

Amel A Lincoln

Chicago Ill. June 23, 1858. =



Dear Sir

The attack upon you in to day's "Chic-  
ago Times" is far more dangerous than many persons might  
suppose: - the charge of your refusal to vote for the  
appropriation Bill is the most potent & dangerous weapon  
that can be used against you in the rural districts: -  
of course (even if true) it would have no effect with men  
of sense but it is true and Douglass and his yelpers know  
it in all its breadth & depth that it is the very thing  
to take in the bye ways & keep: - When I was stumping  
with Sumner & Schuler 2 years since they took special  
 pains to lay it in every speech they made until I spoke  
to you about it and you pronounced it false & I made  
them eat the statement: - I saw Phelps Scripps &  
Arnold about it this morning & they neither knew  
anything about its falsity: - At Wilson is <sup>not in</sup> ~~not here~~ <sup>indeed</sup> - Scripps  
agrees with me in the importance of an early refu-  
tation and is quite anxious to present the facts & figures  
in the morning but Bros is away & he can't leave the office: -  
I consumed the morning in finding the "Globe" & finally  
succeeded in finding me at the Historical Society from  
which if it is possible I propose to obtain some statis-  
tics this P.M.: - I suppose of course the papers will re-  
pnt it unless indeed they are as Scripps & myself  
were impressed with the belief that it is true; but then



It behooves all of us to see our Editorial  
friends & see to it that each reputation is full  
clear & distinct and that the charge of lying  
is uttered on them with a vengeance: - the little  
gentleman Johnson (Shleiss) would be an excellent  
hand to take the "Globe" & collate all the statistics  
relative to the appropriating bills & then how you voted  
& how others (now democrats) voted on the same ques-  
tions: - they think they have made a terrible onslaught  
we ought to return the charge equally as effective: - the  
devil ought to be fought with fire: - Scripps says that  
neither Thackeray nor Douglass wrote it: - I did not go to  
Wentworth for his Globe as I was advised that John is  
willing to see the attack & would not lend his Globe to refute it: -  
don't let us lose ground by inattention to these apparently  
trifling but really formidable matters: - the fight is an  
effectual one between you & Douglass as if you were in the  
field for a popular vote: -

In haste Your Friend

Henry Whitney. -

A Republican editor writing from the Springfield Republican Convention to his own paper, described the speech of the Hon. A. Lincoln as abounding in strong arguments, great research, and "happy comparisons." We know Mr. Lincoln personally, and have no disposition to say one word having the slightest approach to disrespect, but as he has set himself before the people of Illinois as the competitor of Senator Douglas, and has not only invited, but actually made comparisons between himself and his opponent, we feel warranted in taking notice of what he has said in this particular. 916-2

There are a number of Republicans (as well as several Republican newspapers) who think that in a struggle for the defence of the State, and of the Constitution, and of the North, good sense would dictate that a Senator who can command support and power with the entire people of the Union, would be of more service than a mere individual whose influence would be confined to his own person, and whose power would be exhausted by the casting of his own vote. Mr. Lincoln, in his speech, after pointing out to the Republicans of Illinois the reasons why he, Lincoln, should be elected, turns to the question of whether he or Mr. Douglas would prove the most serviceable representative in the councils of the nation, and he says: (we give the extract, *italics and all*, just as we find it published in the Springfield Journal.)

"There are those who denounce us *openly* to their own friends, and yet whisper us *softly*, that Senator Douglas is the *aptest* instrument there is, with which to effect that object. They do not tell us, nor has he told us, that he *wishes* any such object to be effected. They wish us to *infer* all, from the facts, that he now has a little quarrel with the present head of the dynasty; and that he has regularly voted with us, on a single point, upon which, he and we, have never differed.

"They remind us that *he is a very great man*, and that the largest of *us* are very small ones. Let this be granted. But "*a living dog is better than a dead lion.*" Judge Douglas, if not a *dead lion* for this work, is at least a *caged and toothless* one. How can he oppose the advances of slavery? He don't care anything about it. His avowed mission is *impressing* the "public heart" to *care* nothing about it."

Mr. Lincoln thinks proper to speak of his competitor as a "*dead lion*," and to hold himself up to the people of Illinois as a "*living dog*." We have no right to question Mr. Lincoln's estimation of himself; he has applied it to himself, and has, to give it stronger significance, italicised the expression in his printed speech.

We think that for a "*dead lion*," or even a "*caged and toothless*" one, Senator Douglas possesses and displays considerable vitality. To kill a *dead lion*, all the "*living dogs*" of Illinois have been let loose with sharpened fangs. To fight a "*toothless*" lion all the living dogs from Cairo to Chicago have been lashed and whipped into the hunt. And yet there is not a "*living dog*" in the entire pack that does not tremble and quake, lest that dead and toothless animal,

even in death, may rise and put him in jeopardy. Was the lion who stood in the pathway of Lecomptonism dead when he bid the entire power and patronage of the Government defiance, and forbid the consumption of that iniquity? Was that the voice of a dead lion, which has been heard in the mountains and valleys of Pennsylvania, upon the streams of Ohio, all over the prairies of the Northwest, and even now finds a responsive echo throughout the State of Virginia? Was that the struggle of a dead lion which forced a proud and overbearing majority in both houses of Congress, backed by all the power and appliances of the Federal Government, to abandon after a four months' struggle, their infamous measure, and send the Lecompton Constitution back to Kansas to be buried beyond all hope of resurrection by the people of that Territory? If that was the power of a dead lion, we would like to know whether there is a "*living dog*" in Illinois who could have done the same deed! Suppose that Douglas had not been in the Senate, and his place had been occupied by a "*living dog*" in the person of Abram Lincoln, would Lecompton have been delayed one hour in its triumphant passage?

Who else than Douglas could have arrested that measure when he did, and as he did? A new and popular Administration just entering into office, a large Administration majority in both branches of Congress, the entire patronage of the Government undisposed of, and yet a man arose up there and bid that majority and that Administration to stop in the prosecution of an unjust measure. Call you, Mr. Lincoln, the man who did that successfully a dead lion—a toothless animal? And pray, when do you ever expect to be able, in the Senate or out of it, any where, at home or abroad, to approach in power and influence that achievement of a dead lion? In that hour, of what avail would have been the barking of a "*living dog*?" 916-A

We remember that on one occasion, some years ago, a bill was pending in the House of Representatives at Washington for the purchase of medicines and the employment of nurses to attend the sick and dying American soldiers in the hospitals and camps of hot and burning Mexico; when our suffering soldiers—the volunteers of Illinois and of Indiana—the men who at Buena Vista had followed Hardin and Bissell, and who through the desert had accompanied Shields and Foreman—were crying out in their fever for cooling drinks and kind hands to minister to their dying wants; we know that when the bill to purchase these medicines, and furnish necessities for the American soldiers who were sick and dying was pending, a "*living dog*" reared his ungainly person in the national councils, and in a yelping, barking tone, refused them succor! Let them die—let them die,

the men of Illinois, who fought over and rescued the dead body of Hardin, who echoed back the cheering call of Bissell, of Richardson, of Moore, of Harris, let them die. I, a "*living dog*," from the State of Illinois, refuse to send these men food, clothing, or medicine. I, Abram Lincoln, of Sangamon county, refuse to vote one dollar to feed, cloth, or minister to the wants of the sick and dying volunteers from my own State, who are suffering in Mexico. Let them die like dogs! Let them die for want of medicine! Let the fever-parched lips of my Illinois neighbors crack in painful agony—not one drop of cooling liquid shall soothe them if I can help it. What if they have served their country; what if they have encountered and beaten back an enemy thrice their own number; what if they do lie on damp grounds by night, and march in blistering sunlight by day; what if they have proved, every man of them, to be a Lion in his country's cause, I, Abram Lincoln, am a living dog, and "*a living dog is better than a dead lion.*"

Oh, Mr. Lincoln, the living dog at that day tried his powers with the man who is now styled a "*dead lion*;" you then refused succor to your countrymen in Mexico, but the "*living dog*" was powerless even for evil. The money was voted, and the living dog skulked back into obscurity. Was not that a deed worthy of "*a living dog*;" would not even a dead lion be ashamed that his memory should be stained by the record of such an act?

Democrats of Illinois, Republicans of Illinois! the man who styles himself a "*living dog*" asks you to support him for the United States Senate. The man who aspires to be your representative in the Senate, who offers himself to fill the place heretofore filled with such world-wide distinction by Douglas, tells you that he will go there as a living dog. He has been in Congress before, but who is there outside of the old settlers of Illinois has any recollection of his service there? What did he do? What did he say? What act is there which has rendered his service or his presence there memorable? Who is there in Illinois or in the Union that can remember any act or speech (other than the one we have mentioned) by Lincoln in the Congress of the United States. He asks you to send him there because he is better than a dead lion. But is the lion dead? Why the hostile array then that has been prepared to kill the lion who is already dead?

People of Illinois Mr. Lincoln has stated the issue—"a living dog" or a "*lion*" not dead, nor wounded, nor toothless, nor caged, but free, bold, firm, strong, and more powerful than ever. Choose you, as your representative, the man who claims no higher rank than that of a "*living dog*," or the man who has exercised, and forever will exercise a controlling power over the legislation of his country. 916-B

June 23, 1858  
W. L. Whitney.

Wm A. Lincoln  
Springfield  
Illinois

