

Washington April 15, 1849

Dear Sir

Excuse me for again troubling you with any another letter - but believing it to be my duty I take the responsibility. Since my last letter things have come to my knowledge which convince me almost beyond a doubt that the strongest efforts are making to make Butterfield the Commissioner. I do know positively that he has been telegraphing Warren on the subject. I do know that a letter has been forced out of Mr. Clay in his favor. I do know that Cowen & Johnson are his friends and I do know that a strong eastern Eastern influence is at work for him and I further know that Lyle Smith was telegraphed to come on here, and that he is here urging his appointment in every conceivable shape and that it is with Butterfield's knowledge and solicitation that he does it and that I have good reasons for believing that Truman Smith and Dan Webster are backing Butterfield. Do not call me an alarmist - but Sir, I ask you if it does not look squally. Things are mad here by personal importance. And allow me to inform you, that in my humble opinion, unless something is done by you - you, Sir, the aforesaid Butterfield will succeed. The reason why I emphasise the word you is, because you possess an influence here. Baker has little, or no influence, and the wind has been taken out of his sails, until they flop.

You may doubt me, but I believe I am right in my predictions.— Butterfield, you know was asking to be solicitor, that place, I am credibly informed is to be given to a man in Alabama. I know that Butterfield told Judge Young that he was not after his place, but that he was anxious for him to remain — now why, this double dealing — you know too, that he opposed Williams, and ^{that} he previously disavowed any intention to do so. I for one, and I know that it is the ^{desire} choice of the Whigs, that you should be the man — and I must confess I feel much solicitude in your behalf — I fear that friend Edwards stands no chance — Morrison is out of the question, ~~I think~~, you, I think, can ~~feel~~ foil Mr. B.

If you intend to make an effort, I should like to be apprised of it. You can confide in me, having ^{I ask} ~~I hope~~ that what I here write will be considered confidential — for should Butterfield be the Commissioner, it I shall, of course, treat his mercy, nothing however exists between us but friendship, but individually, I prefer some one else — and I do know that he would not be the choice of the Whigs of Illinois. Baker has, from cause, injured himself, and has no influence, I regret this very much.

Bona will be Marshall — Prentiss's commission has been annulled on account of being behind with the Government — I could inform you of certain rumors about places of appointments &c but will decline, as it may not be interesting

Yours in haste
W. M. Lucas

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Hon. Abram Lincoln

Springfield
Illinois

