

(Confidential)

[Jan.]

Springfield, Dec: 1-1855

Hon: C. B. Washburn.

My dear Sir:

I telegraphed you as to the organization of the two houses - T. J. Turner, elected Speaker 40 to 24 - House not full - Dr. Richardson of Schuyler was his opponent - Anti-Nebraska also elected all the other ~~members~~ officers of the H. R. - In the Senate, Anti-Nebraska elected George T. Brown, of the Allen County, Secretary, and Dr. Ray of the Galena Jeffersonian, one of the Clerks - In fact they elected all the officers; but some of them were Nebraska men elected over the regular Nebraska nominees, It is said that by this, they get one or two Nebraska Senators to go for lumping on the Senatorial election - I can not vouch for this - As to the Senatorial election I think very little now is known than was before the meeting of the Legislature - Besides the ten or a dozen, on our side, who are willing to be known as seceders, I think there are fifty secretly watching for a chance - I do not know that it is much advantaged to have the largest number of votes at the

start. If I did know this to be an advantage
I should feel better, for I can not avoid
but I have now committed than any other
one man. Your District comes up tolerably
well for me, but not unanimously by any
~~all~~ means - George Gage is for me, as you know,
J. W. Adams is not committed to, but I think will
be for me - Mrs. Talbot will not be for
me as a first choice - Dr. Little and Mrs.
Sargent are openly for me - Prof. Pinckney is
for me, but wishes to be quiet - Dr. Whitney writes
me that Rev. Mr. Lawrence will be for me,
and his manner to me so indicates, but he
has not spoken it out - Mr. Swan, I have
some slight hopes of - Turner says he is not
committed, and I shall get him whenever I
can make it appear to be his interest to go
for me - Dr. Symon and old Mr. Diggins
will never go for me as a first choice -
Mr. P. Sweet is here as a candidate, and I
understand he claims that he has 22 members
committed to him - I think some part of his
estimate must be based on insufficient evi-
dence, as I can not well see when they are
to be found, and as I can learn the names
of one only - Day of La Salle - Still, it may
be so - There are now about 22 Anti-Slavery
members who are not committed to me -

Tell Norton that Mr Strunk and Mr Wheeler
 come out plump for me; and for which I
 thank him - Judge Parks I have decided
 hopes for; but he says he is not committed.
 I understand myself as having 211 committed; and
 I do not think any other one near ten -
 may be over the top - The whole Legislature
 stands, Senate - A. N. 13 N. 12 -

U. R. " 44 " 31 -

57 43
43

14 may - All here, but

Pring, of St. Clair -

Our special election here is
 plain enough when understood - Our adversary
 pretended to be running no candidate, secretly
 notified all their men to our hands, and,
 favoured by a very rainy day got a complete
 snap judgement on us - In Nov^r Simpson
 gave Yates 216^{votes} - On the rainy day she
 gave our man only 984 - leaving him 82
 votes behind - After all, the result is
 not of the least consequence - The Locos
 kept up a great chattering over it till the
 organization of the U. R. since which they all
 seem to have forgotten it -

G's letter to S. I think has not been received
 Ask him if he sent it - Yours as ever
 A. Lincoln -

J. J. Jencks

Dec 5th

1854.

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]