

Documents

LETTERS FROM CORRESPONDENCE OF NOAH NOBLE By MRS. ESTHER NOBLE CARTER

NOAH NOBLE TO HIS WIFE, CATHERINE S. NOBLE

Indianapo[lis], Saturday June 2, 1821

My dear Kitty.

I wrote you a line this morning by Jonathan McCarty which possibly you may not get . We got here Wednesday evening pretty tired the roads were extremely bad and what made it worse with me I got my back hurt which has been of some inconvenience to me indeed quite painful tho am now much better. On Thursday we rested and have since been in the woods, George¹ stands the trip very well, he is now out exploreing with McCarty while I attend to some business here. We will [this] evening cross the River westward to a Creek called Eagle Creek where we will stay possibly two or three days—Do my dear be very cautious of fire & take care of our sweet boy, I often think of you & him, you must be tired down with nurseing poor Tom,² I intended to tell you [to] direct Purdue to hire some little girl to nurse but came away & forgot it, I also forgot to tell Herndon we did not want him longer, I hired Bob Clark [m]orning I left home, if he is with you ask [Balance of letter destroyed].

MRS CATHERINE S. NOBLE
Hotel
Brookville
Indiana
Mr Jno. Johnson

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON TO NOAH NOBLE

Cincinnati

[Postmarked Dec. 3.] [1836]

Dear Governor

The Electors of your State will find perhaps some difficulty in fixing upon a candidate for the Vice Presidency. It is a matter of no great moment whether it is [John] Tyler or [Francis] Granger. The former would perhaps stand the best chance to be elected by the Senate if he

¹ Probably George Dunn, an intimate friend.

² A son, who died at an early age.

should get there. But I believe that is at present out of the question. If they should Vote for Granger *perhaps* your Senators might think themselves bound to Vote for him.

We have lost the Election for President from the want of confidence on the part of our friends. The Arch Duke Charles might have won the battle of Wagram but he could not believe that he could beat Napoleon. Hence his efforts were directed to prevent an entire defeat rather than secure a Victory. Thus our friends had the Victory in their power but believing that the influence of Genl. Jackson & the application of the spoils could not be resisted they would not make the effort. This remark however does not apply to either of the North Western States. They fought the battle nobly And I am more gratified at having received the Votes of Ohio Indiana & Kentucky than I should have been to have succeeded without their support. It is truly astonishing that I should have received so large a Vote in Indiana when six of the Representatives & both Senators exerted themselves so much against me. I could not have believed this possible of Hendricks.⁴ The other man⁵ I have for some time believed to be altogether unsound in principle. H. has often said that there was no man in the Union who could contend with me in Indiana Surely after his desertion of me my friends will not support him. I have received a letter from John Sargent of Philad'a He says that my friends are so well satisfied with my strength that they are determined to continue me as the rallying point for an other contest. I am determined to remain perfectly quiescent & let them pursue their own Course.

I have received with great surprise information that our friend Sheets was likely to loose his office. I trust however that it is not so. I shall write to day to Dr. [Hiram] Decker & tell him to speak to Myers who altho a rough fellow has much generosity & as he served with [Thomas] Randolph in the battle of Tippecanoe he I think will not oppose his only Representative in this country Apropos of Tippecanoe, I have received a letter from a Mr. Dan Mace of Williamsport in your State telling me that he wished to introduce a resolution into the Legislature to have portraits procured of [Jacob] Warwick & [Spier] Spencer⁶ for the Hall of the Representatives & he asks some information of me in relation to them. As there are no likenesses of these men to be procured & as it would be considered partial to select them from others I recommended to him if he made any motion of the kind to substitute a picture of the battle instead of Portraits of Individuals which would excite no interest unless they were known to be likenesses. I desired him to consider this recommendation Confidential. I hope you will have no hesitation in recommending to your Legislature to appropriate every Dollar of the Surplus revenue which has been as-

⁴ William Hendricks, United States senator from Indiana, 1825-1837.

⁵ John Tipton, United States senator from Indiana, 1831-1839.

⁶ Captain Jacob Warrick was mortally wounded and Captain Spier Spencer killed, in the Battle of Tippecanoe.

signed to you⁷ The villanous suggestions of the Globe to the contrary notwithstanding. Rest assured that it will never be reclaimed by the U. S. under any circumstances. If money should be wanted it would be preferred to get it either by indirect taxation (customs) or by borrowing rather than call on the States who have no other means of repaying what they have received but by direct taxation or by borrowing it. The former mode would be burdensome upon Agriculture, the latter extremely unequal as one State could get money upon infinitely better terms than an other. Use the money & I will answer that it is never reclaimed.

It is not considered proper in person[s] situated as I am to address letters of thanks to the people of the States who were their supporters and if it is done in one case it must be done in a[ll.] I wish you to say to the members of the Legislature & others th[at I am] proud of the Support of Indiana & that my gratitude [will be] eternal.

If Dr. Decker should by any means be [prevented] from attending the meeting of the Electors I will thank you to ask Mr. Sheets to take my letter out of the Post office & direct it to him at Vincennes. My best regards to your family I am

truly yours

W. H. HARRISON.

P. S. In relation to H—s. Your brother James said that he did not know that there was a man in the world that had any influence with him but myself. Sargent writes, that I out ran the Whig ticket in Pa & I see that the Same thing has taken place in Delaware & elsewhere

To his Excellency
GOVR. NOBLE

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON TO NOAH NOBLE

North Bend 15th Jany 1838.

My dear Sir

I have hitherto made it a point to write to no one on the subject of the Presidency but in answer to letters received. That I make you an exception to this rule I beg you to consider as a mark of my high confidence in your friendship & discretion. I would have remained perfectly quiescent if my political friends who are opposed to me had not pursued a course towards me so unjust, ungenerous, & as they perhaps may find so impolitic. These Gentlemen & the leaders of our opponents are in fact pursuing the same course in relation to me. Of this there is abundant evidence. Take the following which I beg you to consider confidential at least as regards names. J. B. Thomas now a resident of Cincinnati has lately received a letter from Mr. Snyder⁸ of the H. of

⁷ A reference to the "loan" to the several states of the surplus in the United States treasury on Jan. 1, 1837, as provided by the law of June 23, 1836. As Harrison predicted, it was never reclaimed by the federal government.

⁸ Adam W. Snyder of Illinois.

R. U. S. which he sent me by Major G [illegible] to read. Snyder was his Protegee. There had however been no correspondence between them for some years. The letter of S. was written under the impression that T. was either a V[an]. B[uren]. man or like himself (Snyder, who was at the called Session a conservative) a little shaken in his faith but who might be brought back to the true faith by showing that the tide of popularity was again setting in favor of V. B. He informs him first in a congratulatory way that Genl. H[arrison]. is completely as it regards the Presidency "*hors de combat*" that all the Members of Congress are in "favor of Mr. Clay or Mr. Webster. Indeed that there is no leading man any where in his favor." He then goes on to State the prospects which this State of things opens to V. B. Pennsylvania they are assured from (Mr. B[uchanan] the Senator) will certainly go for him. From N. York they learn that the people regret the sudden ebullition of passion by which they were actuated at the last falls election & are coming back to their first love. From the South they have the most cheering news." Thus it appears that the leaders of both parties are playing into each others hands to effect a common object. I would leave them to effect it without interruption (at least from me) if I were alone concerned. But as many of my friends & a large portion of the opponents of the present administration believe that the Success of this Scheme would prove destructive to our hopes of taking the Government of the Country from the corrupt hands of those who now possess it. I have promised the former not to abandon them until I am convinced that the Majority of the people of our party were opposed to me. Still I would have suffered Matters to take their own course without the least personal interference if I had been treated as I should have been. But my indignation has been strongly excited by the unworthy means which have been taken to force me out of the list of candidates. By the larger portion of the prominent prints throughout the Union my name has been proscribed but for abuse or to shew that I was losing ground with the people. Even a public speech on the absorbing political topic's of the day has been refused a publication in the leading Papers. Mr. [John] Chambers of Kent'y & Mr. [George H.] Dunn of Ind'a. in vain endeavored to get it published in the National Intelligencer. Judge Hanson of Baltimore informs me that he had called so often on the Editor of the Chronicle to publish it (as he had promised) that he must forbear to repeat it. Genl. Murphy of Chillicothe sent a temperate article (through Mr. [William Key] Bond the Representative) to Gales & Seaton⁹ urging the States to come into the proposition of Ohio & declaring if they did not do it that the State would be absolved from their obligation to agree to a convention at all. They refused to give it a place in their paper. Meetings have been held by the

⁹ Joseph Gales and William W. Seaton, proprietors of the *National Intelligencer*, Washington.

people in my favor numerously attended & at public dinners proceedings have been held favorable to me but beyond the circulation of the local prints they were never heard of whilst every incident however trifling which could shew an encreasing strength for Mr. Clay or Mr. Webster was blasoned forth by every means which the widely extended circulation of the papers in their interest furnished. Many of the papers out of the City of N. York & within that State have declared that the Majority of the people were opposed to the proceedings of the City & were not in favor of either Mr. C. or Mr. W. But the leading papers would not republish them & the people in the distant States were thus kept ignorant of the real state of the feelings of the people of the State of New York When I was in Cincinnati last week I received a paper published in Newburgh (N Y.) containing an Article which absolutely ridiculed the Attempt to dictate to the people of the State on the part of the New York City Editors. It declared unequivocally that the State could not go for either Mr. Clay or Mr. Webster & it gave the reasons for it. This paper was taken by a friend of mine to the Whi[g M S torn] but the Editor would not publish it Altho it [treated] the characters of Mr. C. & Mr. W. with the highest respect. [In] the mean time the Members of Congress are circulating the information which they say they receive from othe[r] Members that N. Y & all the Eastern States as well as the s[o]uthern States are in favor of Mr. C or Mr. W & that they have only doubts of Ohio Inda. & Penna. A letter of this kind was written to the Editor of the Rushville paper & he gravely asked whether these facts ought not to make the Indiana Convention "*to pause*" He asserts that the writer is a warm friend of mine but he assumes that guise the more surely to injure me, he cannot be my friend. For that is what my enemies aim at, 'to keep back any movements by the people until they have time to mature their plans. When I left Cincinnati on Saturday Evg arrangements were making for a public meeting to be held tomorrow. You will have an opportunity of seeing the proceedings before the Convention meets. I enclose you a letter recently received from a distinguished member of the Pa Convention. I have received many of late from that State of the same tenor. I regret that I have not one from Mr. Ringott who represents Lancaster County in the Convention but it is [in] Cinti. Mr. R. gives me the substance of a Conversation he had with Mr. Sargeant in which that Gentleman admitted that they could not get Pa without me & they were sure of it with me. Indeed I have a letter from that gentleman written last Spring in which he said that they were indebted to me for the Majority they had in the Convention. I commit these facts to you to be used according to yr. discretion.

Present my best respects to Mrs. Noble.

Yours truly

Honble

W. H. HARRISON.

NOAH NOBLE Esqr.

O. H. SMITH TO NOAH NOBLE

Washington City
5th Decr 1839.

Dear Sir.

You will perceive from the papers that we are not yet organized. the Ho of Reps. have called a halt on the New Jersey members & when or how it will be settled we cannot foresee. We have nothing direct from Harrisburgh but the impression here is that the prospect for the nomination of Genl Scott is strong—It will evidently lie between Scott and Harrison—New York, Va & the whole East, I learn are for Scott—Pa & the West for Harrison & the South for Clay—Rumor says the friends of Mr Clay will not press him at this time—Tal[?]madge for vice prest. conceded—A few days will solve the problem. Mr. Clay seems calm and composed, & looks fine—our delegation are in good health, except Mr [Senator Albert S.] White and I think he is on the gaining hand—

My best respect to your family

Respectfully

NOAH NOBLE Esq

O. H. SMITH.

HENRY CLAY TO NOAH NOBLE

Ashland 8h. Sept 1834

Dear Sir

I duly recd. your favor of the 2d. As you do not mention the receipt of a short letter which I addressed to you, of prior date, I presume it had not reached you. I repeat the expression contained in it of my hearty congratulations on your recent election.¹⁰ Considering the opposition you encountered, the result was as gratifying as it is decisive. The course you pursued as to the Presidential election was both judicious & conformable to the general understanding among the Whigs previous to the adjournment of Congress. It was deemed best to designate no Presidential Candidate until after the Fall elections, so as to combine the whole strength of the entire opposition against the Adm'on and against Mr. V. Buren. In the course of next winter it is to be hoped that there can be an union effected on some Candidate. I think, at last, we have reason to hope that we shall get rid of the miserable concern at the head of public affairs. All my information justifies the belief that the Whigs will succeed in N. York, New Jersey, Penna. and Maryland: and there is a strong probability of their success in Maine. Rhode Island has fulfilled our hopes.

I have long wished to visit Indianapolis, and I should be highly gratified to do so; but I regret that it is not in my power to accept your friendly invitation this fall. I have been ten months out of the last twelve from home; and my private affairs require my presence here until the time arrives for me to proceed to Washington. I must therefore postpone the pleasure of seeing your part of Indiana to some more convenient

¹⁰ Reelection as governor, for the term 1834-1837.

day. I was induced strongly to anticipate the satisfaction of seeing you here this week, at our Cattle shew; and I have not abandoned the expectation. Should it not be in your power to come at that time, I hope you will visit us during the races which take place in the course of the next week. You will see our neighbourhood in a pleasant condition; for after a long and most distressing drought, we have just had fine rains that will restore vegetation, and render our fields once more verdant.

Has Tipton renounced Jacksonism? I fear he is not to be relied on. He affects candor and liberality, but cunning is his predominant quality. What is the political complexion of your Legislature?

I am, with sentiments of great respect & esteem,
Your friend & obt. servt.

His Excellcy N. NOBLE.

H. CLAY.

HENRY CLAY TO NOAH NOBLE

My dear sir

Ashland 22d. Sept. 1834.

I have to thank you for your very acceptable present of the Tamarack tree, and that which you intended of the Cranberry vines, sent by Mr. Maguire. The latter I learn he could not conveniently bring, and the loss of them I regret less because I have no situation adapted to them here. The former came in excellent condition, and I have planted it according to your directions. The season is favorable, and it will, I think, live. I shall always recollect the friendly source of the donation, and the interesting spot of its nativity.

I regretted that you could not visit us during the Cattle exhibition. It was a very fine one, presenting a great display of superior Stock. You must really come and see us on a similar or some other occasion.

There is no doubt that No. Carolina has left the administration. In Maine our defeat is really a victory, considering the great changes, and the equality of the contest. They have made a nomination of Govr. in N. York on the part of the Whigs which seems to give general satisfaction; and my correspondents speak in a tone of great confidence as to the issue of the struggle in the Empire State upon the whole, I entertain a strong conviction that at last Jacksonism is subdued. It will make tremendous efforts this autumn, and will here and there maintain a doubtful ascendancy; but its general march is downward and rapidly.

With great esteem & regard

I am Yos' faithf y

N. NOBLE Esq

H. CLAY

HENRY CLAY TO NOAH NOBLE

My dear sir

Washn 4h. Mar. 1837.

I recd. with much satisfaction your friendly letter of the 10h. ulto. but should have much more in shaking you by the hand as the Senator from Indiana.

I have seen Mr. Smith.¹¹ He talks well, and I hope will act well. He can hardly do more than his predecessor.

We have strong hopes of the next H. of R. if you can *Keep right* in Indiana.

Jackson played the tyrant to the last. Knowing that the Currency bill would be passed if he exercised his veto against it, he pocketed the bill!

The H. of R. during the few last days of its existence displayed much spirit and independence.

Excuse this brief letter, which I write principally to assure you of the affectionate attachment of

Your Sincere friend

H[IS] E[XCELLENCY] N. NOBLE.

H. CLAY.

HENRY CLAY TO NOAH NOBLE

Ashland 20h. June 1837.

(Confidential)

My dear sir

I am sure that you will agree with me in thinking that the unfortunate Condition of our Common Country is such, at present, as to fill every patriotic bosom with the deepest solicitude and to animate to the greatest exertions to relieve it from its existing embarrassments. No time has ever occurred, within my knowledge, in which it was more evidently the duty of us all to repress individual aspiration or ambition and to dedicate our undivided energies to the rescue of the Country, the Constitution and the public Councils from the hands of those who have brought upon us our present difficulties and who are leading us rapidly to ruin.

Whether any effective remedy for the disorders which prevail will be provided or not depends very much upon the Constitution of the approaching H. of R. If the States which have now to elect members shall return the same number of Jackson or V. Buren delegates that they had in the last Congress, there will be, I think, no prospect of adopting any beneficial measure. In that event, it will be argued by the Administration party, and with much plausibility, that the People approve the past, and cling, for the future, to the same men whose policy has produced the present state of things.

In Kentucky we have a fair prospect of reducing the 4 members of the Jackson party, who were in the last Congress to two, and perhaps one. Indeed there are some who are so sanguine as to believe that we shall not elect one. For myself, I would compromise at two.

What are your prospects in Indiana? I hear, with regret, that in some of the Districts there is division among our friends, to such an

¹¹ O. H. Smith was the successful candidate for election by the legislature to the United States senate for the term 1837-1843.

extent as to endanger the result. Can nothing be done to heal it, and to prevent such an inauspicious event. Can not, you, my dear sir, to whom the Whigs are already so much indebted, do something, in the way of conciliation and harmony, to encrease their obligations to you?

I am told particularly, that in the District lately represented by Genl. McCarty,¹² if the existing divisions are not healed, a V. B. member will be returned. Is it not possible to prevent that? Can not the strongest man of our party be run, and the others be prevailed upon to retire? Whatever personal wishes any of us might have, in respect to the Candidates, ought to be unhesitatingly sacrificed to the good of our Country, which should be paramount.

Of Genl. McCarty, I will say, without knowing what may be your feelings towards him, that when he was first elected to Congress, I regretted it; but that for the two or three last Sessions he has been a resolute, unflinching and highly useful opponent of the Administration. As he has ceased long since to be a Jackson man, we must suppose upon conviction and in all sincerity, good policy would point to his re-election, unless there be against it reasons of which I am unaware. If we discourage and discountenance Converts from the other party, we may long continue in the minority. Whilst uniform and consistent friends, who have been always faithful, ought not to be neglected, we should at the same time, in the spirit of our religion, hold out the hand of forgiveness and friendship to those erring men who sincerely repent and change. By doing so, we ultimately advance the interests of those very steadfast friends whom, for a moment, we may appear to overlook. We have had great hopes of Indiana, arising out of the issue of your last fall election. Do my dear sir write me soon and write me, if you can, that these hopes will be realized.

Your friend & obt. Servt.

GOVR. NOBLE

H. CLAY

HENRY CLAY TO NOAH NOBLE

Ashland 18h. July 42.

My Dear Sir

I received your favor of the 12h. You will have seen what I said, in my Speech at the Lexn. Barbecue, about leaving the People to the undisturbed exercise of their choice, in regard to a Chief Magistrate, my resolution to remain passive &c. Now I must bear all that in mind, if I should be, as seems probable, the Whig Candidate.

As to the idea of my traversing the whole Union it would be physically impossible, and if I attempted such a tour it would destroy me physically.

The only ground upon which a visit to Indianapolis can be justified would be my former engagement, the fulfillment of which is desired or insisted on by my friends. And, if such be the fact, I repeat what I

¹² Jonathan McCarty, Fort Wayne, 1835-1837.

said in my former letter that I will go there some time in October. If I do go, I hope it will be promulgated that the visit is made on that ground. And I should also have to require from the goodness of my friends that I should not be expected to visit any other place.

There is time enough to think of the matter, and, if it be finally decided on, to make the necessary arrangements.

Be pleased to present my warm regards to Mr. Dunn.

I am with great respect

Your friend & obt. Servt.

N. NOBLE Esq.

H. CLAY.

E. D. JOHN¹³ TO NOAH NOBLE

Galveston 27th Decr. 1842.

My dear Sir

Ten thousand Thanks to you my dear friend for your kindness in bringing me my children they are most welcome to my home in this land of strangers. Isaac E. Wade who goes over in the Neptune will hand you in a day or two after his arrival \$110. The amount expended for my childrens traveling expenses.

You say you can not come over for want of Means. I can not visit New Orleans for some time, but can not think of you returning home without seeing you. The favor & advantage will all be on my side then as you intend spending the Winter in the South come over on the Neptune & it shall cost you nothing for coming & returning nor while here. It is absolutely necessary for me to see you then don't hesitate but come over. The sea voyage will be of service to you & this climate will do you more good than the damp City of New Orleans I shall confidently expect you—I have looked over your letter hastily, & have not time to reply to it before the Neptune leaves & confidently expecting you over this trip shall not write again until she returns—

I send you a paper giving the result of my difficulties with Merrill. He is a most infamous Scoundrel but not quite Smart enough to carry out his designs.

The Arbitrations tho two on each side gave me all I ask'd—& the result has plc'd Merrill in such a point of light that even decent rascals in Texas are ashamed of him—

Sherwood is here—The Arbitration lasted 8 days I had no council but managed my own case. Merrill had two Lawyers—

Do come over it will do you good & it will enable you to remain in the South until Spring—

Can write no more now all well—

Yours truly

NOAH NOBLE Esq.

E. D. JOHN

Mr. Wade has to collect a Draft before he can pay you—you will find him on the Boat Neptune—The Clerks name is also Wade

¹³E. D. John married Noble's sister, Eloise.

I. S. SULLIVAN TO SAMUEL HOUSTON

New Orleans
14th Jay. 1843

His Excellency SAM. HOUSTON

Dr. Sir

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance the bearer of this Noah Noble Ex. Govr. of the State of Indiana.

His object in visiting Texas is the improvement of his health, and to see the country.

I am your

Most humble

& obt servt.

I. S. SULLIVAN.

P. S. I am glad to inform you, that your opinion as to the use of the water of the Hot Springs, was correct, I am, *well*.

I. S. S.

JOHN T. MILLS TO WILL H. DANGERFIELD

New Orleans Jany 17th 1843

Dear Sir

Allow me to introduce to yr acquaintance *Ex Gov.* Noble of the State of Indiana, who intends passing some time in our Country.

The Kindness and Courtesy bestowed upon him will be duly appreciated by himself and at the same time be a matter of gratification to your

Friend and Servant

WILL. H. DANGERFIELD Esqr

JNO. T. MILLS.

WILLIAM STEEDS TO COLONEL T. B. S. HADLEY

New Orleans Jany 17th. /43

Dr. Col.

A favorable opportunity now presents itself of writing to one of my kindest friends. I often think of you all with feelings of the most pleasurable emotion, my friends I can never forget. Since last March I have been residing in this city, forced here from the influence of that powerful tyrant called ambition. I often inquire after you, when I meet with persons from Texas. You must write to me when you have leisure and tell me all the news. This letter will be handed to you by Gov: Noble of Indiana a native of my mother country, he visits Texas to see some friends as well for the benefit of a short sea voyage. It is unnecessary to say to you, "Please show him such attentions as he may desire," your feelings will prompt you to rendre him every kindness. The Gov: is a warm hearted Virginian, an agreeable companion, and a perfect gentle-

man, it affords me great pleasure to introduce to your acquaintance so estimable a personage.—

Yr. friend WM. STEEDS

P. S Present my best love to Mrs. Hadley & family to Mr. Runnels & Judge Smith &c. W. S.

L. P. ANDREWS TO NOAH NOBLE

Steam Boat Diamond near Cini.

May 4th 1843.

Gov. NOBLE,

Dear Sir,

On leaving Texas you desired me to write you respecting the progress of the public Sentiment relative to a change of our institutions on the subject of slavery.

I arrived at Galveston as you recollect the evening before you left. At that point I found the leading men in favor of the new views—Saml. Williams, Sydnor, Jno. B. Jones, the Bordens, etc. The subject was hotly discussed in the streets four or five days when an opposition was secretly organised and I was *sent from the Town*, treated however with the utmost respect and Courtesy. This energetic measure was conducted by a less influential class of men than those that I have mentioned and as they took upon themselves to threaten these last as well as myself they carried the matter a little too far and the public sentiment recoiled somewhat upon them as I think. The expression of sentiment however was of course considerably checked for the time at Galveston, but continues in other parts of the country and so far as I can judge the cause is gaining many efficient friends. These facts have already reached the South and the campaign is now fairly opened. In the N[ew]. O[rleans]. Bee of the 22d and the Bulletin of the 26th you will find articles on the subject—of course in opposition but as soon as these papers reach the north a different voice will be heard I remained in Texas after the event I have mentioned about three weeks until all excitement growing out of it had been extinguished—Came through Galveston without molestation, and am now on my way to the north (N. Y.) to endeavour to enlist leading men and papers to change their tone towards Texas and encourage instead of discouraging emigration to that country. In this business I wish also to enlist you. You are situated in the heart of a portion of the U. S. to which the friends of the cause in Texas look for a great current of population in consequence of the proposed change. It is all important that this emigration commence soon to show that the mere proposition has had a favorable effect. 5000 emigrants going into Texas next fall from the North and west would render the change certain. You have influence can you not enter into the matter in good earnest and stand good for a portion of that number. It is the commencement of a grand revolution and one for which I sincerely believe

after a residence of four years in Texas the times are ripe. I saw today Mr. Printess of the Louisville Advertiser who says that it [is] the only thing that can save Texas and says he will write an editorial to that effect. Please write me forthwith. My address will be at times N. Y. though I shall probably proceed in a few weeks to England and return to Texas in the fall. For a Texas Corrispondent I would recommend Mr. A. J. Yates.

Your Obt. Servt.—

L. P. ANDREWS.

P. S. Excuse the effect of the jar of the S[team]. B[oa]t. on my characters.

A. B. DAVIDSON TO GENERAL ALEXANDER H. DAVIDSON¹⁴

Hadley Seat March 28th 1844.

Dear Alexr.—

Some eight or ten days ago, your last letter was recd. You have met with a sore bereavement in the death of Gov. Noble.¹⁵ Such trials must be experienced to know their weight. When intimate and dear friends part with the prospect of meeting again at a distant period, it is an affecting scene. But when they part and that for the last time; when that intimate and tender union is to be forever dissolved; then indeed it becomes doubly interesting. To see those ties about to be dissolved, which had long bound them in intimate and familiar union gives a painful shock to the bleeding heart. With deep anxiety the insidious approaches of the enemy is watched. Art in vain has tried her skill, the raging disease mocks the power of medicine and the silver cord of life is torn assunder. He is now wraped in a shroud, nailed in a Coffin and laid in the house appointed for all the living.

We return home where he lived and there every thing reminds of the friend whom we have lost. The clothes he wore, the room in which he lay; every thing reminds us of him whom we have lossed.

But although the heart is thus deeply wounded and opens its flood gates to give vent to its sorrow; yet we do not mourn as those who have no hope. A voice from the heavenly Messenger cries, dry up those tears thou Mourning Widow and thou orphant children "thy friend is not dead but Sleepeth." Ere long, you will be permitted to rejoin him in that world where parting is no more. Yes, many of our friends are dead; but we shall meet again. This is a most pleasing idea held out by our Lord, that is, when *we* shall fail; that is die, our friends who have gone before, being minis[ter]ing spirits to us here, will stand upon the confines of eternity, waiting untill our spirit is dislodged, and will then convoy it into everlasting habitations. I had a pious father & Mother

¹⁴ Alexander Davidson married Noble's only daughter, Catharine.

¹⁵ Noah Noble died February 8, 1844.

and many other dear friends who are now in glory. The thought that, very shortly, this throng of immortal spirits, will stand, to welcome me home to the heavenly paradise, wakes up all my sensibilities and prompts me to sing with the immortal Watts,

"O glorious hour, O blest abode,
I shall be near and like my God;
Nor flesh, nor Sin no more controule,
The sacred pleasures of the Soul."

Tell Mrs. Noble, I most sincerely sympathize with her in the loss of so dear a friend. I hope, however, she will be comforted with the promise of him who said "I will be a husband to the widow and leave your fatherless children to me, I will take care of them. These are events in our life which we may all look for. They teach us that here we have no home, and that we ought always to be in readiness for our departure. "Blessed is he who when his Lord cometh, shall find watching."—I notice in the Observer, that Mrs. [Henry Ward] Beecher and the Editor are still interchanging communications. Mr. Converse has given the Editor of the Watchman a pretty severe overhauling. Converse is *hard to head*, upon any subject— For my own part, I am truly sick of the everlasting whine about the social relations of the Southern people. It seems to me, that your good people Ministers as well as others are attempting to be wise above what is written and spend a *little* too much of their time in fixing the standard of their neighbours consciences, when, perhaps, if they were to look at home they would find more important matters neglected—I w[oul]d like for them to tell me in what part of the good Book, slavery is denounced and the slave holder excommunicated. If it is there, I cant find it. The first case of slavery I read of is that of Hagar, Sarahs' slave. She ran off and the Angel met her in the wilderness and addressed her as Sarahs' slave and told her to go back and submit herself to her Mistress. Not a word about slavery being a crime. Abraham it seems had upwards of 300 born in his house and who went out with him to war. Leah & Racheal had handmaids given to them by their father and remained with them while they lived. It was even ordained of God as Moses declared, "Of the heathen that are round about you, you shall buy bond men & bond women and they shall be your *possession* and you shall take them as an *inheritance* for your children after you, they shall be your bondmen for ever. See Lev. 25.—"An inheritance". It seems they were held as property, bought and sold.

I cant find that our Savior or his Apostles ever uttered one syllable against slavery. It could not be *malum per se*—a break of the Moral law—If so, God could not have sanctioned it under any circumstances. And as to the policy of it as a mere political or, social relation in life, our Savior did not forbid it. On the contrary he recognized the relation and exhorted them to the reciprocal discharge of their respective duties.

Paul seems to have had a little more charity for a slave holder than many of your Western christians. He address Philemon, who was a

slave holder, as "his dearly beloved, his fellow labourer in Christ."—Strange that the Apostles w[oul]d Act thus if slavery be *accursed of the Lord*. Some think the golden Rule of our Lord is inconsistent with slavery. But they pervert the Rule. Their mode of construing it would level all distinctions in life. It w[oul]d lead to the true *Godwinian* or, Fanny Wright System. The true meaning of the Rule is, that I am to treat my slave as I w[oul]d have a right to be treated if I were the slave and he the master. I am to treat my debtor in the same way as I w[oul]d have a right to be treated if I were the debtor. Not as I w[oul]d wish to be treated. I might wish to have the debt forgiven, therefore, according to their rule he is bound to release me—I am poor, I might wish to have the riches of a wealthy man, therefore, he is bound to give his riches to me. You see what sad work this Rule, thus expounded, would make—Our Savior, attached but little importance to the mere social relations we may sustain in this life. Art thou called a Servant, care not for it—As to religion, their consciences are left free—They worship God as it seems right in their own eyes. They join what Church they please. They have the Sab. to rest and serve God and as large a proportion of them are professing Christians as the Whites And in a temporal point of view, they are better off than ninety-ninths of the lower class of White people—

But I am run[n]ing on as if I were writing a Book—enough—A sad affair happened in our Town last week—Old Archy Beard was living in a little House of Robt. Pains' and wishing to get him out of it got a parcel of Boys to beat the Drum and stone his house. He had applied to the Majestrates for protection but none was granted—So one night while anoying him thus he fired a gun loaded with slugs and killed a young man by the name of Donald. He is to be tried tomorrow—My best regards to all the family—We are all well—Yours tr——

A. B. DAVIDSON.