

Documents

The letters printed below were written to the Hon. John G. Davis of Rockville, Indiana. They were written by Democrats who were loyal to Stephen A. Douglas in the period of his contest with President Buchanan. They reveal something of what was going on in the minds of local Democratic leaders of Indiana, in regard to the Lecompton controversy. In the warfare between the anti-Douglas forces of the State, who were led by Senator Jesse Bright, and the champions of Douglas, the victory went almost entirely to the latter. Senator Graham N. Fitch, like Bright, was hostile to Douglas. John G. Davis, member of the House from a western Indiana congressional district from 1851 to 1855 and again from 1857-1861, was devoted to Douglas. He was a friend and adviser of local Democrats who were enlisted in the cause of the Little Giant. Letters that Davis received were preserved by him, but he seems not to have retained copies of the letters written by himself.

[JAMES M. LUCAS TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

CLOVER LAND,¹ IND. Dec. 28, 1857.

HONORED & ESTEEMED SIR,

I hope you are in good health. I rec'd Hon. S. A. Douglass speech upon the Kansas question from you the last mail. I had previously received it from Mr. Douglass. . . . I read the President's Message with much satisfaction! His views upon state paper money does not go as far as I am prepared to go. He seems to rely upon them yet as a safe currency. In the past 50 years the American people has lost by state paper money enough, to wind up the rotten dishonest concerns. I do not say all Banks are managed badly, some are managed wisely. The constitutional currency, gold & silver, I am in favor of and no more Banks of issue. His views upon the Inter-

¹ Cloverland, Clay County, Indiana.

ference of Am. citizens in crusades to change Foreign governments is good— And most of his views upon the Kansas question I am in favor of. I am In favor of the Kansas and Nebraska Act— I believe the people are the sovereign power not only in a State but in a Territory, The voice of a majority fairly expressed must be supreme. This is the very essence of our Democracy—*vox populi, vox Dei*, is the true watchword of the Power of the people in this Country. To force a Constitution over the protest and Will of a majority of the People is not Democratic—once assume that a minority can control and shape government for a majority and the main Pillar of Republican government is gone. If a minority of 3,000 men, can control 9,000 men in Kansas, then carry this principal to its full extent *one* man (Emperor Dictator or Autocrat) can control and make Laws and Govern millions of men. But we know our people cherish this principle as the main principle of our political system. I am opposed to both Constitutions for Kansas—gotten up as they have been. Neither party in Kansas has been anything but factions. Neither part was Democratic, there was many Democrats in both, according as they were in favor of a Free or Slave State. Although we here at Clover Land, are 700 miles from Kansas, we are well posted in regard to Kansas parties. Several of our citizens have been there—one I [?] B. Yocum, was there and through a good part of the Territory in 1856—another man, a good Democrat moved there last year and moved back to Clay Co. this fall. He told me he did not like either Party in Kansas, and on account of their bad principles and bad conduct he would not stay in Kansas. He said he could not act with the Free State party, and was opposed to Slavery. I have not seen a Democrat here in favor of admitting Kansas with the Lecompton Constitution. There is 5 subscribers to the Union at Washington here and 1 subscriber to Pennsylvanian at Philadelphia here, everyone of which is opposed to it. you know Peter Eppert who is and has been always a Democrat. He said he read the L [ecompton] Consitution and is opposed to it. The Know Nothing Party had a controlling influence in the convention at Lecompton. As the Abolitionists controled the Topeka Constitntion. neighter has the Democratic ring in it. And we hope the Peoples House of Rep. in Congress will stand up for the right and Democracy—Let justice be done—If the Republicans come over to our Platform, so be it—We should not leave it, when they change front. Democracy is the people rule. Please send more Documents.

Your steady friend.

JAMES M. LUCAS.

[H. K. WILSON TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

SULLIVAN, INDIANA

February 26th 1858.

HON JOHN G. DAVIS

DEAR SIR

Before this reaches you, you will have received the news of the doings of our "Mass Meeting" at Indianapolis on the 23. Owing to the condition of my family affairs, I could not leave home on that day. Murray Briggs attended he reports that it was all the friends of the move anticipated, it has made some of the Bright² Lecomptonites³ tremble, we will bring them to their senses, that they may feel their "awful situation" I hope before it be too late—The people here are determined to act and think for themselves, and not follow dictators any longer. Our Circuit Court is now in session. Judge Franklin was here Came direct from Indianapolis. He received cold comfort, professes to be Buchanan, and anti Lecompton. Claypool feels uneasy. he is now presiding as Judge, but the outside manifestations don't suit him. Old Doc. Dain stayed with me last night he is Administration, his ambition is not yet satisfied. he can control nobody here. he thinks we are all going to the Devil and begs us not to commit ourselves on the Douglas platform.⁴ says we will have to take all back. We had a most glorious time last night. Gen. Linder⁵ at the request of some of our Douglas friends addressed the people at the Court House and altho a big Campbellite meeting was at the same time, he had a House full. He spoke for an hour and a half, and except when he was applauded you could have heard a pin fall, so deep and intense was the interest they took in the subject & speaker.

You know Linder. The audience were not only convinced, but they were thrilled, and I might say when he dwelt on the wrongs done to Kansas, and the course pursued towards Douglas they were maddened and enraged. He handled Bright without Gloves and showed him up as a tool of the South & of Buchanan. He told the people that Douglas was entitled to the nomination at the Cincinnati Convention,⁶ and if the Indiana delegation had been true to their pledges he would have been President. He treated with scorn the idea of reading Douglas and his friends out of the party. He said they would have to read the whole North West out of the party and when that was done they would be read into a most contemptible minority, that the party could not live a moment without Douglas. It was just the *speech* for the time and occasion. Linder is well posted on the whole Kansas question, it is a great pity he has not

² Jesse D. Bright, United States Senator from Indiana from 1845 to 1862. He was for a number of years a power in the Democratic party of the State. After 1857, he was an enemy of Douglas.

³ Those who favored the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution.

⁴ Douglas broke with Buchanan during the session of 1857-1858 over the President's recommendation that Kansas be admitted under the Lecompton Constitution.

⁵ General Usher F. Linder of Illinois. He had been a Whig, but, refusing to join the Republican party, became an ardent supporter of Douglas. After 1858, he was known as "For-God's-Sake" Linder, because Douglas had wired him the following message during the Illinois campaign of that year: "The hell-hounds are on my track. For God's sake Linder, come and help me fight them."

⁶ The Democratic national convention of 1856 was held at Cincinnati.

the time to go about through Indiana and the N. West and address the people. Everything is right here for Douglas you may rest assured. After Linder had finished his speech, he took the vote on Mr. Douglas and his course on the Kansas question & upon the Democracy running him as their candidate in 1860, the vote was taken by rising, and nearly every person (Hamil excepted) in the House rose to their feet, their was not over 6 left sitting and they half women. After they had taken their seats, he put the other side of the question Not one arose. He tells me as he told the audience last night that Illinois is as one man for the "Little Giant" The few Bright men here are down in the mouth. Linder has promised me to go to Bloomfield and speak. Andy was here last night, he would not stay to hear the speech, he was en route for Indianapolis. The mass meeting will require the Clique to be called together. I want you to write to me as I have no doubt of your being in the confidence of Mr. Douglas, giving me some idea of what course we are to pursue, it is useless to expect the Democracy here to support a Lecomptonite. I do not think we can do it altho he may be endorsed by the Charleston Convention. What will Mr. Douglas do, will he be read out of the party or will he suffer his name to go before the Charleston Convention. I suppose not however, Or will he permit his name to be used by his friends in the North. please to give me some items on the subject and rely on my discretion and confidence, and silence.

The anti Lecompton fever here grows hotter every day, the more discussion, the hotter, But mark one thing we will never consent that Mr. Douglas shall occupy any but the first place in any Combination of parties, that may take place—I have written this letter too long. You can say to Mr. Douglas that "Old Sullivan" is almost unanimous for him. No matter who may be on the other side, we are actuated by the principles of 1856 and there we will stand upright and unpurchasable.

I must say to you that your course meets the approbation of all, if any think to the contrary, they are ashamed or afraid to own it. I fear for our ticket, the Candidates will have to take the field on the platfrom as interpreted by them, won't it be rich! Bright and Fitch⁷ repudiating and the candidates at home advocating the doctrine of popular sovereignty as heln by Mr. Douglas. No more. I beg pardon for writing this long letter You will grow tired of reading it

Yours
H. K. WILSON

We had a fine son born on the 22nd which prevented me from going to the Convention. if our County was not overrun with the names, I would call him "Davis" or "Douglas"

⁷ Dr. Graham N. Fitch of Logansport, United States Senator from Indiana from 1857 to 1861. For the time being, he was acting with Senator Bright, and was hostile to Douglas.

[SMITH JONES TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

JONESVILLE,^s Nov. 22, 1859

HON JOHN G. DAVIS

DEAR SIR

I have no doubt, but that your time is fully occupied, without being troubled with suggestions from me Yet feeling confident, as I do, that you and I concur in political sentiment, I feel at liberty to address you a few lines. Our County Convention has not yet been held Brother Charles, and I, with other Douglass men intend to make an effort to control our convention We want to make a last effort to place the democratic party in Indiana on a platform that will enable us to secure a triumph in 1860 In order to accomplish that purpose, we must declare unequivocally in our State platform, that. If a majority of the people of a Territory are opposed to slavery they have a right to make laws to exclude it and if in favor of slavery they have a right to make laws for its protection and that it is no part of the duty of Congress to Legislate neither for the protection nor the exclusion of Slavery in the Territories; without this declaration in our platform we may as well quit and save our credit; and let the election go by default; and appropriate the time and expense usually devoted to electioneering to a more improved and perfect system of farming.

Yours truly

SMITH JONES

do me the favor to write

George E. Tingle a very liberal and clever Republican of our County will be in Washington City seeking a clerkship in the House if you can favor his claims and not do injustice to good democrats you will confer a favor that will be properly appreciated by

SMITH JONES

[WM. M. DAILY TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

Private

MADISON, INDIANA
Dec. 16th 1859

HON JOHN G. DAVIS, M. C.
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SIR:

The regular Democratic Convention was held in this (Jefferson) County on Tuesday, which resulted in a complete overthrow of the Bright faction. We endorsed S. A. Douglas by nearly an unanimous vote, appointed delegates to the State Convention all out and out enthusiastic Douglas men, and instructed them to vote for no man as delegate to the Charleston Convention who was not in favor of Douglas as first choice for the Presidency. The organization in this County is now completely under

^s Jonesville, Bartholomew County, Indiana.

our control. The victory is complete and no mistake— Before it was over the Administration men entirely abandoned the fight, and retreated in silence before the overwhelming popular will of the masses of the Democracy—

The Telegraph informs us now that there is a strong probability that John G. Davis of Indiana will be elected *Speaker* by a combination of all the *anti* Republican elements. I sincerely hope this may be the case—and that the next time I see you I may address you as “Mr. Speaker”. And I will add, “Remember me when thou comest in thy kingdom”.

Address me at this place
Madison, Indiana. In haste
God bless you—

Most Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
WM M. DAILY

[JAMES M. LUCAS TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

CLOVER LAND, IND.
Dec. 18, 1859

ESTEEMED SIR,

I received your line from Rockville Ind. Saturday afternoon after 3 o'clock. Train had passed or else I would have seen you at Terre Haute. I see no Speaker had been elected up to Friday evening, th 17th If the Democracy, I mean the Southern wing of the party are going to return to the Cincinnati Platform of 1856, and stand by the rights of the People, then I advise you to act with your old Party. But if the main feature of the Kansas and Nebraska Bill is to be repudiated, and Judge Douglas with it, then *never* affiliate with the new Democracy, and act with that party [against] your principles. Remember Jefferson said “Measures not men”. Names are nothing, Principles are eternal and the Democratic party must turn over a new leaf, in favor of economy, honesty in public affairs, and vindicate the right of the People, and not legalize slavery as national, with Supreme Court decisions, or defeat is certain and deserved. I think the South, after Gov. Wm Keist [?], Barksdale, Burnett¹¹ and some others have discharged their braggat and disunion sentiments, will return to common sense and sober reason and stand by the Union, and its equal liberties to white men. Gov. Wise¹² has made entirely too much “fuss and feathers” in regard to Harpers Ferry revolu-

⁹ The omitted paragraph is one in which Mr. Daily asks the aid of Davis and Douglas in obtaining an appointive office.

¹⁰ In this omitted paragraph, the writer deals further with his desire to secure a place in Washington.

¹¹ The first name is difficult to decipher. The Editor is unable to determine what governor was meant, probably, the writer had in mind William Gist of South Carolina. William Barksdale, member of the national House from Mississippi, 1853-1861, Henry C. Burnett, member of the House from Virginia, 1855-1861.

¹² Henry A. Wise, Governor of Virginia.

tionists. He has acted like the whole North sanctioned and knew of it when perhaps not 500 men in all the Free States knew of Browns designs and not one man in 5,000 sanctions his bold but wicked designs—the great mass of the People in the Free States are on this very question of slavery, perfect non-Interventionists—they neither want to steal the Negroes, or catch them that has run away, their sentiment is “hands off with the nasty thing”.

Please send me Documents and Books and seeds—You have hosts of Friends about here—I regret I did not see you in Terre Haute—I wanted to have a conversation upon this question so exciting now, but I have no doubt of good judgment and wisdom upon this and all other questions. Do you want a new list of names for this office. Please write how Judge Douglas's chances are for the Charleston nomination? And write when House is organized.

Your devoted Friend
JAMES M. LUCAS

[A. M. PUETT TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

GREENCASTLE,
Janr. 3rd 1860

HON J. G. DAVIS

DR SIR

Yours has been recd I should have wrote you before this but have been delayed to hear from Virmillion I now learn it has instructed for D Putnam went off well instructed for Douglass and Hendrix¹³ If you are right in your conclusions and it turns out that the South refuses to go with us for Judge Douglass then the end has come with the only power that is competant to manage this gov. I for one will wait with hope that they may recover from such madness I do not however blame them so much as I do Bright, Bigler,¹⁴ Fitch As to the President his last message on the Kansas question and the manner in which he belies the Supreme Court decision has with all right minded men rendered him ridiculous not only so but leaves no chance to us to excuse him he is not honest he is doted he is *rotan* Only thing for us to do is to stand by the principal & on that we *will* come up or this government is *gone* & and so help me God if the South is big fools enough to follow Old Buchanan in his dodges & will persist & refuse to suport Douglas I and thousands more will stand off & let the hell hounds in the shape of Ossowattomie Brown pitch into them & let them see the kind of passengers they have wakend up.

Ours is a living principal, a right equal founded on a just form of Government and my advice is to support no man who is not *at heart* for

¹³ Thomas A. Hendricks, whom the Douglas Democrats expected to nominate as a candidate for the Governorship of Indiana.

¹⁴ William Bigler, Democratic Senator from Pennsylvania, 1855-1861.

it, for it body and Soul Then I love him otherwise I hate him for his degradation or dishonesty for one or the other does exist.

If you will allow me to command I will say Stand by the old ship with the flags waving & have on the helmet & bid defiance to North or South who are of[f] the Track So help me I will be there. Nerve with good horse sense is what we want now we can make the nerve & God will give us the other.

Yours Truly
A. M. PUETT

[JOSIAS H. ROBINSON TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

NICHOLSONVILLE, PUTNAM CO. IND.
Jan. 9th/60

HON JNO. G. DAVIS:

Dear Sir—I will take it as a great favor if you will furnish me with such political documents, as you may deem of interest to a politician; that may be for distribution.—I would like Judge Douglas' reply to Attorney General Black.—Also that of Reverdy Johnson—anything of sufficient interest to deserve a reading.

The Doctrines of Old Buck's¹⁵ late message, touching the slavery question, will certainly injure the Democratic party if adhered to. He has done more in my estimation, to injure and destroy the peace and influence of the party than any other man has had the power to do. Is he not now bidding for Southern influence in the Charleston Convention?

What do you think of Judge Douglas' chance in the great Convention? Ohio & Indiana have spoken for him in tones of thunder, & such will be the case in other conservative states. With Judge Douglas as a leader we *can succeed*—without him I have grave doubts. Be this as it may, I trust that God, in his infinite wisdom will guide this great, prosperous & happy Nation, to a harbor of safety. The virtue & intelligence of our numerous political leaders, who know how to estimate peace & happiness ought to *insure* such a result.

I do not regard South Carolina as a suitable State to hold a National Democratic Convention in.

I think of appearing at the State Convention tomorrow.

I close with assurances to you of my highest regards.

JOSIAS H. ROBINSON

[DR. W. S. PIERCE TO JOHN W. DAVIS]

INDIANAPOLIS, Jany 14th 1806

DEAR SIR

Yours is recd. Bingham¹⁶ has treated you well & I have made known to him your appreciation of his kindness. *He will continue to so treat*

¹⁵ The President, James Buchanan.

¹⁶ Joseph J. Bingham, a newspaper man who moved from Lafayette to Indianapolis in 1856 where he became one of the proprietors of the *Indiana State Sentinel*.

you. You will have read before this reaches you the proceedings of our convention. Glory enough is it not. Our friends are wild with exultant enthusiasm. Pray let me know how the news fell upon the ears of friends as well as *foes*. How does Douglas take it. What did our ancient allies in the south say? What response from the President & his administration? Did they anticipate it. Hendricks¹⁷ nomination was one of the most flattering things I ever witnessed & when given him without a dissenting *voice* & when he went forward, the tumult was overpowering—Shouts waving of handkerchiefs hats & rising from the seats to do it told the intense satisfaction, which was enhanced by the fact that, everything else had been finished & this was the *crowning act*. The truth is we are all too happy. Now. Will Douglas keep his temper?—If he will we've got them.

Let me know how these things were read soon & call on me to protect, your name, fame & standing here at any time.

Yours Truly
W. S. P.¹⁸

Is the ninth & tenth Vol. of Rail Road reports out? I have up to the ninth and want the balance.

Yrs. Truly

[A. M. PUETT TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

GREENCASTLE, Janr. 15th 1860.

HON J. G. DAVIS
WASHINGTON CITY
DEAR SIR

Your last letter came too late for me to answer you in time to reach before the convention you was right in your conclusion about coming it depended on the organization I incline to the opinion that he *Jons*¹⁹ is your friend but did not look from the same standpoint Now to the convention John *we* had a noble band of good men of course I omit a few who were very imprudent & they were so few that the wheels roll on; everything was done that could be done by the Administration that same old coon Jesse²⁰ come here on Monday & one F. Bigger the Syrene [siren] cry then commenced, "Harmony" Harmony was all they cared for & they said that could be had they insisted on us taking all candidates all the delegates But—But—not instruct this we could not obey & on Tuesday evening some one discovered the State of Indiana entirely out of Jesse's²⁰ Breaches Pocket and in the Masonic Hall declaring its Indip. the particulars I can not attempt to give you but I will

¹⁷ The Democratic State Convention nominated Hendricks for Governor.

¹⁸ Only the initials, "W. S. P.", were signed to this letter, but Davis indorsed on the back of the communication: "Letter of Dr. W. S. Pierce of Indianapolis".

¹⁹ Aquilla Jones of Greencastle. In the letter of Mr. Jones printed below, there is mention of the misunderstanding of himself by Davis.

²⁰ Senator Jesse Bright. The F. Bigger who is here referred to was probably Finley Bigger, brother of Samuel Bigger who was Governor of Indiana 1841-1844.

say this much: there was very little to regret and you being absent you may think some men were put in Nomanation that should not have been but if you had been here as I was & know all the reasons you in my judgment would have exulted over *all* You know that it is impossible [to] have all men behave themselves & when that is so they need a little disappointment it helps to bring them to their real senses The particulars I will give you There were some funny things done and said I will say we had Beet Slack with Turpy²¹ & I say to you I incline to think it would be well considered for you to write a letter to him congratulating him on his success the papers has reached you before this the vote in convention on the resolution to instruct for Douglass was 268 to 127—Douglass should be proud of his friends *his* real ones such as you & I who stood as you know at the Mouth of the Cannon's it, I find is easy to pretend to be a mans friend but a very diferant thing when you make bare your arm to receive the shafts all loafers in their private sick rooms such divies [devices]

Now Davis you have had, I seen some spar[r]ing with a Bottle or gug [jug] of Poter²² & a Dunn²³ You was right upon the main point & I suppose you receive the Sentinal Bingham has done you justice I wish you had been a little more particular in giving your vote you should have said you received a very large Democratic vote the entire American vote & that the Republicans professing to have taken the Democratic ground then voted for you on the ground [of] having no candidate of their own I saw Dan Vorees²⁴ who heard you & he says boldly that you are right in your speech replying to Poter and Dunn he told me he would make if necessary an affidavit to it indeed all good Democrats who oppose you say so The Republicans are very biter, they had been biter some time before the foray came up in Congress & I suppose they had written from this district to P & D & Brought the thing about You should be very careful and go with the Democratic party when you possibly can—where the principal is preserved we will have to fight inside & our State has got back on 56 grounds.

Should you need some letters to back you in what you said about your position on the question relating to the discussion of Court you can get all you want in every part of our district Give my respects to the Champion of Democratic principals the only man in my judgment we can elect president at the next election

Yours Very Truly
A. M. PUETT

P. S. if I can get mony to spare I will come down and see you about the last of March & go the rounds to Charlestown

A. M. P.

²¹ David Turpie was nominated for Lieutenant Governor on the ticket with Hendricks.

²² Albert G. Porter, Republican member of the national House of Representatives from the Indianapolis District of Indiana from 1859 to 1863.

²³ William McKee Dunn of Madison, Indiana, Republican member of the national House from 1859-1863.

²⁴ Daniel W. Voorhees, another of the younger Democratic leaders of Indiana who became prominent just before the Civil War.

[AQUILLA JONES TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

INDIANAPOLIS, 20 Jan. 1860

JOHN G. DAVIS

has Bright turned up—I hope he has not run into the river—the last I heard of his he was crossing the river at Jeffersonville. I guess old *Buck* begins to think there is other men in Indiana—new men now will come up I would like to see you and talk about 4 hours. I was right in my advise to you about the Convention. I know you did not properly appreciate me but I hope it is all right now Mr. Douglas will have plenty of admirers now but I would reckon he knows who his real friends are. you ought to organize if possible It strikes me that Sickels proposition is a fair one—

Write often

Respectfully
AQUILLA JONES

[AUSTIN H. BROWN TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

INDIANAPOLIS, May 24th, 1860

DEAR FRIEND:

I have not heard from you for a long while.

I have opinions in reference to the Presidential issue differing somewhat from our friends They are these:

I presume there can be no doubt but that there will be 4 tickets in the field: the Bell; Lincoln, Douglas and the Disunion tickets. Lincoln in such an event will carry every Northern State except California, and be elected. Douglas will not cause [carry] a state unless it be California. Davis (if he be the Disunion candidate) will carry Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Florida. Bell the remaining Southern States. Lincoln will be elected by the people. In this State Lincoln will get the *whole* Republican vote, two thirds of the American²⁵ vote, and three thousand German democratic votes. The secessionists, will have a separate electoral ticket and it will get some 7,000 or 8,000 votes. The Bell ticket will get about 5,000 or 7,000 votes, and a large portion of them will be the votes of the old line Whigs who joined the Democratic party in 1854.

Knowing as I do that secessionists truly represent the feelings of a large majority of the Southern democrats I rather hope that Lincoln may be elected. It may have the effect to learn them some sense.

I presume if Douglas be nominated at Baltimore that it will be done in such a way as not to give satisfaction or as to impress the public mind in his favor.

If I were Douglas I should not hesitate to withdraw as his defeat by the people would do him no good. The man who might be nominated instead would be disgracefully beaten as he ought, and the consequences of

²⁵ Members of the American party, better known as Know Nothings.

it would be laid at the door of Bright & Co., and Douglas stand higher than ever before the people.

If it be determined however that he ought to be a candidate we should all work for him zealously, and convince the world that if defeat come, that the South are alone to blame.

Efforts are now being made to change Indiana and New York. The thing cannot be done *here* and I hope not with N. Y.

Write me fully your views.

Yours Truly,

AUSTIN H. BROWN²⁶

[JAMES M. LUCAS TO JOHN G. DAVIS]

CLOVER LAND IND June 9, 1860

HONORED AND ESTEEMED SIR

I received your last letter and read it with pleasure. I hope you and Judge Douglas friends in the convention will not compromise on my new man and if two thirds can not be obtained adopt the majority rule. The Democrats here are in favor of the rule being changed. A few papers in this State, in the Interests of the Administration are in favor of a Diversion of the Democratic convention at Baltimore upon a new man—and they name Gov. Wright²⁷ of this State. The Greencastle Press, Clay Co. Democrat and Vincennes Sun have expressed such opinions. In fact our Clay Co. Democrat said that Gov. Wright could get 5,000 more votes than any Democrat in Indiana What a false Idea! A leading Democrat told me the other day that he never would vote for Joe Wright, for he let his wife influence him to sign the prohibitory Temperance Bill. Tis after [over] strong Temperance opinions would loose him Indiana, Also in Ohio some papers and Politicians name Wm Allen. He has not been engaged in Ohio for the Democracy in 10 years. He has been in a Rip Van Winkle sleep for nearly 15 years Gov. Seymour²⁸ has been named I am glad to see the [that he] postively declines Gen. Pearce²⁹ is named as the man who would be very popular with the South. *He will not do in the North.* He left the Presidency very unpopular. He is a very moderate man in Talents The *whole* great west is all on fire for Douglass! No other name is seriously thought of by 9/10 of the Democracy. The universal shout is Douglass and nobody else. With him we can certainly carry Indiana & Illinois! The people are for Douglass. look at the vote on the cars of May 28 between Cincinnati and Indianapolis on the Central Road—Douglas 78 Lincoln 18—Bell 17 Jeff Davis 1 Yancey 1 Houston 4! Some person sent me a Boston Campaign

²⁶ Austin H. Brown was the son of William J. Brown ("Done" Brown). The elder Brown was owner and editor of the *Indiana State Sentinel* for several years. Later the son became the owner, while the father was the editor. The paper was sold by Austin H. Brown in 1855.

²⁷ Joseph G. Wright, Democratic Governor of Indiana, 1849-1857. Appointed United States Senator by Governor Morton in 1862.

²⁸ Horatio Seymour, Democratic leader of New York. Elected Governor in 1862. Candidate for the presidency against Grant in 1868.

²⁹ General Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire, President, 1853-1857.

Post It is opposed to Judge Douglas! There is some mean Papers and Politicians in the north against him look out for Gen. Butler³⁰ of Mass. and Gen. Cushing!³¹ They are servile slaves of the Administration and the South. This Butler, Bigler, Bright faction will do anything to prevent Douglas from being the candidate. Any other man will suit them—But the Democracy largely want Douglass and we hope Montgomery,³² Richardson³³ and yourself, and others, will meet them at every point and defeat them. Buchanan would be miserably beaten and so would Hunter,³⁴ Guthrie³⁵ or any other endorser of his Kansas policy! We hope for a glorious nomination of Douglas! Also a number of them in Vigo. One of the American Assessors in Vigo Co., says he is for Douglas and if he is not nominated he will support Bell. I know enough of southern Indiana to know that Douglas can beat L[incoln] badly south of the National Road. We hope you and Judge Douglas friends will be wide awake, and not let Bright & Co. set traps that will injure Douglas Do any thing fair and honorable to conciliate the South. If the seceders return and new delegates come vote in the new ones—the only reason the battling delegate come back is to slay Douglas—It is a bitter personal hate without reason or principle. We hope they will not succeed. Let us have the great Democratic Leader, the defender of Jackson and such a tumult will be got up all over the land, that has not been excelled since Harrison campaign. Send along the documents. Write as soon as you get this.

In haste

JAMES M. LUCAS

³⁰ Benjamin F. Butler, Democratic leader of Massachusetts before the Civil War. A supporter of John C. Breckinridge in 1860.

³¹ Caleb Cushing, Democratic leader of Massachusetts. He was opposed to Douglas. Acted as chairman of the Charleston Convention of 1860.

³² Probably William Montgomery, Democratic Representative from Pennsylvania, 1857-1861.

³³ William A. Richardson, of Illinois, a stalwart champion of Douglas. Member of the national House, 1847-1857. Governor of Nebraska Territory, 1856-1858. Succeeded Douglas in the Senate in 1861.

³⁴ R. M. T. Hunter of Virginia, United States Senator, 1847-1861.

³⁵ Probably James Guthrie of Louisville, Kentucky.