

Sept. 10th
Ottawa ~~Aug. 25, 1858~~

Mr. A. Lincoln



Dear Sir,

In your speech at Ottawa on the 21st Augt. you referred to a portion of history in reference to the repeal of the Circuit Court ^{system} of Illinois, and the reorganization of the Supreme ^{by adding five judges to that Court,} in the Session of 1840-1. You, Fremont & myself were members of the House of Representatives. It recalled to my recollection an incident which showed the deep interest Mr. Douglass had ⁱⁿ the final passage of the bill, over the objections of the Council of Revision;

When the discussion was brought to a close by resolution, and the final vote was taken it required every Democrat that was present to vote for the measure to be in his

seat. - Hence, if you recollect, one member
Southern Illinois was brought in sick
and laid on a pallet in the North end
of the Hall, - The member from Champain
County, Mr Busy with the sick man
was our "forlorn hope" to carry the bill.
Mr Busy was tender, and required
nursing. The sick man was all
right, just as the roll of the members
was about to be called, the members were
~~all~~ ^{mostly} in their seats, - The Lobby crowded
with an anxious and listless multitude,
Mr Busy was seen standing at the banistering
dividing the hall from the Lobby and Mr
Douglass outside the Banistering with his arm
around Busy's neck, who stood within
the barr. The roll was called through
and Busy refusing to answer & vote
until the call was finished. When Mr
Douglass took off his arm, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{with}
Busy stepped a few paces to his seat
and claimed a right to vote, and to
give the reasons for his vote on the

question, — After giving his reasons
for his vote — voted aye; and the
bill passed, — My recollection is that
it took Busy's vote to pass the bill,

Mr Busy's seat was in the north
part of the Hall, near where I sat
and the incident which I have stated
was noticed by many members in
that part of the hall, and within
a few feet of where I sat.

You & Fremont sat in the South
part of the hall, and you may not
have noticed it.

If you think this little matter
will be of any service to you, use
it in the canvass, and if necessity
requires it, you are at liberty
to refer to me; Peck, McChord
^{Dougherty} and others of your acquaintance
sat near and may have seen
it. — Wishing you success in the
canvass. I am Truly yours,
A. W. Cavert

Letter to A. Lincoln

Sept 10

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A. W. Cavarky
Ottawa Sept. 10. 1858.