

Santa Fe New Mexico
Feb 19th 1860

Hon. S. A. Douglas
U. S. Senate

Sir

It is with great &
sincere gratification that I have seen
you so recovered in health, as to resume
your place before the Country in the
Senate. During all your recent struggles
you have ~~lost~~ true friends out here
looking at all your public acts and
sayings. They know how powerless they
are, ^{to aid you} but their multitude is now the
less intense and constant. Some are
impressed with the opinion that you
are the only animal that can be

announced and started President this
year. The great mail route between this and
Independence has been at some points conquered
by, and held by the Indians, unless large parties
or escorts have been with the mail and this since
Oct. Hence we are in a wretched state as to
getting news of matters and events of the Nation
- from and the States. We get letters by the great
"Overland mail" but papers do not come that way,
unless enveloped as letters and paid as such -
We learn that no speaker was elected the 26th ult.
- but that the democratic prospect was rather bright
- looking. I hear you have lately greatly distin-
- guished yourself in a speech in the Senate &
greatly to the gratification of Southern men
wishing to be your friends. Please send me
your speeches and anything else you can spare
from cares will permit, but to-morrow a
party of four leave here for Washington

The young Democrat lately appointed judge in
judge Bonas ^{various} is of the party.
I have given one, a Mr Hovey, as letter to you &
some other gentlemen. He is my neighbor and a
man well esteemed in the Territory. Gov. Bennett
Secretary Johnson and myself are upon very inti-
-mate and friendly terms and Hovey has been, in
the party, (or rather faction) struggling out here, very
sincere against the Gov, the latter not being
of the other party of which Hovey has been an
active, ^{member} Hovey promises me that he will not
- then do or say any thing derogatory to the
Gov, or his friends, at Washington, so I have
given him letters, which will explain his
general position and standing out here
You are aware Mr. Bitter
and several factions and parties are meeting
at home in Territories. I have escaped
them all until this winter when two

or three "unwarred" sounders, (Americans)
set on foot in the Legislature an exceedingly
malicious attack upon me. Though it was
crushed in the House upon its first appear-
-ance. ^{My} My fidelity, capacity and faith-
-fulness in my official duties were asail-
-ed, I solely a low lying personal attack
but the perpetrators are now withdrawing
under the consequences to themselves. They
sneak in the Courts and make it a pre-
-text to assail judges that will not be "used"
The name of one is Wheaton - the other Ashworth
They and their villainous motives stand expo-
-sed and their vice is a stark one they have
to warn before me

I have many territorial
matters to write, but I fear your great and
constant public cares would not permit
you to read. I am as ever with best
wishes
Wm. Bennett

Kirby Benedict
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Feb^y 19. 1860

Introducing Mr Mosey,
& on matters pertaining
to himself, & others in
New Mexico.

My dear
Mr. H. H. H.
I have the
pleasure to
acknowledge
the receipt
of your
kind letter
of the 10th
inst.



Balt. Feb 19. '60

For Stephen A. Douglass

Dear Sir

our Charleston
meetings come off to morrow
night & we shall rout
the enemy & finish with
the brave - To show the
character of the contest I
enclose you two printed
Slips from my pen - the
Editorial leader aims at
Gov P. F. Thomas the new
Commisisoner of Patents whose
duties are so onerous that
the President has got
Bigler to report an increase
of salary & yet not
arduous enough to keep him

from the Charleston Convention
The worst feature in the
case is that he & his friends
are 'to your friends expressing
friendly proclivities towards
you & yet to your
bitter enemies nothing is
more palpable than his
election to Charleston -
It is enough for me that
he has made his peace
with old Conslanza &
seeks to endorse him in
return for office conferred
by going to Charleston
- Thomas & Givins are on
the adm. ticket for
Charleston, backed by McKean
& Kettwell the last of
whom has been pretending
to your friends that he is

daring nothing, while I can
prove that only a week
ago he told Bright that
we had the left until
he had thrown himself
into the fight & turned
the tide for the Adminis-
tration - These are the
base men we have to fight
with all their tricks & if
we win & you are
victorious, they will
swear they were all Douglas
men. Mark my words! -
The enclosed small slip
shows the only capital
left to these men over & above
their duplicity - they have
a creation on the new police
board & are promising
\$5000 police appointments
when they still will not be able

to realise. 20 - The rest
of the board are impartial
& not partizan -

If we carry the City I will
try & telegraph you by
11 o'clock at night if
the wires are at work
- To show their desperation
they have introduced the
Plugging policy of putting
the Balls in the 14th ward
in the New Market engine
house & those of the 12th
ward, on the opposite
corner, so as to suppress known
public sentiment by brute
force & roudyism. Still I
think we shall sweep over
the City like a tornado. God
grant it & realise my hopes
may is it
Americans } yours truly R. J. Meit

Weekly Dispatch

BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY 18, 1860.

FOR PRESIDENT,
STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS,
 OF ILLINOIS;
 Subject to the Decision of the Charleston
 Convention.

"My best friends know that I have positively and peremptorily refused to have anything to do with the machinery of the conventions in the several States, by which the delegates to the Charleston Convention are to be appointed!"

"They know that I will take no steps to obtain the Charleston nomination; that I will make no sacrifice of principle, no concealment of opinions, no concessions to power for the purpose of getting it."—*S. A. Douglas.*

The Question for the primary meetings to elect Delegates to the Charleston Democratic Convention—Federal office holders in the field.

It certainly is a new feature in the history of the Democratic party, that gentleman holding high federal offices at the pleasure of the President, should aspire to represent the Democratic masses in a National Convention. We know not what may have been done elsewhere, but in this city there is no *precedent* for such *official intervention*. We should think it far better, for all federal officers to stay at home and attend to the duties of their offices, instead of actively canvassing for votes in primary meetings, that they may leave their offices to take care of themselves, while these very enterprising incumbents, are regulating a National Convention to suit their *own views* and disinterested purposes.

We have hitherto considered it bad enough that office-holders, should by combination seek to control primary meetings and we have already expressed the opinion, that the recent misfortunes of the Democratic party in Baltimore, are mainly to be traced to this *official dictation*, but this last development caps the climax of official ambition. It seems as if men who get into public office, at once become imbued with the idea, that all the *honors* as well as the emoluments belong to them. In their own imaginations the people can never get tired of *honoring* and rewarding them, and on they rush to new glory and renown, or to their political graves.

Now, we consider this all wrong, and in the name of true democracy we protest against all official control of *popular* conventions. Has it indeed come to this, that our National Conventions are to swarm with official dependents upon the smiles or frowns of Executive power? Are we to confide the selection of a Presidential candidate to the appointees of the President? If so let us take another step towards despotic power and supplicate the President *himself* rather than his *appointees*, to nominate his successor, that an humbled and disfranchised people may bend their necks to the footstool of power and fawn on the hand which robs them of their dearest rights.

It is reserved for the Presidency of James Buchanan to tolerate such official intervention by his appointees, in the freedom of popular elections. No other President has ever countenanced or sanctioned such conduct, and we hope no other ever will be found so regardless of popular sentiment. We do not believe that "the king can do no wrong," though we daily hear pretended Democrats preaching this doctrine of slavish submission and implicit obedience to the will of Executive power, and we think it anti-Democratic to remain silent when such *indefensible* proceedings are taking place *publicly* before our eyes. If men in Democratic offices violate Democratic usages and Democratic principles, it becomes the duty of every fearless and unbought Democrat, to protest and denounce the attempt at official dictatorship. In this way only can the party be maintained in its primitive purity and freedom, and we claim as free a charter to rebuke the errors or usurpations of Democrats in office, as if we were called on to expose the shortcomings of a Christian professor in his ministration at the altar. We protest against this *new precedent* of official intervention, and we do so in the name of a *free Democracy*. We appeal to the people of this city, where this precedent first appears to make it the *last*, as it now is the *first*, in our history.

We look hopefully to the result of next Monday night, for a becoming rebuke of this bold attempt to send Federal office holders to a National Convention. Should we be disappointed in the popular freedom and intelligence of our down trodden and distracted democracy, we are quite sure that every high-toned and spirited member of the Charleston Convention, will spurn the counsels of Federal office holders who go there accredited by a misguided people as *Delegates* to reflect the feelings and animosities of a decaying and expiring Administration.

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NUMBER 318.

small change, you are about to go away without vouchsafing a word, or even a bow to your involuntary host. In a gentleman of your age, this conduct appears, to say the least, rather flippant. Is the explanation sufficiently clear?"

"I—I—paid for my dinner with——"

"My purse—there—in that coat!"

"I think the gentleman is right, your excellency!" whispered again the majestic stranger's companion.

"Good heavens! Can it be possible!" exclaimed the other, feeling in his pocket with a sort of trembling eagerness.

"My dear sir," said the good-natured journalist, "if you have made a mistake, as is doubtless the fact, there is no harm done—not a particle? I trust you will laugh at it, as do my friends and myself."

During this speech, the stranger had feverishly continued searching his own pockets, and now drew forth his portemonnaie. Taking out two Napoleons, he handed them to the waiter, saying: "You will return to this gentleman the amount of my bill, together with the fee I just bestowed upon you, and keep the rest." Then turning to the journalist, he added, with his most grave and dignified air, "I need hardly assure you, sir, that I am quite overwhelmed by this unaccountable error, and I beg you to accept my sincere excuses. I am the Baron de R., formerly minister plenipotentiary to the German Diet, and this gentleman is my secretary. I am also your very humble servant!" And, bowing with cold politeness, he left the hall, followed by his "secretary."

"Well," said the journalist, after a momentary pause, "what think you of our ex-diplomatist?"

"I think," ventured a punster, "that he probably resigned his post, from a constitutional aversion to a diet."

"I think the baron's manner fully proved how shocked he felt at having been capable of such a blunder," remarked another.

"I think," observed a third, who is both an author and a lawyer of talent—"I think the baron and his companion are *chevaliers d'industrie*, thoroughly accomplished in their profession."

And the sequel proved the last speaker to have judged rightly; for, three days afterwards, both the "baron" and his "secretary" appeared before the tribunal of Paris correctional police, on a charge of picking pockets, which charge was fully established, and the two rascals are now trying the *table d'hôte* of a city prison!

The Origin of Cigars.

The cigar, though more delicately manufactured, is essentially the same as that smoked by the red man when first visited by Columbus. We may here describe an Indian mode of tobacco-taking, which is evidently the origin of the cigar. It is told by Lionel Wafer, in his account of his "Travels in the Isthmus of Darien in 1699." He says that when the tobacco-leaves are properly dried and cured, the natives "laying two or three leaves upon one another, they roll up all together sideways in a long roll, yet leaving a little hollow. Round this roll other leaves one after another, in the same manner, but close and hard, till the roll is as big as a one's fist, and two or three feet in length. Their way of smoking when they are in company together is thus: A boy lights one end of a roll, and burns it to a coal, wetting the part next to it to keep it from wasting too fast. The end so lighted, he puts into his mouth and blows the smoke through the whole length of the roll into the face of every one of the company or council, though there be two or three hundred of them. Then they, sitting in their usual posture upon forms, make their hands, held together, a kind of funnel round their mouths and noses; into this they receive the smoke as it is blown upon them, snuffing it up greedily and strongly, as long as ever they are able to hold their breath, and seeming to bless themselves, as it were, with the refreshment it gives them."

Lieutenant Page, who commanded the American expedition to La Plata, speaks of the universal custom of smoking in Paraguay, and inviting visitors to join. The servants, as a matter of routine, bring in a "small brass vessel, containing a few coals of fire, and a plate of cigars. This last hospitality is offered in every house, however humble its pretensions in other respects: and all men, women, and children, delicate and refined girls, and young masters who would not with us be promoted to the dignity of pantaloons—smoke with a gravity and *gusto* that is irresistibly ludicrous to a foreigner. My son sometimes accompanied me in these visits, and was always greatly embarrassed by the pressing offer of cigars. I made his excuse by saying, 'Smoking is a practice we consider injurious to children.' 'Si, Senor,' the Paraguayan would reply, 'with all other tobacco, but not that of Paraguay.' With both sexes tobacco is a constant passion."

Men of Influence.

Whenever we encounter a man who boasts about his influence, we set him down as a man of little or no influence at all. Such men usu-

The Police Appointments and the Charleston Convention. 10,410-3

The miserable pretensions of certain unscrupulous politicians, that they can secure police appointments to thousands of applicants, if they will work for the *Hunker ticket* on next Monday night, ought to be fully exposed and put to rest by the resolutions of the Police board just published. We understand that these resolutions were designed to warn credulous people, that the Police board cannot be used as a clique instrument to promote the views of any wing of the democratic party, whatever men may represent to the contrary. We therefore warn men who want Police appointments, to keep out of the approaching fight and not be gulled by promised patronage, through the supposed political or clique influence of any member of that board—a warning in time may save the pains of many who would otherwise be fooled.

This we know and time will confirm our statement.

...his hand into the side pocket of a particular coat, drawing forth with the same quiet air of dignity which had characterised his whole proceedings, a large pocket-book of dark brown leather—belonging to one of the journalists seated at the other table! The latter now became sufficiently interested in the aristocratic stranger's doings to watch him with constantly augmenting curiosity. The elderly gentleman, seemingly quite unconscious of his mistake, and without particularly examining the portemonnaie in his hand, opened the steel clasp, extracted from within two gold Napoleons, carelessly wrapped them in the bill, and again called the garcon. While waiting for his change, the gentleman reseated himself, composedly opened the evening paper and scanned the latest intelligence—which, in Paris, means the news of the day before yesterday. The waiter presently returns with a small sum in silver, remains of the two Napoleons after the subtraction of the bill, whereupon the dignified stranger left a franc on the table, as the servant's fee, and, without giving himself the trouble to count the rest, negligently dropped it into the dark brown portemonnaie, which he then replaced in the pocket from which it had been taken.

Meantime the journalist had whispered to his companions—"That's my coat and my money?" which fixed the attention of the whole party now on the point of leaving

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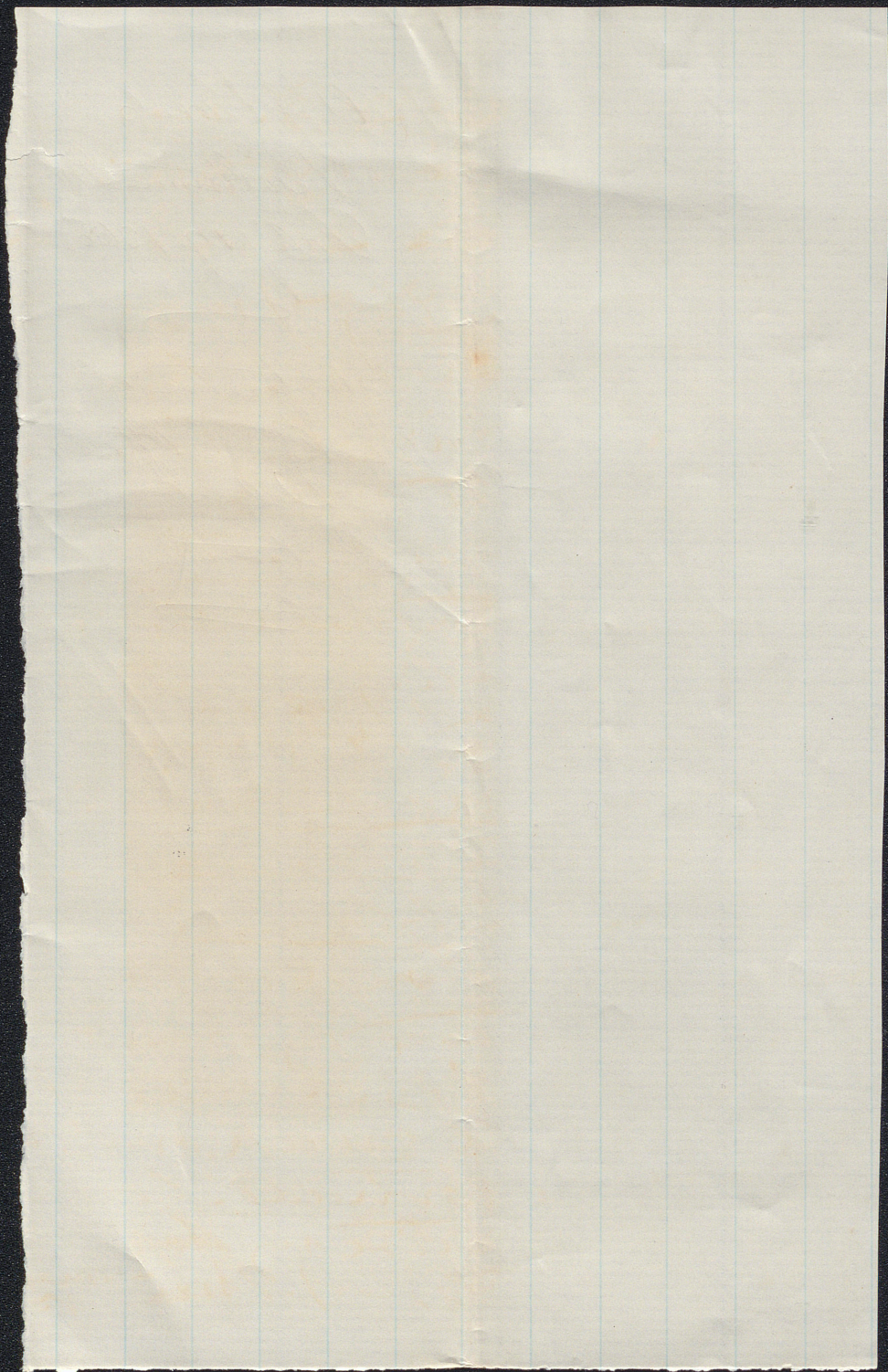
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Robt J Brents
Baltimore. Md
Feby 19. 1860.

Interference of
Buchanan Officers
in Delegate
Election



New Orleans, July 19th 1860.

My dear Sir,

The result of the primary election in this city you will have learned ere this, as I wrote to Mr Miles Taylor on the following morning. It was not satisfactory, nevertheless, had they not broken up the poll in the 4th district, Lafayette, the majority in the entire city for the corruption ticket would have been only one vote in the delegation. They have now called a new election in the 4th for Thursday evening next, 22nd inst, where our friends will do the best they can against enormous combinations and money without stint. The illness of Mr Maginnis at this time has been a great misfortune to us, for

have been able to leave his home.
I am persuaded we shall have
carried an undivided delegation
on the entire American part
of the city; below Canal St. other
influences than Simon pre-
vail.

With the exception of Ascension,
(Dr. Cottman's) parish, I have not
heard how the interior of the state
is likely to do, but in my in-
tercourse & correspondence with
prominent friends I have advised
a less decided course than they
in the commencement of the cam-
paign deemed it prudent to urge.

Finding that in certain quarters
our friends had going hopes of suc-
cess if left to conduct their cam-
paign independently, I
concurred with them in the propriety

of not preferring the claims of any
presidential candidate exclusively,
but profess themselves willing to
take any man who will accept
the Cincinnati platform as a
candidate for the presidency, who
may be nominated at Charleston.

At Baton Rouge, where the Mc-
Nuttan influence is considerable,
our friends were willing so as to de-
feat this power, to have it under-
stood that Breckinridge would
be acceptable to them, and at
other points equal amenability
to local propositions will be
shown by our friends. Here how-
ever where your strength with
the people is acknowledged, and
cannot be questioned, the tickets
for the primary election printed
by us I had headed with the words
"Harris for Douglas" so that no
doubt should be expressed as to the

candidate who was the first
choice of the people for the Chief
Magistracy.

I am not as I before have written
you, very sanguine of this
state, but if an unpledged
delegation be selected by the
convention at large, which I
shall endeavor to have done
if the opposition to Slidell is in
sufficient strength therein,
and not by districts, I am confi-
dent you will in that event get
the vote of this state. Slidell,
however, is not a man to die easy,
he has a great stake at issue
and he has attached to him by the
strangest of all ties, a community
of corruption, a set of the most
unprincipled villains & traitors.
The federal & state governments
are at his disposal for his pur-
poses and thus handicapped, he &

his satellites, in a state so circumstanced, as this is, are truly formidable.

The article enclosing herewith appeared yesterday evening, and again this morning, to secure it the advantage of an evening cure upon the river, a very large edition going on Saturdays into the country, as well as this morning.

It explains the position we deem it most judicious to fill.

Letman's delegation will be informed, vote for you throughout, and so well, I am satisfied, the delegations of some other parishes with our friends from this city; but they will not press for any expression of preference, or do any thing to embarrass those whose positions are more delicate.

We shall stand as a corps of observation waiting for the moment to strike, and always prepared to make the blow tell. It seems true

similar tactics at Charleston
might be prudently & advantage-
ously put in requisition. Your
opponents have tasted growing
they cannot maintain any
if their propositions are decisively
laid down without discussion or
discussion, they must either retire
from the Convention, as pledged,
or acquiesce in the will of the major-
ity. The two thirds rule ought
to be resolutely and this will be easy
of accomplishment should the ultra
delegations of Mississippi & Alabama
withdraw.

Taylor's letter has done us
immense good with all moderate
and reasonable men, and the
disposition to opposition to you
to indifference to your success
are quite fast giving place to
a very excellent disposition in
your favor. Several violent

opponents of your territorial
views, men of character and po-
sition who heretofore have been
very long in their depreciation
of your election, now write me
that they are changed in opinion
and ready & willing to support
you. These encouraging indications
will produce good fruits in this
and other South Western States &
I am daily becoming more con-
fident that after the second or
third ballots you will have a ma-
jority of the slave holding states.

I am gaining strength daily but of
course in proportion to your en-
creasing popularity with the peo-
ple will be the malignancy of the
position of the minorities of the
administration. Should there be
any papers or documents that may
be useful to me editorially I
wish they would be sent to my
own address rather than the

the Miss of the June Delta
where among the heap, they
may remain unknown and
lost to me.

I am in hopes there will be
developments of federal corrup-
tion in connection with elections
in the different states, that
will open the eyes of the public.

Minut congressional reports of
all transactions of this kind
would be useful here.

Hoping affairs may continue
to improve until your com-
munication & election are secured

I am, my dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours

Wm. Kennedy

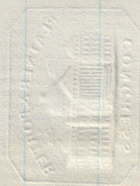
Wm. S. A. Douglas
Washington
D.C.

10,411-3



The Kennedy
New Orleans
Feb'y 19. 1860

New Orleans &
Louisiana Politics



New Orleans

February 19th - 1860

Honoured Sir

I Feel Proud to learn that your health has improved so there is reasonable hope that you will live to occupy the white house in '61 I feel that under your sound & firm administration that this great abolition question will die & cease & quietness restored to the nation and more I hope you will ever be able to break down the corrupt walls of Buchananism & let pure Democracy and more and in this Republic I am & ever has been a Pure Jeffersonian Democrat not a despot I do pray god for your ^{self} health to fill the chair to the greatest honour in the universe & that in my opinion is the President of this nation you will recollect I am the old veteran who had too interviews with you at the St Charles in your room to congratulate you on your triumph to the senate over the base intrigues of Buchanan & you had

Prance at that time for you suck up
to Presidency & you still have it
I hope there will be conservative
men enough to give you the nomination at
the Charleston Convention it will not
only be popular through the South
to be active for the Pacific Railroad
but will be rendering a great
Public good to the whole community
you must excuse my Freedom
and bad letter as age renders
me incapable of writing good for
occasion

Servant
by candle light
Wm
A. L. Lea

Stephen A. Douglas

you can ask Thos G. Davidson
& Paris children who I am &
they will say to you I am a nuff
old customer

Wm
S. A. D.

Alexander Lea

Alexander Lea
New Orleans, La.

Feb 9th 1860

Political & good wishes.

Hon
J. A. D. Weller
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Findlay, Ohio, Feb'y 19th, 1860.
 Hon. S. A. Douglas,
 U. S. Senator:

Dr. Sir - Knowing
 that your time is very much occupied I
 by you will pardon me for trespassing on
 your patience so much as to ask an answer
 to the following enquiry. First let me state
 that Silas Hobbs, of the state of Maryland
 who died some time since in the state of Kentucky
 left property known as the "Hobbs farm," or "Hobbs
estate" or "Hobbs Tavern" or some such name, to
 William Hobbs late of Jacksonville, Illinois.
 I have been informed that you investigated
 this matter for the said Wm Hobbs two or three
 years ago. All I wish to know is where
 this property is located in Maryland and the
 probable value thereof, and where the record
 can be found.

Very Respectfully your
 Obedt Servt

W. Mungen

To Hon S. A. Douglass, U. S. S. }
 at Washington D C }

W Minger
Findley, Ohio
Feb'y 19. 1860.

Wants to know
of some property
in Maryland

Ans Feb: 26/60

Have no
knowledge of
the subject
