

Abraham Lincoln to Samuel Galloway, 1859

Image

Private

Springfield, Ill. Dec. 19. 1859

Now: Saml Galloway:

This will introduce my friend, Mr George Nicolay, who will deliver to you the copies of debates you desire. As they cost a good deal of trouble to get them together, some of us have concluded to send them by him, at our own expense, rather than risk their loss, by any public conveyance. He is a printer I believe - certainly, has conducted a newspaper - and can give something of my views, a little more in detail than I could write them; and also some mechanical assistance in getting the thing started. He will remain a few days, at our expense, for that purpose. You perceive the copies, in one of the shapes sent, are in a Scrap-book. As they stand there, in purchasing the paper I would prefer the publication to be made in; but as that includes, with the joint debates, six previously made speeches, and the correspondence which flows to the joint debates, it may make a larger job than you wish to undertake. These six speeches however, are so frequently referred to in the joint debates, as to make them a very proper, if not indispensably, accompaniment. If however, you publish the joint debates only, then it is my wish to preserve the Scrap-book unbroken; and for that contain

Abraham Lincoln to Samuel Galloway, 1859

gency, Mr Nicolay will furnish you another double set  
of the joint debates, so that Douglas' speeches, can be taken from  
the paper friends to him, and sent from that friend to me.

Of course I wish the whole to be accurately copied; but  
especially let ~~there~~ there be no color of complaint, that  
a word, or letter, in Douglas' speeches, has been changed.

Allow me to add that I esteem the compliment ~~you~~  
<sup>paid</sup> ~~me~~ in this matter, as the very highest I have ever  
received; and to assure you, and the other kind friends,  
that <sup>it</sup> ~~it~~ shall ever be held in grateful remembrance.

Still, I think it would be indelicate in me to cause a  
publication of the correspondence. You can do that if you  
choose.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln

P.S. I forgot to say in the proper place, that the copies  
of the Columbus & Lincoln's speeches, which I send, are  
as correct as by myself. A.L.

P.S. Mr Nicolay is a good Republican, and  
a good man; and worthy of any confidence  
which may be bestowed upon him.

Abraham Lincoln to Samuel Galloway, December 19, 1859.  
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC00365)

## Abraham Lincoln to Samuel Galloway, 1859

### Transcript

---

Private

Springfield, Ills. Dec. 19.1859

Hon: Saml Galloway:

This will introduce my friend Mr. [John] George Nicolay, who will deliver to you the copies of debates you desire. As they cost a good deal of trouble to get them together, some of us here concluded to send them by him, at our own expense, rather than risk their loss, by any public conveyance. He is a printer I believe-certainly has conducted a newspaper-and can give something of my views, a little more in detail than I could write them; and also some mechanical assistance in getting the thing started. He will remain a few days, at our expence, for that purpose. You perceive the copies, in one of the shapes sent, are in a scrap-book. As they stand there, is precisely the shape I would prefer the publication to be made in; but as that includes, with the joint debates, six previously made speeches, and the correspondence which led to the joint debates, it may make a larger job than you wish to undertake. These six speeches however, are so frequently referred to in the joint debates, as to make them a very proper, if not indispensable, accompaniment. If, however, you publish the joint debates only, then it is my wish to preserve the Scrap-book unbroken; and for that contingency, [2] Mr Nicolay will furnish you another double set of the joint debates, so that Douglas' speeches can be taken from the paper friendly to him, and mine from that friendly to me.

Of course I wish the whole to be accurately done; but especially let [struck: them] there be no color of complaint, that a word, or letter, in Douglas' speeches, has been changed.

Allow me to add that I esteem the compliment [struck: you pay] [inserted: paid] me in this matter, as the very highest I have ever received; and to assure you, and the other kind friends that [strikeout] [inserted: it] shall ever be held in grateful remembrance. Still, I think it would be indelicate in me to cause a publication of the correspondence. You can do that if you choose.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln

P.S. I forgot to say in the proper place, that the copies of the Columbus & Cincinnati speeches, which I send, are as corrected by myself. AL

P.S. Mr. Nicolay is a good Republican, and a good man; and worthy of any confidence which may be bestowed upon him-