

Washington, March 22 - 1848-

Friend Linder:

Yours of the 15th is just received, as was a day or two ago, one from Dunbar on the same subject. Although I address this to you alone, I intend it for you Dunbar, and Bishop, and wish you to show it to them. In Dunbar's letter, and in Bishop's paper, it is assumed that Mr. Lottens's position on the war is correct. Well, so I think. I mean wherein is my position different from his? Has he ever approved the President's conduct in the beginning of the war, or his mode or objects in promoting it? Never. He condemns both. True, he votes supplies, and so do I. What, then, is the difference, except that he is a great man and I am a small one?

Towards the close of your letter you ask three questions, the first of which is "Would it not have been just as easy to have elected Genl. Taylor without opposing the war as by opposing it?" I answer, I suppose it would, if ^{we} could do neither - could be silent on the question; but the Loco-focos here will not let the whigs be silent.

Their very first act in congress was to present a preamble declaring that war existed by the act of Mexico, and the whigs were obliged to vote on it - and this policy is followed up by them, so that they are compelled to speak and their only option is, whether they will, when they do speak, tell the truth, or tell a foul, villainous, and bloody falsehood - But, while on this point, I protest against your calling the condemnation of

London, March 22 1847

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. in relation to the proposed publication of a new edition of the "Principles of Political Economy" by Adam Smith. I am very glad to hear that you are interested in this work, and I am sure that it will be a valuable addition to the literature of the subject. I have already written to the publishers, Messrs. Longman, Brown, Green & Co., and have asked them to publish the work. I have also written to you, and have asked you to write to the publishers, and to ask them to publish the work. I am sure that you will be very glad to do this, and I am sure that the work will be a valuable addition to the literature of the subject. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. Thompson

Polk. "opposing the war". In thus assuming that all must
be opposed ^{to the war}, even though they vote supplies, who do not not
maim Polk, with due deference I say I think you fall
into one of the artfully set traps of Isoscorism-

Your next question is "And suppose we could succeed
in proving it a wicked and unconstitutional war, do
we not thereby strip Taylor and Scott of more than
half their laurels?" Whether it would so strip them
is not matter of demonstration, but of opinion only; and
my opinion is that it would not; but as your opinion
seems to be different, let us call in some others as em-
pire. There are in this U. S. some more than forty members
who support Genl Taylor for the Presidency, every one of whom
has voted that the war was "unnecessarily and constitu-
tionally commenced by the President" every one of whom has
spoken to the same effect, who has spoken at all, and
not one of whom supposes he thereby strips Genl. of any
laurels. - More than this; two of them, Col. Vassell and
Major Gaines, themselves fought in Mexico; and yet they
vote and speak just as the rest of us do, without
ever dreaming that they "strip" themselves of any
laurels. - There may be others, but Capt Bishop is the
only intelligent whig who has been to Mexico, that I have
heard of taking different ground.

Your third question is "And have we as a party, ever
gained any thing by falling in company with abolitionists?"

Yes. We gained our only national victory by falling in
company with them in the election of Genl. Harrison -
Not that we fell into abolition doctrines, but that we

took up a man whose position induced them to join as
in his election - But this question is not so signifi-
cant as a question, as it is as a charge of abolitionism
against those who have chosen to speak their minds against
the President - As you and I perhaps would again differ
as to the justice of this charge, let us once more
call in our umpire - There are in this U. R. whigs
from the slave states as follows: one from Louisiana, one from
Mississippi, one from Florida, two from Alabama, four
from Georgia, five from Tennessee, six from Kentucky, six
from North Carolina, six from Virginia, four from Maryland
and one from Delaware, making thirtyseven in all, and all
slave-holders, every one of whom votes the commencement of
the war "unnecessary and unconstitutional" and so
feels subject to your charge of abolitionism! -

En passant there are all Taylor men, except one in Tennes-
see in Ky, one in N.C. and one in Va. Besides which
we have one in Ills. - two in La, three in Ohio, five in
Penn. - four in N.J. and one in Iowa - While this is less
than half the whigs of the U. R. it is three times as
great as the strength of any other one candidate.

You are mistaken in your impression that
any one has communicated expressions of yours and
Bishops to me. - In my letter to Durbin, I only
spoke from the impression made by seeing in the paper
that you and he were, "in the degree, though not in the
extreme" on the same tack with Satchell -

Yours as ever
A. Lincoln

