



Courier Steam Book and Job Printing and Bookbinding Establishment,

Alton, Ill., August 13th



Hon Abraham Lincoln, — Sir —

I think Sumner has hit the right cord, from the uneasiness of fluttering which is discoverable among the Douglass bolters, allow me to call your attention to another thing in Douglass past history; it is a fact known by many some of whom now support him (such as Hays of Chicago) that when Pierce came into office there were many in Illinois who looked for appointments, Calhoun (you will remember wanted to be Gov of Oregon, Hays wanted to be District atty gen, Douglass had as much influence with that administration as any one or at least he was supposed to have; but he being then as usual a Presidential aspirant preferred to pitch in for his friends for office from other States, with a view to secure friends out side of Illinois, regarding Illinois as sure for him under any and all circumstances & neglected his friends at home; this became notorious so much so that Hays & others made a demonstration towards getting up a rebellion and even did go so far as to demonstrate some hostility, the defection included

Col Dick Taylor & many others; it was charged that
Missis got nothing from the Pierce administration, except
two Van Buren free soilers in the north, Whit, Hayne
& Cholmonely - would it not be well enough by way of arouse-
-ing these old prejudices to charge him with neglecting his
Democratic friends in the way I have indicated & for ambitious
purposes; The Extravagance of the Party is monstrous, &
tells well upon them now because it is a ripe season for such
a subject to be made as pecuniary recklessness will now
catch the public ear; better by far than if made in times
of prosperity, or rather "flush times"; the charge that Douglas
struck out the submission clause in the Lombs Bill
seems to be somewhat new to many; yet I always knew it
to be the fact ever since it was done; it seems to me that
after a while he will begin to defend these charges and
when ever he does you have got the word on him; the
plan is to misrepresent him & his press in this way, when fine
Carriages go from Alton to Edwardsville his organ here
says there were fifty Carriages; & that sort of Lumberg-
goes along hand in hand with his ostentation, and misce-
Orations, every where - if I were in your place after charging

him with a total neglect of the aspirations of his Democratic friends in Illinois, by reason of his big ambition, I would intimate to my friends that it would be a duty first of all with you, if placed in the situation of a Senator from Illinois, to give your active influence (when we get the Administration) in serving and elevating those to whom you owed your elevation, and say that inasmuch as you did not aspire to the high reward of a Nations Chief you would not have & could not have any higher duty & pleasure than to take care of your friends at home. My Experience goes to satisfy me that nothing will better tend to create for you enthusiasm and stimulate organization every where by establishing the detail of a thorough local organization by way of Lincoln Clubs &c, Now Sir, I think I know & appreciate your ability to manage well and ably this Campaign, but the humblest friend may call to mind some times a suggestion important of its self in some particular which ^{without} with which, might be overlooked, I am so anxious & full so confident of your success, is my only plea or excuse, for thus intruding upon you -

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He now has in this office a political Editor, Brown, knows it & admits it, but says he can't afford to pay the price of

a good writer, can't there be something done
for this region & sending some one to assist the
Courier, Brown could himself make a good paper
but he has his hands more than full of other things
& consequently does nothing for his paper himself;
Kansas has done all that could be expected of
her as you have said; Every thing is going on right
as far as I can see, and I remember Buchanan
will have the largest party in certain parts of the
State - Douglass every where outside of his State is looked
upon as a disorganizer & a Bacter, the Democrats
are a unit in all the other States and he will
and his party be "played out" in November, do you
understand the phrase "played out", it is a common one
in Kansas, for instance to ~~illustrate~~ illustrate it, after
Calhoun had aided him self in favour of his Election
frauds &c & after getting the office of Surveyor General
removed from Kansas to Nebraska, because he was
afraid to risk his scalp in Kansas, he was then
pronounced a Defaulter & turned out of office -
after all of which, we say, Calhoun is "played out";
that will be the fate of traitors generally & it will include
the Judge in November, I think now that Sumner
has made & proved his charges that Re-Election will
tell well in the Race;

Very Truly Yours

W. M. Delahay

Aug. 13, 1858

M. W. Delahay.

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Hon Abraham Lincoln
Springfield
Illinois

