

Elgin Dec 17th 1854



Wm A Lincoln

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 5th inst was recd about a week after it was written but I have not been able to find leisure to reply to it sooner.

Like yourself "I very much desire that some good Anti-Nebraska man may be elected to the U. S. Senate." But the term "Anti-Nebraska," in the present condition of affairs is not sufficiently expressive of what we wish to know now of the political position of a candidate for that important position. So far as relates to the atrocious wrong, the repeal of the Missouri compromise, the act has been perpetrated, and as the Senate is at present constituted and likely to remain, cannot be re-enacted till both Kansas & Nebraska will be asking admission as States. The first question of importance then that presents its self to us is. how shall we undo the wrong that has already been perpetrated and guard against the recurrence of similar acts in the future. Shall we compromise again and allow Kansas to come in as a slave state that Nebraska

may come in free; Give up a part of what
is clearly our own for the sake of being allow-
-ed to retain the balance; What guarantee
shall we have that we shall not ultimately
have to give up the remainder?

In all this compromising and Men's
saving the demands of the slave interest
~~have never~~ been satisfied, agitation quelled
or harmony promoted, but as often as
the interests of free labor have been compromised
and its friends retreated they have been
followed by a "fire in the rear" until they
are brought to a stand and compelled
to turn round and ask what more is
wanted, and when further demands are
made they must again "Compromise,"
by giving all that is demanded and
receiving nothing or comparatively nothing
in return.

For Myself I am sick
of all this temporising policy. I would like
to have the man I support for Senator
willing to give the Slave States all their
just rights, leave slavery to be managed
by the States in which it exists in their
own way, but I would have the General
Government absolute from all participation
in sustaining or extending it and in

My judgment there will never be a more favorable time than the present to take a stand against the admission of any more slave States and thus let the question be settled now and forever whether slavery shall be restricted to its present limits, or whether by the annexation of Cuba, by appropriating one own territory ^{consistently} of, consecrated to freedom, & by the ^{acquisition} of Mexico or other territory extend the area of slavery indefinitely until it obtains a preponderating influence in the councils of the Nation. And since Douglas and his abettors in making their bids for the presidency have volunteered to authorize compromises I hope the fugitive slave law if not wholly repealed may be so modified as to divest it of its most arbitrary and odious features, particularly that which requires individuals not officers of the law, to aid in the capture of fugitive slaves, under severe penalties when called upon to do so.

I fully appreciate the difficulties to which you allude growing out of

Do you, and have been able to learn the expression of the
majority of Anti-Mbraska men in this part of the state is
the discordant elements of which the
Anti-Mbraska Majority in the Legislature
is composed. Entertaining my own opinions
freely I can yet see that much of
conciliation & conversion will be requisite
to succeed in an election and so much
conversion as is necessary to effect the
object I am prepared to make provided
it does not compromise the measure on
which I had supposed the majority
were united. viz. the restoration of the
Missouri compromise line or measures
equivalent thereto

As to yourself personally
from the slight acquaintance we have
had and a knowledge of your course
while in Congress I have entertained so
favorable an opinion on your integrity and
firmness that I am free to say that my
influences are in your favor yet I do not
I do not wish to be considered as fully
committed until I have an opportunity to
learn more fully the views of the different
candidates. There are some that
express a preference for Bates for the reason
that Douglass & Co. made so great an
effort to defeat "the damned little pup," but