Springfield, Jan'y. 14-1846.

Friend James:

Yours of the 10th was not received until this morning- I can not but be pleased with its contents- I saw Henry's communication in your paper, as also your editorial remarks, neither of which, in my opinion, was in any way misjudged- both quite the thing- I think just as you do concerning the dictation of the course of the Altar paper, and also concerning its utter harmlessness-

As to the proposition to hold the convention at Petersburg, I will at once tell you all I know, and all I feel- A good friend of ours there, John Bennett, wrote me that he thought it would do good with the whigs of Menard, to see a respectable convention conducted in good style- They are a little disinclined, to adopt the convention system; & Bennett thinks some of their prejudices would be done away by their having the convention amongst them- At his request, therefore I had the little paragraph put in the Journal- This is all I know- Now, as to what I feel- I feel a desire that they of Petersburg should be gratified, if it can be done without a sacrifice of the wishes of others, and without detriment to the cause- nothing more- I can gain nothing in

the contest by having it there — I showed your letter to Stuart, and he thinks there is something in your suggestion of holding it at your town — I should be pleased if I could concur with you in the hope that my name would be the only one presented to the convention, but I can not — Hardin is a man of desparate energy and perseverance, and one that never backs out, and, I fear, to think otherwise, is to be deceived in the character of our adversary —

I would rejoice to be spared the labour of a contest; but "being in" I shall go it thoroughly, and to the bottom — As to my being able to make a break in the lower counties, I tell you that I can possibly get Cass, but I do not think I will — Morgan & Scott are beyond my reach — Menard is safe to me — Mason — neck and neck — Logan is mine — To make the matter sure, your entire Senatorial District must be secured — Of this I suppose Tazewell is safe; and I have much done in both the other counties — In Woodford I have Davenport, Simms, Willard, Bracken, Perry Travis, Dr. Hazzard, and the Clarks & some others all specially committed — At Lacon, in Marshall the very most active friend I have in the District (If I except yourself) is at work — Through him I have procured their names and written to three or four of

the most active whigs in each precinct of the county—
Still I wish you all in Tazewell, to keep your
eyes continually on Woodford and Marshall—
Let no opportunity of making a mark escape—
When they shall be safe, all will be safe—Think.

The Beardstown paper is entirely in the hands of my
friends—The editor is a whig and personally dislikes
Hardin—When this Supreme court shall adjourn
(which it is thought will be about the 15th of
February) it is my intention to take a quiet
trip through the towns and neighborhoods of
Logan county, Delavan, Tremont, and on to
through the upper counties—Don't speak of this,
or let it release any of your vigilance—
When I shall reach Tremont, we will talk
over every thing at large—

Yours truly
A. Lincoln