

Elysium June 14th 55

Hon^{ble} A. Douglas:

Dear Sir - Please
mail me the Agricultural volumes
of The Patent Office Report for
1855 if you have them on hand, if
not, please send in their stead the latest
volumes you have. & oblige yours
Obedient servant

(Agricult.)

E. C. Bennett
Elysium McHenry Co
Ills

C. C. Bennett
Elyria
N.Y.

Agnew, Scott Co. Iowa June 14th 1858
 Hon. S. A. Douglas

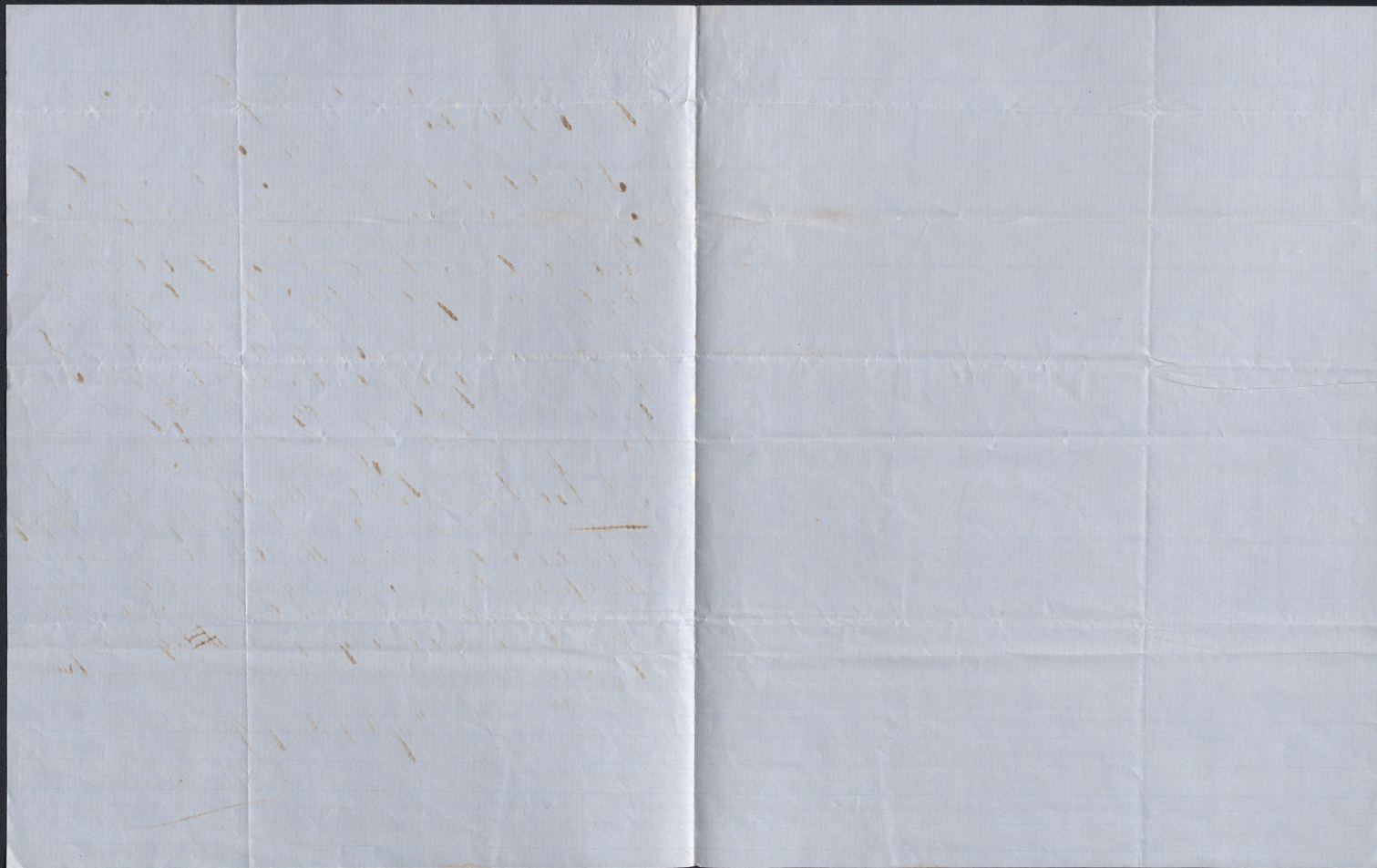
Dear Sir

I Recd under your friends name some time since about
 57 of your Speeches in the Pacific R.R. Bill and some
 others put up in Repuses All of which have been duly
 reprinted. And I have good reason to believe that
 they are getting read. As I have calls for them
 by those who have not seen them yet. Your friend
 Mr Thomas hands me some in the P. R. R. and some
 of your Minority Reports - they will last me some
 time as there is quite a quantity of them. They will fill
 to supply all within my reach. If you think
 it proper you may send me about 50 more
 Speeches in the R.R. Bill and any other kind you think
 proper may think best. I will be that they are all properly
 distributed. I would like the Report in Finance and
 the Report in Commerce for my own use if you will
 be so kind as to send them to me and think I deserve them
 This is Considerable to ask by a person that you have seen
 and I am aware that I should not be so forward. But
 it will be all right

Very Respectfully your friend

C. M. Brown

Chas Brown
Wyoming
Ms.



Chicago June 14/68
 Mr S A Douglas

Dear Sir Having

often heard the desire expressed in
 many of the leading Cities of Western
 New York to hear You lecture and
 thinking perhaps You would return
 to the West Via N Y C & P I wish
 to learn if You would consent to
 deliver four or five lectures when
 en route for Ill if You could be
 prevailed upon to visit some of the
 principal Cities in this State such as
 Utica Syracuse Rochester & Buffalo
 in a public Lecture I would be glad
 to engage Your services making
 appointments for You both agreeable
 to Yourself and I know to those who
 may hear You and compensate You
 as You may deem proper. Should
 it be possible for You to comply with
 the above please let me know at
 Your earliest convenience stating

time to say so

And very much truly

Your Obedt Servt

S. P. Larchard

Box 733 Oswego City N.Y.

S/B Buchanan
Chego. NY.

F. D. Tarnum
West Haverford
Pa.

6003

West Haverford June 14th 1857

Hon Stephen A. Douglas
Sir

As you are one of the greatest
speakers of our country I take the liberty
to ask for your autograph if you will have the
kindness to send it you will greatly oblige.

Your most obedient servant
Francis D. Tarnum
Care Rev Dr James Lyons S. L. D.
West Haverford
Pa



Handwritten text in cursive script, possibly a signature or address, located in the upper right corner.

Faint, illegible handwritten text in cursive script, covering the majority of the page. The text is written across multiple lines and is significantly faded.

General Land Office

June 14th 1858

Hon. S. A. Douglas

U. S. Senate

Sir

I have the honor to return herewith the letter of Jacob Hedrick, addressed to you, and by you filed in this office for consideration, on the 19th ult. With reference to the subject of said Hedrick's letter, I have to state that his representations appear to be correct.

One of the limitations of the Act of Congress of 4th Sept 1841, granting preemption rights &c. is as follows, "No sections of land reserved to the United States alternate to other sections granted to any of the States for the construction of any Canal, rail road, or other public improvement, shall be liable to entry under and by virtue of this Act." In the course of the adjustment of the Illinois Central

Rail road land grant, the aforesaid clause in the Act of 1841, came up for consideration, and the three Commissioners decided it was not applicable to what are usually designated M. S. reserved sections within the six mile limits of rail road routes, after the restoration of such sections to market.

Instructions were accordingly given to the Register & Receiver at Dixon Ill's, in a letter from this office of 19th Oct 1852, (Copy herewith) and to the other offices in Illinois at subsequent periods.

The decision then made was approved by the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, and has ever since been established ruling of the Office.

The principle upon which it rests is that, after the restoration to market of lands of the Class in question, and when they have become subject to Entry at private sale, they lose their character as reserved lands, and are therefore released from the inhibition of the Act of 1841, herein before quoted.

The spirit of our land laws is manifestly adverse to any other construction. It is a

Strange Circumstance if the framers of the Act of 1841, intended to Exclude honest pre-emption from so large a portion of the public lands, simply because the price of such land are raised to double the usual minimum.

It is obvious to me however, that such was not their intention, but that the lands contemplated were to be considered as reserved only from the date of the "definite location" of the Rail road route within the limits of which the lands might be situated, up to the date of their restoration to market at private sale, after having been offered for sale at public auction. Prior to such offering the lands are reserved from private sale, as well as pre-emption, in order that they may be sold to the highest bidder - giving the public an opportunity to compete for them, and giving the United States Treasury the full benefit of their enhanced value. After the offering, such of the lands as are not sold, bring no

longer reserved, become subject to private
Entry at \$2.50 per acre, and I am convinced,
equally subject to preemption. Certainly, when
the beneficent features of the act of 1841, are
taken into consideration, it does not seem that
it places a restriction upon actual settlers
and cultivators which does not reach or ap-
ply to speculators and others of the country.

The Supreme Court of Illinois, however
has taken a different view of the matter, and
expressed a decision accordingly, in the case of
James C. Walker & Jacob Aldrich, and it is
from this decision that said Aldrich desires
to take an appeal to the Supreme Court of the
United States.

Very Respectfully,
Yours obt. Servt
Thos. Hindrick
Commissioner



(Copy)

General Land Office

October 19th 1859

Reg & Gen

Dixon Lli's

Sut

A letter has been received at this office from John Dement Esq, desiring information may be furnished either to himself or you, in reference to certain points connected with Sale or disposition of the land belonging to the United States within the limits of the late Reservation for the Central Rail Road.

The points are first, whether the lands in the six mile limits are subject, subsequently to the late public sale, to the operation of any other prescription law than that of the 2^d August last.

2^d if so, when does such right attach, immediately after the land was offered at the late ^{public} sale or not until after the close of the close of the said public sale — 3^d whether a conditional

entry or purchase cannot be made of land to which a claim under act of 2^d August last has been filed to become absolute, in the event of the preemption claimant failing or neglecting to establish his right - and 4th, if such conditional purchase can be made, whether a land warrant could not be issued in part payment, the excess arising from the double minimum being paid in specie.

To the first point I reply, that the odd numbered sections within the six mile limits, after having been offered at public sale, are not subject to the operation of the Act of 2^d August last, the fact of the offering showing that no notice prior thereto had been given as required by that law, and consequently a forfeiture of what ever right under it, which may have previously existed, but it is the opinion and decision of this office, that said lands so offered, are subject to the operation of the general preemption law of 4th September 1841 excepting as to the minimum price, like any other public lands.

To the second point I reply, that such right must be based upon a settlement made after the day of the actual offering of the land, it need not be delayed until after the expiration of the two weeks immediately preceding the commencement of such public sale.

To the third point, I reply, that where a claim under the Special Act of 2^d August last has been preferred and in consequence thereof the tract claimed has not been offered at public sale, no preemption right under the Act of 1841, can attach, and after the actual offering of said tract at some future time, nor can any private sale, or location by Military Warrant be made, conditionally or otherwise until after the land is rendered subject to private entry by such actual offering hereafter.

To the fourth point I reply, that where a preemption claim under Act of 1841, attaches to any of this double minimum land, or the same is applied for by private entry, a Military

Warrant for 40 or 80 or 160 acres may be applied
in part payment of a tract of the foregoing con-
tracts respectively and the Excess paid in Money.

Respectfully your ob^{dt} serv^t

(Signed)

John Wilson

Commissioner

P.S.

Since this letter was prepared, that of the
Register dated 13th inst, has been received, asking
the questions embraced in the last point herein
referred to, He will consider his questions an-
swered affirmatively.

John Wilson

Hegworth McLean County Illinois
May 8th 1858

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Washington D. C.

Dear Sir allow me the liberty of addressing you a few lines in regard to a case of in which all the earthly goods I possess are at stake, without any assurance on my part of your feeling yourself at all interested in my behalf except a general feeling of Humanity that pervades all your public deeds— Now to the point in question, Sir in the year 1855 the Commissioner of Gen^l Land Office issued instructions to the Register and Receiver of the Land office at Danville Ill^y that the Alternate sect^s of Land along the Illinois, ~~W.~~ C. R. R. were subject to preemption and had been ever since they had been offered for sale by Proclamation of the Pres^{nt}.

I among several hundred others took the benefit of a preemption Right upon a gr^o sect^s of Land lying within the Limits of the Road by filing a declaratory statement that I had commenced to settle and improve the same on the 1st day Nov^r 1855 the office not being open for entry on at that time in the portion of Dist^{ct} where my preemption was situated but on the 15th Nov^r inst^t it came in and I attended there with the money prepared to enter the Land but was informed I could not because I had a preemption upon it I then proposed to have my preemption canceled and pay for it but the Register said I must run my chance
Yours

as a preemptor for there had been an other man filed
a preemption claim upon it, and told me to go home
and continue to improve my claim and I would be sure
to get it ^{the Land} for I had commenced my settlement first and
that with perseverance was sure to win so I went home
contented, but on the 27th of the same month J. C. Walker
a speculator was permitted to enter and pay for ^{in my absence} the same,
a thing that was refused me and at the Minimum of
\$250 I sent to the office to know what it meant the
ans^r was ~~it~~ its a thing that's always been practiced under
the preemption system and if I went on and proved up
my claim according to law I would get the Land, by
that I went on improving and in June following I
was sued off with a writ of ejectment and at the sept^r
term it was put off until I proved up my claim so I could
beat him, so said my atty^r ^{W. W. W. W.} in the mean time the office
had been closed at Danville on account of death of Rec-
-iver and transfered to Springfield and I went down
in October to prove my preemption but the Register
put me off for reasons I don't know but said if the time
over run the year it should nor would not prejudice
my claim and he would give notice to the preemptors
when to come to prove the same so he did and on
the 24th Nov^r 1856 I proved up and got a certificate
of Enty^r I had by this time Broke some 60 acres of Land
and fenced the same and Resided upon it the whole time
— so in the Spring of 1857 my atty^r agreed with oppo-
-site counsel to withdraw it from the McBean Circuit court
and carry it to the Supreme court of Ill^s at Ottawa^{Ill}

in which appeal they admitted a patent issued to me
and said Court has decided against my Right and
referred it back and Recommends a court of equity
to compel me to make said Walker a Deed because he
has a Superior Equity = Now sir I have spent some
\$1,500 one thousand five hundred Dollars all I was worth
must I loose it all, I would like your opinion
in my case and also whether you would undertake
in my Behalf and the probable cost to def^d it in
the Supreme Court of the U S.

This can all Be proved
that would be necessary in the case —

If you will enquire into the case and give me
your opinion I will pay all ^{you} cost for your trouble
By sending the Bill

From your Obedient Serv^t
in distress Jacob Hedrick

of
Hoyworth, McLean, Geo Ill

Jacob Hedrick
Keyworth
McLean Co
Ic's

Respectfully referred
to Commr of Land
Office, with Judge
Douglas' respects, I
request that this case
may receive consideration
and answer be
returned, with this
letter, to Judge Douglas,
at the Commission's
earliest convenience
Washington May 18/58.

Answer received —
See Copies within —
Original sent in
letter to J. Hedrick —
June 25, 1858.

Barac Holland,
Senate Clerk

6005

Senate of the United States.

Committee on Foreign Relations
Washington, 14 June 1858.

Sir:

A meeting of this Committee will be
held on ~~to morrow~~ Tuesday
at 11 o'clock, — M., which you are respect-
fully invited to attend. Respectfully
Barac Holland

To the

Hon.

S. A. Douglass

Printed and Published by

Wm. B. Ewing

1881

20

Wm. B. Ewing

Wm. B. Ewing

Wm. B. Ewing

Wm. B. Ewing

Wm. B. Ewing

20

20

Wm. B. Ewing

Lawrence Mass. June 14th 1858

To / Hon. Stephen A. Douglass U.S.L.
Dear Sir

I should be pleased
to receive your Autographs as a valuable acquisition
to my present collection -

Most Respectfully Yours

E. B. Osgood

C B Good
Lawrence, Mass.

12



C. S. Sawyer
New London
M.H.



June 14th 1858.

Two

Hon. S. A. Douglass.
Respected Sir.

I am at present
engaged in collecting a book
of Autographs and I should
feel myself highly honored in
being allowed to place yours
in my collection. if you will
favor me by sending it to
Yours obt. svt.

C. S. Sawyer
New London
M. H.



Providence R.I. Jan 14/58
 Hon. J. A. Douglas Esq

It has been the custom of the Providence Association of Mechanics & Manufacturers, to have a course of lectures every winter, beginning early in November, and, believing it would afford the members of the Association and the Citizens of Prov. great pleasure to have one who occupies so distinguished a position as yourself, we would request you to deliver the opening lecture of the course for the coming season.

Hoping you will give the request a favorable consideration, I remain,

Yours respectfully,
 James Shaw Jr.
 Chairman Lecture Committee

Jas Shaw. jr
 Providence
 R.I.

ho



Confidential.

S. A. Douglass,
Washington, D.C.

Forest Hardin Co., Ohio;
June 12th 1858.

Dear Sir:

Having just returned from a journey made through that part of Ohio, known as the "Reserve", which for several years, last past, was tinged by "Abolitionism"; "Woman rights ism" and "know nothingism"; and if there are any other isms they will be sure to be found among this people; ^{with whom} but a short time since, the name of Douglass, was mentioned with hate and contempt — the fanatical and bigoted descendants of the old Puritans of New England.

Now, there is scarcely one to be found who dare utter a word against the name, which they so lately affected to despise.

So sudden, yet, so certain and extensively has been the change in public sentiment.

All this I predicted: you may remember, it is scarcely three years since, I told you at Chicago, that feelings so rank to you, so undeserved, ^{having} for its foundation the white creavats of the Three Thousand. Pulpit smatterers, who usurped to themselves the title of Clergyman, are about ultimately take a reaction in your favor.

Is this not so? This class of men, politically viewed, may be compared to puppies in an early stage of existence, the former with political vision equally dark with the canine blindness of the Dog, which open their eyes after a certain number of days; the same, with truth, may be said of the Black Republican, ~~they~~ who begin to open their eyes to

a sense of this political degradation.

The strong opposition of certain parties, formerly opposed to you, has in a measure ceased, and the result, throughout the whole country, is a visible change in your favor.

You misplaced your confidence when you took to your friendship, the net of the Cincinnati "Lepre", and placed misguided trust in Leake's ignoramus. The one is politically dead and the other is eternally damned. The one may, for a short time, continue to splutter, while the other will shortly sink into the contemptible insignificance his conduct so justly merits. //

Voltaire asserted that it took twelve men to establish the Christian religion, and that one man could overthrow it: and this he succeeded in accomplishing in his own country, at least, for a short time.

I made the declaration that the time was not far distant when Douglas should sit in the Presidential Chair, this remains to be seen - time alone will tell. //

Ten thousand dollars would have secured the nomination at Cincinnati, at the time of the Convention: it was the overwhelming amount of money made use of here, that bought the nomination for the old man, who so unworthily fills the nomination office of the Chief Magistrate of the Federal Government, and whose imbecility and misconduct has proved and disgraced the Democratic Party.

I bear not animosity against Cal. Richardson, yet,

I will never forgive him for withdrawing the name of Douglas from before the Cincinnati Convention; you were in the hands of your friends and he even, by your advice had not the right to act as he did.

I would not be understood as denying the right of one's withdrawing his name at a proper time but, would be understood as meaning that the action was premature.

At that Convention, I had set my expectations on a cast, and when the name of S. A. Douglas, was withdrawn my heart felt the blow, and though the acknowledgement may be viewed as a sort of weakness, I cannot conceal the fact that I have never yet recovered from its effects. //

If John Breckinridge has the eloquence of Demosthenes, and I doubt it not, you may rest assured he has the heart of a serpent. //

Ceasar's suspicions of the lean canis was not more certain, than are ours in relation to this man. Douglas, you have a care for your safety - beware of this person. //

You have two warm friends in Congress, who to you may be unknown, Gen. Ruffin and Mrs. Beck of Virginia. This man had the honest boldness to stand up for you, in the Convention, and declare, that there was a "large minority with the V.A. Delegation, in favor of the nomination of S. A. Douglas." Old Floyd and Meade, of Virginia, tried to put him down, but he ~~could not~~ was ~~not~~ was refused to comply with them. // Gen. Hox, Jr., Ward,

Thos M Ward

Forest
Harden Co
Ohio.

Copy retained.
No date As..

✓

6-14

Accept our
Thank for Public
Documents.

Oscar A Bernhard
Albany, N.Y.

6010
Stephen A Douglas
Dear Sir
I would
you please send by return of
mail or a small ship of paper
Your Autograph
As I have a
Book of Autographs
I very happily to have your
Autograph

Respectfully

Oscar A Bernhard
Dec 1856
Albany Jan 1857



Jos B Chandler
Washington City
June 15, 1858.



277 B. Street.
June 15th 1858

My Dear Sir. My physician requires
me to be confined to my room until
my health improves, which I trust
will be in a day or two. It gives me
much uneasiness that I should be
sick at a time when I could be of
service in aiding you to get off. I hope
to see you before you leave, and will
remain in the city long enough to discharge
what duties you may assign me.

I enclose you a letter from Price:-
- which read, "if Leisner gives leave,
send me an item or two by the
bearer, so that I may speak from
the card" in replying to it. - Also let
me know when you will start
for home.

Most truly yr friend //

Jos B Chandler.

How J. A. Douglas
W. J. Senator.



Salem Oregon June 15th 1858
Hon S. A. Douglass

Dear Sir

I am in receipt of
your speech against the admission of Kansas under
your frank, for which accept the thanks of one
of your earliest Illinois supporters any
public documents of a similar nature will
be thankfully appreciated by

Your most obedient

Wm Chapman

Willie Chapman
Salem, O.T.
June 15, 1858.



1850

Concord, June 15th/58

Hon. Sir,

Will you be so kind as forward to me the Patent Office Reports on Agriculture for 1854 & 1855. I need their aid in some investigations which I am now making. If you can comply with my request I shall feel myself indebted to you.

Yours &c.

R. Newton Davies.

R Newton Davies
Concord, N.H.

New Trenton Franklin Co Ind June 15th - 58
 Hon Stephen A. Douglass

Dear Sir

Permit me
 though personally a stranger to you
 to say that I have watched your career
 with reverence to the Lecompton paper
 with exceeding interest & great pleasure.
 I have read with almost entire
 approval all your published speeches in
 reference to this matter that I have
 been able to lay ^{my} hands upon.

And expecting to bear some humble
 part in the great fight still pending,
 (perhaps as anti Lecompton Douglass
 Candidate for Congress in the 4th dist
 of Indiana,) I desire to be well armed
 for the battle. I therefore desire you
 to favour me with an authentic
 copy of the Lecompton Constitution if
 you can do so without incurring
 and such other documents as may
 be useful in the contest.

Refer to Hon William Barker of
 Freedom LaSelle Co Mo.

Very respectfully Yours
 Samuel Davis

Sam'l Davis
New Trenton
Ind.

Meredith Village, N.H. June 15/57

Stephen A. Douglas
Sir

If your remarks in the Senate
on the late British outrages upon American
vessels have been printed in pamphlet form,
will you please send me a copy.

Respectfully

Geo. F. Hilton.

Geo. S. Hilton
Meredith, N.H.

Elkton, Md.

June 13th. 1858.

Hon. S. A. Douglas:
U. S. S.

Dear Sir:

I have
several speeches of Senators
members of the House on the
Kansas question which I
wish to have bound, but I feel
that my volume would be
very incomplete without your
last speech on the subject
delivered. I think the 18th March.
Will you favor me with
a copy of said speech?
and oblige.

Yours truly,

J. D. Adams Jones.

J Adams Jones
Wilton, N.H.

no



Senator Douglas

Dear Sir,

I have a thirst to read some of the speeches of the Great Democratic Leaders, on Democratic measures and principles, which I brought in vain to quench - I will owe you a debt of gratitude which I am too humble to pay if you will confer upon me such a distinguished favor as to forward to my address any of your speeches whether delivered in canvassing in the Senate or anywhere, whether new or old - I am a poor young man striving arduously to advance myself, and for such a trespass I can only offer you the admiration of a lifetime

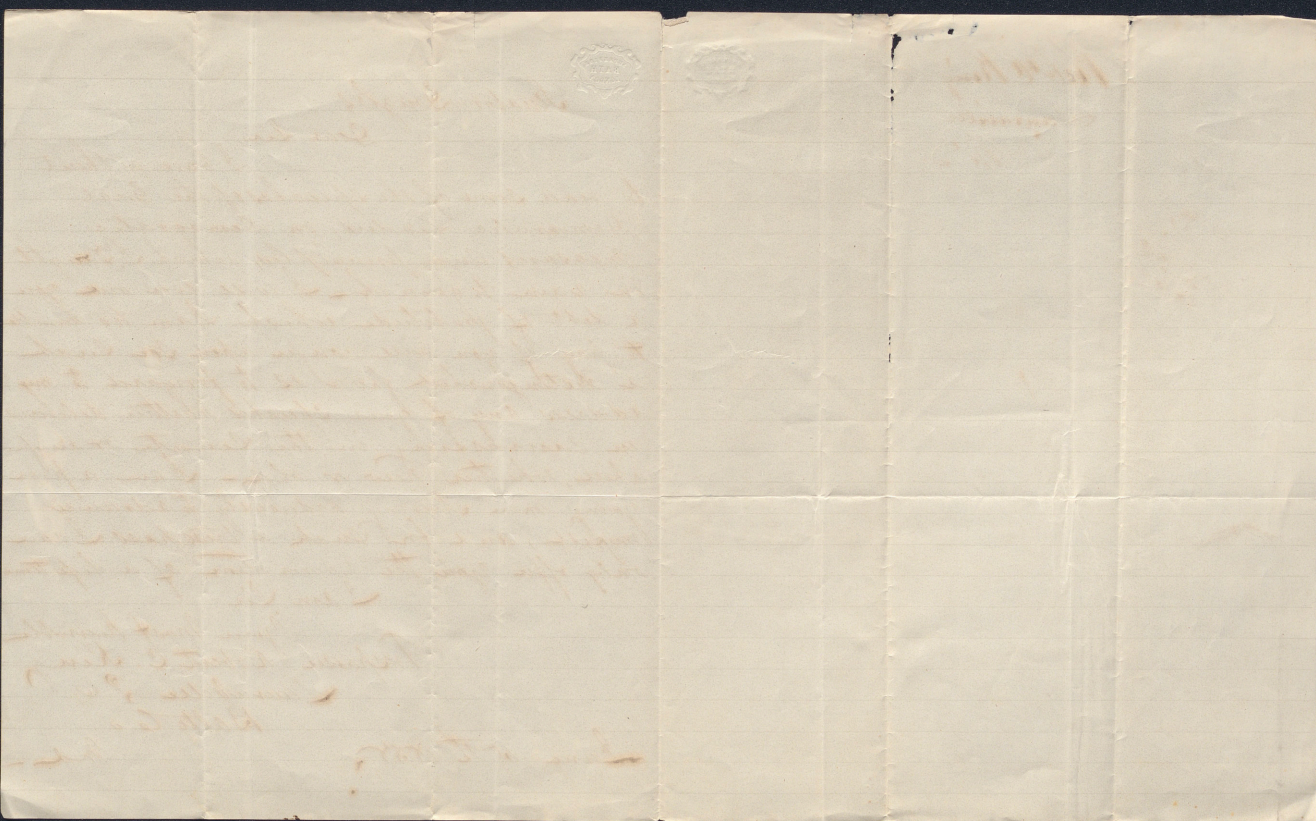
I am Sir

Your Most Humble
 Transpasser Robert C. King
 Laurabille I. C.
 Balto Co

June 15th 1858.

Ind -

Robt C King
Lauraville
Mo



6018
Jas B Sheridan
Fordham
N.Y.

✓
6-15

Hon: S. A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Unless I hear
from you I will be in
Chicago on the 1st of
July. If you desire my ser-
vices before that ^{time}, write me
Care of John B. Haskin,
Fordham, N. Y.

Respy Yrs,
Jas. B. Sheridan
June 15. '55 Washn



Amey Wb June 15th 1858

Dr Sir
Sickness has prevented
my acknowledging your many
favors, ere this, the package containing
your speech on the Secession
question was peritiously acceptable
as it enabled me to supply a
number of our friends who have
been wholly neglected, as Mr.
I confine his powers to the
Republican & American ranks,
in this County clay, & Jasper there
Lawrence there are but few Secession
men, & in our district we can I
think easily elect an anti Secession
Democrat the Republicans here held
their meeting & change to day a dis-
invitation the resolutions I dropped for
the Democratic meeting here inserting
Truman Bull, for Douglas, the only change

too evidently the intention of the Rep.
party to if possible coalesce with
the anti Disunion Democrats in
order to elect Lincoln to the
Senate, we have decided it suggested
that you would be a candidate
to represent Harris' District in the
Lower House. If politically excitement
there is here none. I think a large
majority of the American party will
be inclined to act with us at
present every thing is in a state of
suspense the recent violent action of
the so called administration party
has prolonged us, of course the promina-
tion of place seeking demagogues and
the insinuation of a danger can only
have the effect of disuniting the party, that
your ambitions are better suited than
I am in these matters. If all Harris

was to be Pickens & the adjoining
counties we might tough to secure
such rich ~~carpenters~~ & their rascally
associates, accept my sincere regards
I am sure that any favor you
may forward to me in the shape of
books documents &c will be distributed
with propriety

Yours obt. Servt
John M. Wilson
The S. S. Bangles

John McWilson
Olney, Ill.

Unit 20-

Sub