

Springfield, Ill. Feb 21. 1855

Hon: W. H. Henderson;

My dear Sir;

Your letter of the 4th cover-
ing a lot of old deeds was received ab-
two days ago - Milton says he has the ones
but can not lay his hand upon it easily,
and can not take time to make a thorough
search, until he shall have grown to &
returner from Lehigh - So I lay the papers
by, and wait -

The election is over, the Session is ended,
and I am ~~not~~ Senator. I have to content
myself with the honor of having been
the first choice of a large majority of the
fifty members who finally made the
election. My larger number of friends had
to surrender to Sumner's smaller number,
in order to prevent the election of Bratter,
which would have been a Douglas victory.
I started with 44 votes & J. with 5 - It
was rather hard for the 44 to have to sur-
render to the 5. and a less good humored
man than I, perhaps would not have con-
sented to it - and it would not have
been done without my consent - I could

not, however, let the whole political result
go to ruin, on a point merely personal to
myself—

Your son, kindly and firmly stood by me
from first to last, and for which he has
my everlasting gratitude—

Your friend & ours
A. Lincoln