

Springfield, Jan^y 16. 1856

C. Hoyt, Esq

My dear Sir:

Our case is decided against us. The decision was announced this morning. Very sorry; but there is no help. The history of the case, since it came here, is this. On Friday morning last, Mr. Joy filed his paper, and entered his motion for a mandamus, and urged me to take up the motion as soon as possible. I already had the points and authorities sent me by you, and by Mr. Goodrich, but had not studied them. I began preparing as fast as possible. The evening of the same day I was again urged to take up the case.

I refused, on the ground
that I was not ready; and
on which plea I also got
off over Saturday. But on
Monday (the 14th) I had to
go into it. We occupied
the whole day, I using the
larger part. I made every
point, and used every author-
ity sent me by yourself &
by Mr Goodrich; and in
addition, all the points I
could think of, and all the
authorities I could find my-
self. I have B. Bar. 70. and
made all out of it that I
could. When I closed the
argument on my part, a large
package was handed me,
which proved to be the Plat
you sent me. The Court re-
ceived it of me, but it was

not different from the Plat
already in the record—

I do not think I could ever
have argued the case better
than I did— I did nothing
else, but prepare to argue,
and argue, this case, from
Friday morning till Monday
evening—

Very sorry for the result,
but I do not think it
could have been prevented.

Your friend as ever
A. Lincoln.

A Lincoln :

Jan'y 18/56