

Washington Dec. 16th 1851.

Friend Barrett

I have directed the publisher to send you the Daily Globe from the beginning to the close of the session. If there be any failure, let me know & I will see it mended.

I had just started from the door of Gadsh's stable to attend the Whig Caucus when I was invited to return by a call from my old Teacher, Prof. Fowler. I had no forewarning of any resolution to be offered, and supposing there was to be a mere complimentary nomination to be made I did not hasten. When I reached the Capitol the Caucus was adjourning: the session was a very short one. I cannot therefore speak from personal observation. The more general impression is that there

were from 50 to 60 persons present. Some
say from 40 to 50. I have not seen any
one who counted them. Judge Shepard says
he was there, but did not vote either
way. Mr. ^{Minor} was there, with Mr. St. but I do
not know how he voted, if at all. Mr.
Barthol was in the Democratic caucus & is
said to have supported Boyd, Forys & so there
as he did in the Election. The "Courier" said
that Barthol & Plantou came on to Congress
to act in behalf of the friends of freedom.
Are we to understand that they acted under
instructions when they voted for Boyd & Forys?

After reading your article on presidential
Candidates, Webster, Clay, Fillmore & Scott, - as our
house was not in session, - I went into the
Supreme Court where I spend much of my
leisure time. I was listening to the arguments of
Senator Underwood, when the door opened and
I heard behind me a slow, soft & faltering
step. I looked up & saw the tall & wasted
form of Samy Clay. Moving slowly to the open
area of the bar, & receiving the dignified & feeling
salutation of the Bench, he sat down and it

seemed as if a new and strong Magnet
had been thrown into the circle, attracting
every thing around. The cause in hands was
one which he had originally brought there. He
appeared to me like an old war-horse who had
"snuffed the battle afar off," and come in to
linger round the field of his former glory. After
a few moments he retired to the back part of the
room to recline on one of the lounges. Altho
it might have been a scene for a painter, I am
glad no painter was there, for I do not
wish to see, on canvass, the countenance of
Samy Clay as I saw it there, pale & ghastly,
with his long grey locks falling as to hide
his sunken cheeks. It is said that he has a
"hacking Cough." It does not seem to me any
thing like a "hacking Cough", when the lungs re-
sist, quickly & spitefully, any irritation of their
sensitive surface. It seems much more like
a cough following the disease & disorganization
of the substance of those vital organs, the breaking
up of the foundations of the gross deep. If there
be not some marvellous, miraculous recovering
power in that shattered frame, the must, - in

Sadness & sorrow we must - give up any
hope of having Henry Clay for our President,
or even our Candidate for President.

Truly Yours
J. Meacham

Hon. J. Meacham
Dec. 16, 1854

Refer to H. Clay