

U S Armory Harpers Ferry Va
Jan 21st 1860

The Hon. Stephen A. Douglas } Dr Sir:

Senate of the U.S. } Having learned through the papers of the day, that the Hon. S. Davis will during the present congress try to reestablish the military Superintendency of the National Armories, and regarding him as a gentleman of high talents, and extensive influence, but feeling assured, as we do, that the exercise of those powers, in that case, will be theoretically, and practically wrong, and destructive to the best interests, not only of the mechanics engaged at the Armories, but degrading to the whole mass of American Mechanics, being equivalent to an avowal on the part of the government, that, that class of Citizens differing from all other classes, can only be trusted, when employed ^{by} it, when under the the degrading influence of Military Rule.

We therefore in the name of the Armors here, and the Mechanics throughout our broad land, appeal to you, as one of our Country's brightest sons, to lend to us, and thru, the support, as a shield of defense, against a great wrong, the aid of those high powers of mind, that it has pleased an Almighty God to endow you with, for wise and great purposes; the exercise of which has already filled the hearts of your Countrymen with pride, and admiration, and shed around your name a halo of Glory, and in doing so, while it may be considered by many proud and haughty men, as a field too humble for your powers; yet depend upon it, like the bread commanded by God to be cast upon the waters, it will return to you after many days. For that man who stands forth, with High talent, as the champion, and defender of that Country's mass

of workers in the great line of National industry, must, will, and
ought to win in the great race of Glory. For the iron armed and
callous handed sons of toil, have hearts as warm and ^{true} as that
mysterious power, that controls, and directs the quivering needle
to the loom. We speak from experience, we are of that class, and
the marks of toil are upon our brows and on our hands; but the fire
of freedom burns in our hearts; and that man who generously bares
his arm in our defence, and thus sustains the dignity of labour, builds
an altar in our hearts, of love, and gratitude, that will endure
while memory sways its influence over the mind.

As Virginians, we have passed our many talented gentlemen;
preferring to make our appeal to one, whose political course has
ever met our most hearty approval, and who now stands
forth as the great defender of the cause of equality among the
states, the principles of Democratic liberty, and the union and
perpetuity of our common country.

With full faith in the justice of our appeal, and a high
hope that it may meet your approval, and gain your
invaluable support, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves.
Your political friends and admirers.

A. M. Ball
Tulbot S. Duke

A. M. Ball

J. S. Duke

Harper's Ferry

Jan'y 21.

7th

Military & civil rule
in U. S. armories



Pella City, Iowa, Jan. 21-1860.

Friend Douglass:-

I have learned within a few days that the Buchanan men will make a desperate effort at our State Convention. The two enclosed letters from Mr. Iowa, of Des Moines, will give you some idea of the efforts they are making at the Capital to elect Buchanan Delegates. Mr. Iowa is the Secretary of our State Central Committee, and a son of the celebrated Iowa, of Ohio.

We intend to send D.O. Finch, Esq., a celebrated lawyer of Des Moines, as a Delegate to Charleston Convention. He is for Douglass and no one else, as I am; and I shall introduce the resolutions to instruct the National Delegates from Iowa to vote for you. Mr. Finch was one of the Democratic Electors for Iowa.

After the battle is fought here, I will give you the details: but there is no doubt that the people of Iowa are for you by an overwhelming majority. I shall leave no stone unturned to secure the State for you. Your friends here are firm and determined, and want "Douglass or no-body."

It affords me much satisfaction to know that I am, and ever have been, since our first acquaintance, a personal as well as a political friend of yours; but were I your personal enemy, or in any way opposed to you, and still a Democrat, I would support

you at this time, for if you are defeated at Charleston, the Democratic Party is defeated at the election. That is certain.

You will see that Mr. Foa is rather afraid of your friend Dr. Walker; but it is all in his eye. Dr. Walker is "Douglas or nobody," and will support me if I will go to the State Convention as your friend. Mr. Walker to whom Mr. Foa alludes is a Buchanan man, but says he will support you if we send him to the Convention. Mr. Hanna is a Douglas man. We are all here, except Walker, Douglas Democrats, & he has agreed to work with us in the camp of State Convention, to send Finch to Charleston.

Please keep me posted as to any matter you desire to have attended to at our State Convention.

Yours, truly,
John C. Bennett

I will not place any official frank on this letter for fear the some Buchanan P.M. may open it; but refer it to post under your frank, as it would not be suspected so readily. I am fully satisfied the some eight or ten of my letters to you have been perused by Government officials.



Chas. L. Bristol
Detroit
Mich
Jan'y 21.
Wishes an appoint-
ment for his son in
the naval school.



9838
Detroit Mich
Jan'y 21. 1845
Hon S. A. Douglas
U. S. Senate
My Dear Sir

I have a
son John D. Bristol who will be
15 years of age next March who
I am desirous of getting an appoint-
ment in the Naval School
He is an accomplished young
man of his age & will make
a Lieutenant & Comdrant officer
I would like your aid & assistance
for such appointments

I made your acquaintance
a few years since when I went
to Chicago to reside by a letter
of introduction to you from
Hon D. Stuart then of our City.

but now a resident of
Chicago in which letter
he states to you that I was
a strong Douglass 90 and
it may be unnecessary for
me to say to you that I
am so still and true friend.

I would refer you more
particularly as regards our
family to Samuel Lewis Cook.

Who will tell you all about
me & my claims upon the
Party. I would be extremely
= happy to hear from you
& to receive any thing from
you in the shape of documents
that you may be pleased to
send me.

Truly Yours friend

Chas. H. Bristol

P.S. The superscription of
this letter is his hand
writing—

J. F. Brown
Washington
Jan. 21. D.C.
Gas company



Private

9839

Office of the Washington Gas Light Company,

Washington City, Jan. 21. 1860

My dear Judge:

Mr Keenan has stated to me the Conversation of yesterday, and I will, as soon as I am able to leave my room, make out a detailed Statement of the matter between you and this Company from the beginning, which I know will be satisfactory to you when explained. I shall be glad to avail myself of the opportunity not only to Congratulate you on your Presidential prospects, and the triumphant vote by which you Carried my State (Indiana) in the late Convention (in which I had no less than seven relatives, every one Douglas men), but also, to remove any prejudice which interested persons may have fixed upon your mind against our Company.

Faithfully your old friend
J. F. Brown

Office of the Secretary of the Navy



[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Hartford Jan'y 21, 1860.

My dear Judge

My friend, and neighbor Hon. Mr. M. Eaton left for Washington yesterday. I consider him decidedly the most important man in this State at this time for you to know well. He will no doubt be the personal favorite in our district as delegate to the Charleston convention, and our delegates will no doubt go there without instruction. I fear they will not be united although every human effort will be made to make them so by your real friends, some of Mr Eaton's strong personal friends of great influence at the State Convention for the election of delegates are strongly prejudiced in favor of Breckinridge, & their would be less risk in leaving some of our delegates free then to attempt to pass resolutions of instructions.

It is not necessary to say to you that Mr Eaton has always been a straight forward fearless advocate for the cause of Democracy

and is ready again to take the stump so soon as the fight begins whoever may prove to be the choice of the Delegates at the Charleston convention.

I sincerely hope you will have a free & unrestrained talk with him as early after he arrives in Washington as possible, & if he commits himself to our cause I will guarantee his election to the Charleston convention. I write in haste for the mail, & remain
As ever

Faithfully Yours.

Saml. Colt.

D.

Hon S. A. Douglass

U. S. Senate

Washington

D. C.

Samuel Colt
Hartford
Conn
Jan'y 20.
In relation to Mr Eaton

W. D. Lavenport

6

Jan 21st 1880

9841

Dear Sir it is
With great pleasure that
I set myself to
write you a few lines
to let you know that I
am a very poor boy and
would like for you to get
some business for me for
I have heard that you
are kind to all the poor
and from that's grounds I
do write those few lines
with the hope that you
will be so kind as to
find a suitable place
for one that is poor and
unable to make a support
for himself so I will
wait with a sad heart
for an answer from you

from you to see if
the people and the
press have misrepresented
you if they have not
I will meet with a
happy home where I
may live in splendour
the remnants of my
days. Write soon and
direct your letter to
Pella Marion Co Iowa

J. J. Davenport
To

Mrs. G. N. Douglas

J. J. D.

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(Private)

Dubuque, Jan. 21. 1860

Hon. S. A. Douglas

Dr Sir

The impression seems to be general that you cannot rely upon the Minnesota delegation to Charleston.

We want no such doubt about the Iowa Delegation and therefore want your opinion and wishes on the subject—at least in our case.

Can you rely implicitly upon Hon. A. C. Dodge? Knowing that he opposed you in 1852—and his close affiliation with Briggs in Iowa—knowing his tender footedness towards the Administration the propriety of sending him as delegate to Charleston has been seriously doubted by some of your most reliable friends.

Your reply will be as confidential as you may desire and this agency grows out of our strong determination that no mistake shall be made in our Delegation. An Con. is Feb. 22^d

(over)

Excuse me for asking our high
question, How many Southern votes
can you count upon for 1st or 2d
Ballot?

Hoping you will reverse the
liberty I have taken I am

Most Respectfully Yours

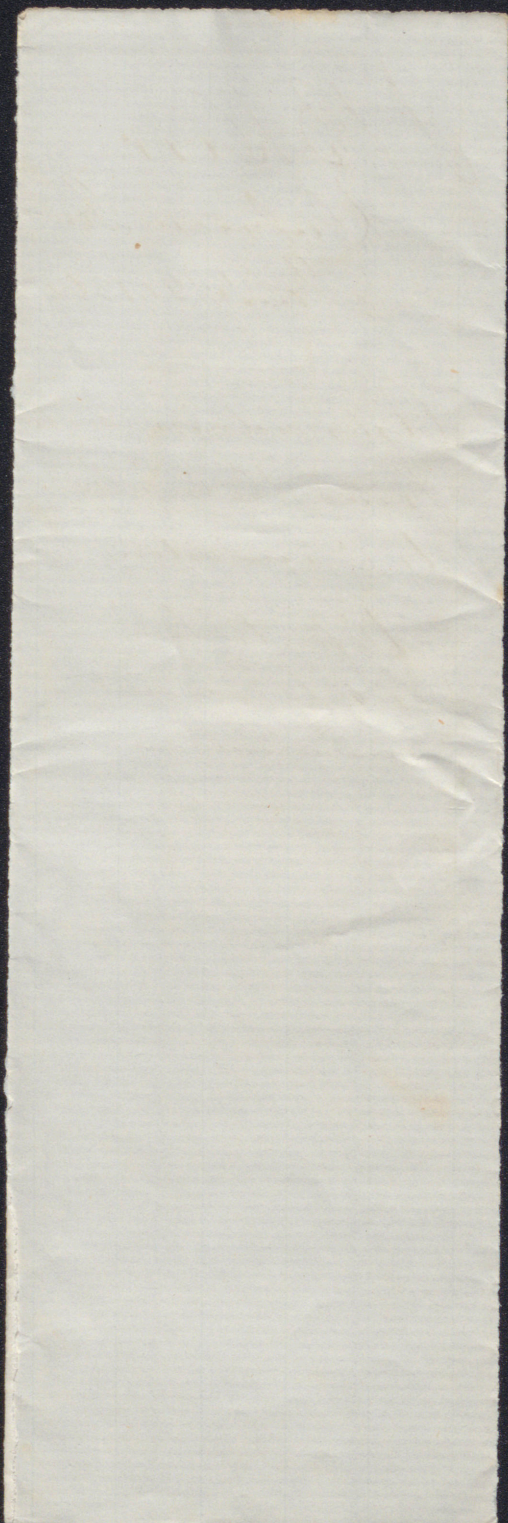
J. P. Corn

J B Horr.
Dubuque, Iowa
Jan'y 21. 1860.

Asks advice as to
Iowa delegation
to Charleston.

Refers to Genl
A C Dodge as
unreliable.

✓



Montpelier Jan 21. 1860

Judge—

I want the fullest report of the Senate proceedings of the 12th. (I think), when the fire eaten "carried on" on you. I want it for the Patriot. I want, further, to put in communication with Senator Pugh, so that he will send me whatever he says on the question of the day.

It would be difficult, Judge, to make you understand how glad your friends, in this region, are to ~~know~~ that you are in your place, again. There may be twenty-five professed democrats in the State that adhere to the sage of Wheatland, & probably half of ~~that~~ number, do so for the sake of the office.

Everybody hopes ~~that~~ you will take good care of your health, & triumph over your enemies, & cheer me so does

Yours most truly

Charles G. Eastman

Wm Stephen A. Douglas
Washington D.C.

C. G. Eastman
Montpelier

Jan'y 20. V^l

your debate

Piley M. Henry Co. Sells.
21 January 1860

9844

Good bail
Piley
Jan 21. Ill
Sells

Your letter of the 15th Dec. last in reply to the one I wrote
about obtaining a patent for a portable fence came to hand in due
time. After I wrote I became aware of your indisposition and that of your
family which was sufficient cause for the delay of your reply. I was also aware
that the most of your time would be required in the business of your office
but having no acquaintance at Washington I was induced to apply to you
as it was but little assistance I wanted. I only wanted a little information
from the patent office occasionally during the progress of action upon my
application appertaining to any similarity of models in the office to the one
I had forwarded I had written to the Commissioner of Patent who supplied
me with the patent Laws and the necessary instructions in the premises
which enabled me to transact my own business with the Commissioner in
every thing except the information hereinbefore described. The business is not yet
fully closed but I have received a notice from the Commissioner that there
is no patentable novelty apparent in my invention inasmuch as my several
methods of construction are more or less ^{by many examples} anticipated in the office.
I have since become satisfied that mine is the best portable fence in the office
in point of simplicity, cheapness, strength, durability and usefulness. But
it would seem from a recent reply from the Commissioner, economy
of construction, and goodness, are not taken into the account but merely
whether there has heretofore been any thing patented bearing any resemblance
under these circumstances a person making application for a patent
fiddle stick with seven heads and ten horns or some such appendage
as would render it different from any which had gone before it would
obtain a patent whether it was good for any thing or not.
However the Commissioner has conducted the business fairly for all any thing.

I can see, but it seems to me if mine is in reality the best fence that there is some reason why it is the best which of course must be something new and useful and therefore patentable — I may hereafter request a rehearing in the premises but I have neither time or inclination to pursue the thing much further. I have already introduced the fence on to my farm and am collecting materials to put up more the ensuing summer. If you are personally engaged in agricultural pursuits I would recommend this fence to your notice. There were several patterns of portable fence on exhibition at the State and United States fairs recently held in this State but they were all more or less defective which in my estimation renders them of little value. This of my own is exclusively my invention and wholly different from any I ever saw or heard of before, till the aforesaid notice from the Commissioner. My own wants on the farm led me into a train of thought and experiments which produced it, and at the time I did not contemplate any advantage from it beyond my own use on the farm but after I had put up some 15 or 20 Rods of it to enclose some stacks it far surpassed my most sanguine expectations for usefulness to enable the farmer to consume his surplus grass along side of his crops instead of having it annually killed by the frost and burned off. I then formed a resolution to make application for a patent and forwarded my specification, drawings and Model for that purpose. As I have heretofore received more or less public documents and patent office reports from you I avail myself of this occasion to return you my thanks. If there are any surplus sets of the published volumes at the Patent office containing the Diagrams of the Models at the office and you can procure and send them to me without inconvenience their reception will place me under increased obligation. I have seen now & then a copy about the country but

would be glad to have them in my own house for reference. It gives me great pleasure to learn that your health is being restored and I cannot as yet but believe that the All-Seeing-Eye has other duties for you to perform in the great drama of our Republic in advance of those in which you are now engaged. When the Delegates formed the constitution of the United States in the final speech of Doct. Franklin in support of it among other things he remarked that "God governs in the affairs of men." I firmly believe that conclusion and that without the continued aid of that Almighty Being in the councils of our nation I believe our exertions to procure it will prove in vain. Let us invoke the aid of that Great Power to neutralize the mischievous agitation now in progress in these councils before it produces a reenactment of the scenes of ancient Rome during its decline and fall. In the words of our Washington "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of His Providential agency." As we advance in the scale of greatness as a nation we deem more and more to invoke this Supernatural agency to confound the mischievous machinations of cunning, ambitious and unprincipled men. I was right glad to see your reply to the interrogatory. Whether you would accept the nomination of the Charleston Convention. A few such replies will serve to convince the win-pullers that we yet have men who cannot be blackballed by antirepublican or inconsistent platforms. I regard this being a slave to conventions and platforms as a more dangerous feature of slavery to the country than the one upon which the changes are being rung so long and loud just now. I often

near people say they will support the nominee of their respective
conventions at all hazards. Now it frequently happens that some
incompetent or a person of antirepublican proclivities is
nominated and under such circumstances I never could allow my
patriotism to be so stretched as to sanction the appointment of
such to office. If Mr. Buchanan should be nominated at the ensuing
Charleston Convention "Suppose ye" that the entire democratic
party would support him "I tell you nay" He would only be
supported by a few favorites and their satellites who have been
liberally fed from the public crib. I entertain more respect for that
party than to believe that even one half would bow the knee to
"Baal" I never was called a democrat yet I have often supported
men of that party because for sooth I considered them better than
those of my own party. — Then ought to be a law passed by
Congress to deprive a member of his office and render him
indignified to a seat in Congress afterwards who shall engage in
any pugilistic exploit or be seen with any deadly weapon on
the floor of Congress or give or except a challenge for a duel
in or out of Congress as long as he holds the office of member
of that body. This would put a stop to such chivalric exploits
~~of the members on the floor at least for the future.~~ Such
deeds as sometimes occur in Congress are a disgrace to any nation
and especially the United States. Even in Turkey they would tie such
chaps up in a sack and duck them in the Bosphorus or a fog
pond. But here they are allowed to go at large with high sounding
words about courage &c. If you would bring the powers of your
office into requisition for the production of such a law you would
do the people of the United States a great favor. Were I a member I
would exert every nerve for such a measure. The Crowned Heads
of Europe call us a Rabble and are looking on to see the deeds of
our own discord dissolve and overthrow the Union.

Hon. J. A. Douglas }

I remain Yours truly
C. Goodsil

Norfolk Ky Jan 20th 1860
Hon S. A. Douglas

Please send me
the principal Speeches made by Pugh
& yourself in the Senate on the Question
of Popular Sovereignty Also Iversons Speech
in the I want you to keep me
thoroughly posted in all the important
Political topics of the day? I believe
you are to day Stronger in Kentucky
than any other man I was one of
the delegates to the Democratic State
Convention which in spite of all we could
do forced the Rice Amendment through
and I confidently assert that it is
odious to a large majority of the Kentucky
Democracy I believe the people of
Ky are for you for President although
a great many of the would be leaders
are against you

I should like
to know in the event of the Charleston Convention
adopting a platform hostile to Popular Sovereignty
whether or not you would permit under
any State of Case your friends to present your name
as a candidate upon the great & ancient Democratic
principle of non intervention & Popular Sovereignty
Such I believe would be the wish of your friends
Should such a deplorable contingency arise An early response
will greatly oblige your sincere friends B L D Guffy

B. S. Guffy
Morgantown
Ky.

Jan'y 21. 1860

Political

Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Streets.
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9845

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Dated *Portland* Jan 21st 18*60*

REC'D, Washington, 18 , o'clock, min. M.

To *Stephen. A. Douglas*

Portland elects delegates
Anti John. Appleton

Chas. B. Morrill
Chairman Sen County
Conn

6/170

B/g

S. Parker
Ashland
Wapella Co
Ohio
Jan. 21.

9846
Ashland Wapella County
Iowa

Jan 21. 1860

Hon S. A. Douglass

Dear Sir

Having formerly (when in Illinois)
received favours from you in
the Land Office also publick
Documents - should be pleased
to have my name on your list
also C. B. Parker - a publick
document occasionally would
be gladly received - our Delegates
are all Black Republicans - so
I want none of their doctrines
The coming Charleston Convention
is looked to with uncommon
Interest - even the "Dunites"
Administration officials - begin
to feel an interest that the

Great North west shall be heard
thence And ^{the} Gallant defender
of "Popular Sovereignty" be
the Standard bearer to lead
the Democratic Hosts to
Certain victory

Yours Truly

J. Parker

Independence July 21/60

Hon J. A. Douglas

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will find
proceedings of the Democratic Party of this (Rush-
-anan County, Iowa) I shall attend the State Con-
-vention, and if practicable the National Conven-
-tion, we will send reliable men, be assured of that
fact, things are looking well, and if the N Convention
nominate you, we will carry this State, mark that!

I will thank you to send me any ~~documents~~
which in your judgement will be of benefit to
us during the coming Campaign

Yours truly & Fraternally
J. Bayard Thomas

J Bayard Thomas
Independence
Iowa.
Jan'y 21. 1860

Enclosure, proceeding
of County Convention

Democratic County Convention.

Pursuant to call, the Democracy met in convention on Saturday afternoon, January 14, at the Court House in Independence, and were organized by calling L. W. Hart, Esq., to the chair. The convention proceeded at once to the choice of delegates to the State Convention at Des Moines, February 22. Messrs J. B. Thomas, D. S. Lee, C. Hedges, R. Conable, jr., John Johnson, and Solomon Swartzell, were chosen delegates, and the members present at the convention were empowered to cast the full vote. The following resolutions were then submitted by Col. Thomas, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we endorse the Cincinnati platform of the Cincinnati National Convention of 1856 as the creed of the Democratic party.

Resolved, That we cordially approve of the platform of the Democratic party as laid down in our State Convention, in June, 1859.

Resolved, That we believe that the people of each organized territory, like the people of the states, have the exclusive right to regulate all their domestic affairs (slavery included) for themselves, and this doctrine we will maintain until it is declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Resolved, That having entire confidence in the patriotism, integrity, and statesmanship of Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, we hereby instruct our delegates to the State Convention to vote for no one as a delegate to the National Convention to be held at Charleston, S. C., in April next, who will not pledge himself to vote for him as the nominee of the Democratic party for President of the United States.

Resolved, That the Democrats of Buchanan county view with inexpressible horror and indignation, the murderous and treasonable conspiracy of John Brown and his confederates, to incite a servile insurrection in the slave holding states, and heartily rejoice that the attempt was promptly suppressed and the majesty of the law vindicated, by inflicting upon the conspirators, after a fair and impartial trial, that just punishment which the enormity of their crimes so richly merited.

Resolved, That the Harper's Ferry outrage was the natural consequence and logical result of the doctrines and teachings of the REPUBLICAN PARTY, as explained and enforced in their platforms, partisan presses, books and pamphlets, and in the speeches of their leaders, in and out of Congress, and for this reason, an honest and law-abiding people should not be satisfied with the disavowal or disapproval by the Republican leaders of John Brown's *acts*, unless they also repudiate the doctrines and teachings which produced those monstrous crimes, and denounce all persons who profess to sympathize with murderers and traitors lamenting their fate and venerating their memory as martyrs who lost their lives in a just and holy cause.

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110 Murray St
New York July 21. 1860

Hon S. A. Douglass

Washington
My dear Sir

You once did me
honor to communicate with me, but of late
I have not had the pleasure of receiving
anything from you - I rejoice your
health is now restored & I trust it
may continue for me in N. Y. mean
to place you in the Presidential
Chair in March 1861 - You have
not the least idea how the people
here think & admire you - you
have many friends -

May I receive a copy of your
next speech Yours Truly

J. N. Thomas

J. H. Thomas
110 Murray St
N. Y.

Jan'y 21.
Asking speeches

28.12



Cleveland Jan 21. 60

Dear Judge:

You will pardon me
for making a single suggestion.

In the exciting scenes & amid
the events now passing at the
national capital, tending to weaken
& endanger the stability of our
government, I beg of you not
to be provoked by brother senators
to lose your temper or the
dignity of your proud position
before the country.

In the great speech indicated or
forthcoming from you (in which
the fire eaters are to be shot at "in
a lump") I beg of you to make
that speech as an important event in
our history as was Webster in

in answer to Robt J. Hayne of S.C.
The Union! It is a glorious theme,
& you know how to speak of it so
as to reach the heart of every
patriot in the land. And in
showing that it is by ^{the} "conciliation"
& the harmony of the democratic
party North & South ^{that all is safe,} you will
produce an epithalamium at
Charleston that will reverberate
through every hill & valley of
this broad land.

Be kind & conciliatory, treating
the unreasonable demands of the
South & the disturbing elements
in the party with more of
sorrow than anger.

A speech of such characteristics
from you now or soon hereafter may
save the party - it may save the Union.

You will pardon me, my good friend,
for making these suggestions of obvious
policy. I know the feeling of the
masses for the great champion
of popular sovereignty. The
principle has been fully discussed
& requires no new argumentation.
The people fully understand the
argument & approve your con-
= clusions. "The Union it must be
preserved", is a text worthy of your
powers. Try it, & it will produce
a groundswell that will make
the old man at the white
house reel like a drunken man.

With kind regards for Mrs
D, I am ever & devotedly

Wm L. Douglass
Wash.

Your friend
H. V. Wilson
Wilson



H. V. Wilson
Cleveland
Jan'y 21. Ohio.
Political

Fernando Wood
Jan'y 21 N. Y.
Visit N. Y.

✓



9849
Mayors Office
New York Jan'y 21 1860

My dear Sir

Do you anticipate
visiting this city soon?
If so please let me know
I oblige

Yours Friend

Fernando Wood
Hon S. A. Douglas //

