverford, May 26
/58

Hon. S. A. Douglass.
Sir.

As I am making
a collection of the autographs
of distinguished men, I must
ask you to do me the favour
to send me yours. A book
of autographs at the pres-
ent day would be very
incomplete without yours.

I remain

Your humble servant.

Thomas C. Campbell
D. S. Adress, to Thomas C. Camp-
bell, care of Dr Lyons, West
Haverford, Delaware Co. Pa.

Sent



Orlolo Cowe
Polc. Ill.

5769
Polc, Ill, May 26, 1858.
Hon. S. A. Douglass;

If it be not too
much trouble, I would like to
have you send me a copy of the
Report of the Smithsonian Inst.,
for 1856.

Resp?

Orlolo Cowe.

Sent to same May 31. 1858.



Wm Emerson
Andover, Mass;

S. D. Douglass.
Sir:

Will you forward to my
address, your last speech on the Kansas
question and the reports in regard to it?

Yours, truly,

E. C. Emerson

Andover, Mass., May 26th 1858.



August 10. 1891

Dear Mr. [illegible]
I have just received your letter of the 8th inst.
and am glad to hear that you are well.

Yours truly

[illegible signature]

1891 * 26 pages of [illegible] work

571
Galena, May 26th 1858.

Hon. Stephen A. Douglass

Dear Sir,

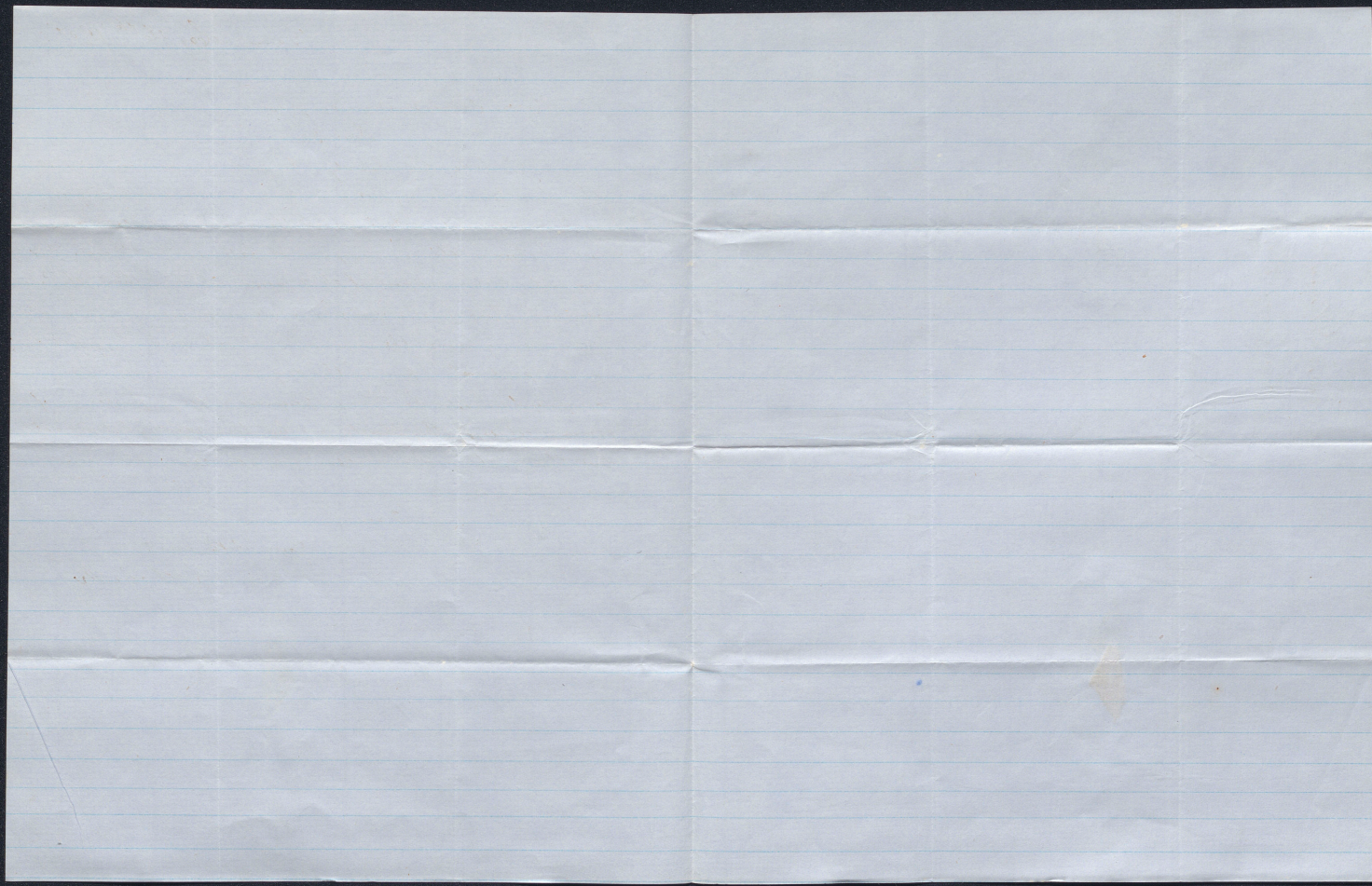
I take the liberty, to send you my card, and at the same time to request you, to remember and kindly in reading documents, to I formed the resolution to take an active share in the campaign next fall and will contribute my mite to the support of that cause, which I think the true one, and which is also yours, I would be pleased if you would place in my hands the means to act and write less superficially on the political topics of the day. I mean of course the necessary documents. As I know possess a large proportion of german titles, they should not be disregarded. I doubt not, but that with proper exertions our good causes will come out triumphant.

I am

Yours obedi^t servant

Louis Gottschalk

Lewis Gottschalk
Galena, Ill.



5112
(Confidential)

Centralia, Ill.,

May 26/58

Hon S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir: It wish

to warn you of a practice
inaugurated by the Chicago
P. M. in reference to your
documents, which pass thro'
his office. They are generally
laid aside for a "convenient
season," to await distribution,
and when the throwers
do distribute they handle
them so roughly that
many of the packages are
broken open, and consequently
lost, as many of them are
directed to one person or to one
office on the outside, while
the remainder of the packages

merely contain the address of
persons and not the post
office - therefore when several
of the packages are broken
open and mixed up, it is a
matter of utter impossibility
to distinguish one from the
other, unless the route agents
are acquainted with the
parties addressed - which
in many cases they are
not. The above informa-
-tion comes to me thro' the
route agents, and can be
relied upon as correct. //
I would suggest that
you have each package
enveloped in good strong
paper and addressed to
the post office, instead
of tying with twine as
heretofore.

// I have lately visited
about one-third of this state,
and find from ocular
demonstration that the
disorganisers are making
slow progress in dividing
the party - although the
abolitionists and republi-
-cans are patting them
on the back to encourage
them in their infamous ~~scheme~~
scheme. You can rest as-
-sured that you will be
triumphantly sustained in
your opposition to the
pet hawking of the president -
the decomposition band. We all
wish you God's speed - and
intend to place you in the
chair - which Buchanan
has dishonoured - in '60!!
There is no mistake about it. //

To assure you that I
am no spy or impostor, please
refer to Messrs. Sheahan &
Price, (who know me well,)
and who will give me any
recommendation desired.

Believe me, Sir or Sir,

Very truly Yours

Geo. W. Gray.

(Sent Ad. Ref. May 31/58)

✓
may 26
Geo. W. Gray
(Confidential)

Hon Stephen A. Douglass Esq,

Will you be good enough to
 favor me with your autograph &
 Very greatly oblige

(~~over~~) Yours Respectfully
 E. W. Hoar

Bat 189

Shil. P. office.

Phil^a May 26/58.

(Sent.)



Ellen Hale
Phil. a. p.

no
may 26



Sampville May 26th 1858

Dear Hays S. A. Bangs

The aspect of politics ~~the situation~~ is rather a puzzle I have intended to visit Washington before the adjournment of congress but business will not allow it. I should like, however, to learn what democrats mean so their wishes in future. They are certainly in a very awkward position. They had nothing, in the event to lose, and they seem intent on throwing away what they have, as had. In the South there is really but one party there is no opposition enough to make the party cautious. Many of our party are the firmest are no, but see no remedy. I took the anti disunion ground upon principle. I foresaw that you would not support the administration, and hoped that a portion of the ^{in congress} directly from the South, would show the suicidal policy of the president & was also appointed in that; although Sumner was as strongly anti disunion when W. left me as I was.

But what's done can't be undone. This secret, as I suppose may be known

Answered
May 24-58
SAB

to those behind the curtain, is that Secessionism
was intended to operate as the next step
in vital elections, to make the union
nasty. There is no other rationale & sacri-
fice of the movement, and if the way
it has been carried on

after all the Secessionist real in this
state, and all the abuse of the same
and by the hired arguers, and all
the calmly meetings, and resolutions,
and the efforts of the factious to mislead
the Secessionist, in which they were
very successful in some localities,
I attended a very judicial convention
where I met with the ablest men of our
party in and forth of the state. I was
surprised at the number of anti Secession-
ism of misrep, and the number of friends
of J. A. Douglas, there were warm
Secessionist men there, but they
kept silent. The general sentiment
was that we should have no violence
there. The administration accepted
mistaken in the South. Even the
Secessionist men admit that the policy
of the administration is fatal in the
five states.

Some of our strong democratic warriors
are only know-nothings; and were almost
for a pensioned pup, and appear
superficial, there would be no trouble
in continuing. I should like very much
to see you, or at the rest of our
friends to learn what the programme
is for the future. I take it that Secession-
ism democracy is dead. There is to be
a revolution or a defeat. The ticket
for Indiana is going to be beaten, and
in Penn. the same fate nearly as sure.
There is a great change from present ap-
pearances.

It will all come right in the end
but I am doubtful, if I shall be able
to stand it in the mean time. The
Secessionists, as to a general view
new they come, and tell all manner
of lies. Thompson & do not see the
consequences, and are misled. If
your mail time drops me letters and
let me know when you receive
mail bags. I shall write you more,
at the request of some of your friends
but to let you know that the Ku
Klux democracy are well all ready
to go.
Yours truly
Wm. H. Harvey

J. H. Harney.
Louisville.
Ky.

51 ²⁶/_✓

Chas H Kimball
Boston, Mass.

no



5115
(Lento) [May 26, 1858]

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas
Dear Sir,

As a member of
the English High School
I am collecting the auto-
graphs of some of the
most distinguished gentle-
men of this country. I should
feel myself highly honored
to receive the signature of
a gentleman who is en-
gaged in so noble a cause
as yourself.

Yours Respectfully
Charles H. Kimball.
Boston, May 20th / 58.
P.S. Please address C. H. K.
Box 1138. Boston Post Office.



Mr Douglass sir please
to send me the patent office
reports and oblige yours

George W Lee
[Lee]

Direct to Dearborn
Post office
McC Henry Co

Yr.

3 vols. Mech sent May 29/58.
May 26th - 1858

Geo W See
Dearborn, Ill.

Jasper Rand
Berksshire
Hts

5777

West Berksshire Hts. May 26/58

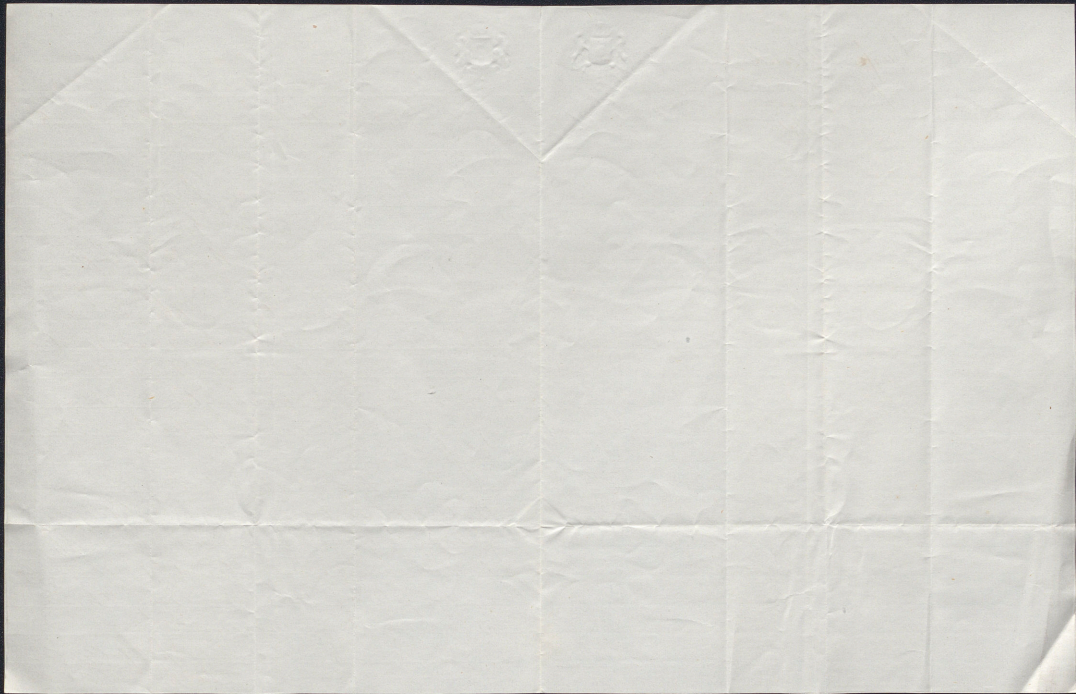
Hon. G. A. Douglass

Dear Sir

Mr E. W. Giff
has a claim before Congress for
some Compensation, I think a
Just one, of which he will make
you acquainted with. he is now
on his way to Washington to get a
final action on it if he can this
Session -

Permit me to say to you
that I have long been a Political
Gleaner of yours and would be happy
to advance your interests in Vermont
in any way that you may think
it advisable to recommend

Very Respectfully
Jasper Rand



Indian River Brevard County Florida
May 26. 1858

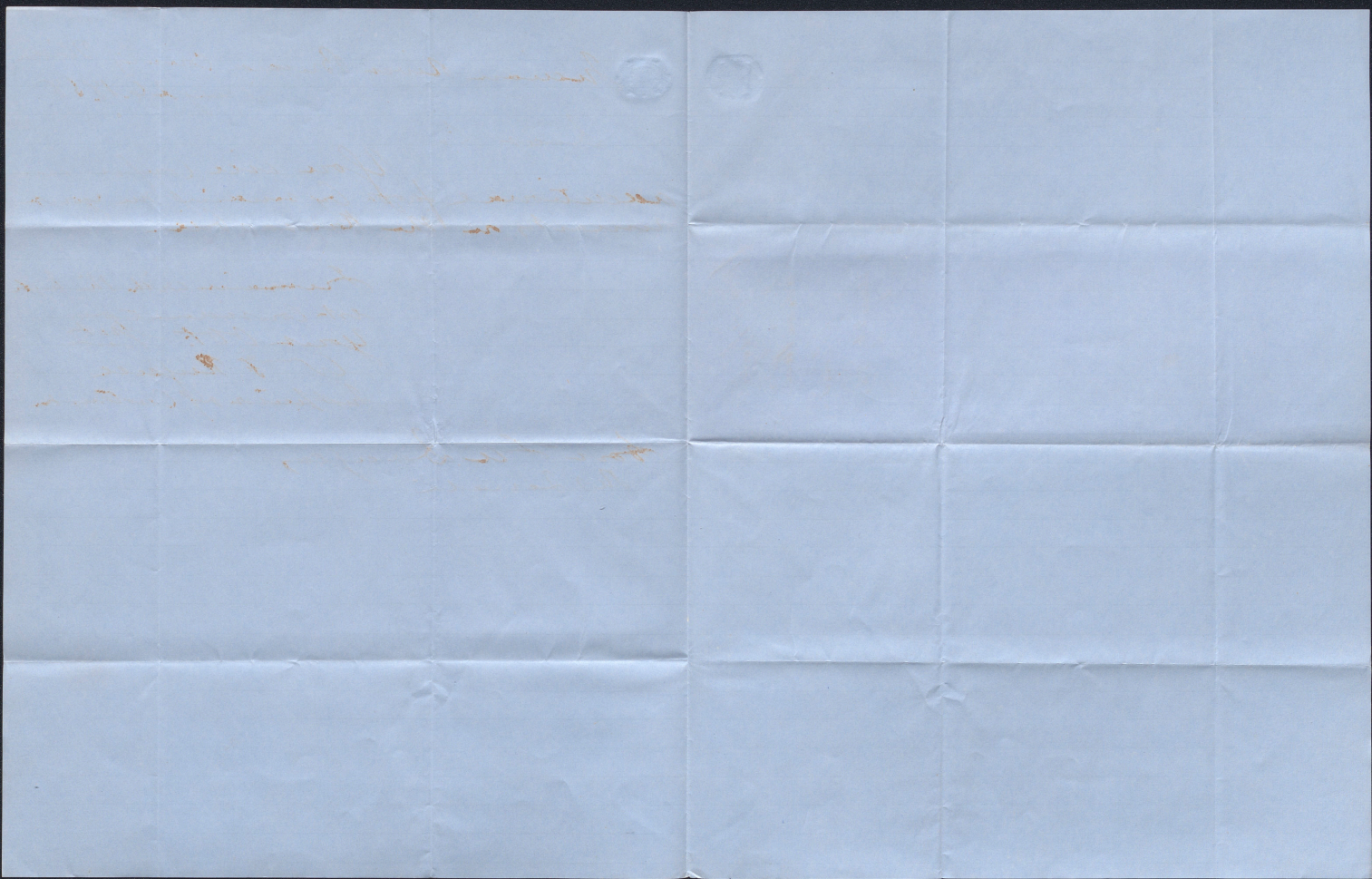
Dear Sir

You will confer an
additional favor by sending me your
remarks on the Kansas Bill.

I remain with the high-
est consideration
Yours Obedt. Servt
Wm F. Russell
Inspector of Customs &

Gov L A. Douglas
MS Lenoir

Wm F. Rappell
Indian River
Florida.
May 26/58.



Northampton Armstrong Co. Pa. May, 26th 1858

Hon. Stephen A. Douglass

Dear sir

Could you oblige an old admirer of
yours by sending me your photograph or daguerreotype? I am
thirty seven and ten years old and in our remote locality can never
expect to see your face -

Your friend

James Scott

P.S. Your Speeches & other Anti Slavery documents are needed
here for circulation

James Scott,
Washington
Armstrong Co
Pa.
May 26. 1858.

Wants likeness

Sent,

Ephraim Shatto
 Slaterville, W. Va.
 May 26/58.

Slaterville
 May 26th 1858

Hon S. A. Douglas -
 Dear Sir

I have rec^d two speeches
 from your hands - the last one of March
 22nd - I have read it carefully, and
 am pleased to learn there from that
 you have maintained your position
 from the first until the last.

The Kansas & Nebraska Bill
 caused a great commotion - but
 finally the whole country are now
 settling down upon it as the only
 true principle. You have also
 discussed and sustained at length
 State rights, which is fully satis-
 -factory to my mind, and I wish
 that every man through out the
 Union could have in hand this
 speech of 22nd March - that they
 might read and understand the
 true principle of State Rights

You have sustained true Democracy and I sincerely hope you will never swerve from the position you have taken - You had better go into retirement than to fall back on what is wrong. But I am sure that such a thing cannot be, the people will sustain you -

Very respectfully
Yours Obert Geot
Ephraim Schutt
Statenville

Tompkins Co
N.Y.

P.S. There is a family, residing in the place by the name of Belknaps. The wife of Mr Belknaps was Matilda Douglas - a daughter of John Douglas - ~~they are~~

Brother
Gates Douglas
John Douglas
Zebulon Douglas of Onida Co N.Y.
Robins Douglas of Pa.

Your father name (Gates Douglas) Robins Douglas - You correspond with. He resides in Pennsylvania. Mr Belknaps people claim to be related to you - Are very respectable people -

Please send your late Speeches - also a set of Patent Office reports -

To Amos Belknaps -
Statenville
Tompkins -

And if you please a set to me of the Patent Office Reports - I shall feel very thankful to receive them from your hands
O.S.

mail

Pittsburgh Penn^a Pa May 26 1858

Hon S. A. Douglass

Washington City, D.C.

Dear Sir

We are referred to you
for the standing of Jas Kerrington Esq. Aurora Kane
Co Ills. who has been clerk of the County court for 8 years
He has lately commenced the Hardware business &
wishes to buy goods from us. Will you have the
kindness to state to us, your opinion of said Kerrington's
preiminary responsibility, character, trustworthiness &c.
Your attention to this will oblige Your friends

Spang Chalfant & Co

Judge Douglass' respects to
Messrs Spang, Chalfant & Co and
acknowledgg. the receipt of their
letter of 26. inst.

Mr Herrington's family
of Geneva. He is highly respectable
and much esteemed. Their
circumstances, and mercantile
responsibility, he regrets to say
are not, however, sufficiently
known to him to enable him
to reply with certainty to the
inquiry as to the pecuniary
responsibility of Jas Herrington
Esq. and he as made say
Messrs Spang, Chalfant & Co.
Washington City
May 28/58.

Spang & Co.
Geneva

Spang & Co.
Pittsburg
Pa.
May 26. 1858

Inquire of
Messrs. Spang & Co.
of Geneva, Als.

Answered May 23/58