

Washington D.C.

June 3rd 1858.

Friend Lincoln



Your kind letter came duly to hand and be assured it gratified me much to find that you still retained a lively recollection of one who is proud to be numbered ^{as} one of your old and undeviating friends, - and allow me to add, will never feel satisfied until the State of Illinois, or the head of the nation calls upon you to fill some one of her most honored positions. This is now, and has been for many years, my most ardent desire - and I firmly believe that the fulfillment of my hopes is rapidly approaching its consummation.

I suppose, that you are fully aware that your name is frequently spoken of in this city, during the last few months - if you are not I can tell you such is the fact, and strange to say, little is said but either comes to my ear, or I am a party to the conversation.

Within the past few days I have been called aside, first by Dick Thompson, and secondly by A. H. Sargeant (who appears to be figuring largely, tho' privately, ^{recognized} who is the, feeler of certain interests and partisans, who meet in conclave in his ~~rooms~~ rooms, prepared for that business.) (over

These objects seemed to be the same. Thompson was eloquent, and said he "spoke from the book".

Now for their purpose. - It is this, to get Lincoln to hold off and let Douglas be re-elected, as by that means it would the more effectually secure the grand triumph over Buckravianism in '60. He told me how it would be done; after he had got through, I shook my head. "Why," said T. "I think as much of Lincoln as you do. I would trust my honor with him &c, besides he must be Secretary of the Interior." I told him that his friends would not consent to any such thing, in my opinion. He said that he and Douglas had talked freely and that he D. was not going to give in to the behests of the Administration, and that he had so pledged himself to him to that effect. Thompson said he intended to see you on the subject. His idea was that if Mr. D. is re-elected that he will openly oppose the Administration and be the means of splitting it into fragments! and thus make victory beyond a peradventure. I think I know, and understand ~~this~~ the objects of parties as well as or better than these men. They can't win.

Mr. Sargeant used pretty much the same arguments which satisfied me that they both drew their patriotism from the same well. They both believed that you would be elected to the Senate unless induced to back out and let Mr. D. walk in.

There is nothing special - the city elections are at fever heat. I should be glad to hear from occasionally
Yours truly J. M. Lucas

MB. I shall be home in October, if not before
and will be in Illinois at the election—

I cannot stay in office— I am making nothing
they keep me down to the lowest salary and
take every occasion to oppress me. I will try
to do something outside.

Sen A. Lincoln }
Springfield }
Illinois }

J. M.

per Smith & Me

Hon A. Lincoln
Springfield
Illinois

J. M. Lucas,
June 5, 1858

