Abraham Lincoln to Samuel Galloway, 1859

Private

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 19, 1859

Dear Sam Galloway,

This will introduce my friend Mr. George
Nedd, who will deliver to you the copies of debate, you
require. As they are a good deal of trouble to get them
together, some of us had concluded to send them by him,
at our own expense, rather than publish them by any
public concern. He is a printer, I believe, and has
conducted a newspaper, and can give something of my
views, a little more to notice than I could put them,
and also some mechanical assistance in getting the they
printed. He will remain a few days, at our expense, for the
purpose— If you please, the copies, in one of the shapes
sent, are in a scrap book. As they stand then, is not
using the shape I would prefer the publication to be
made in. But in that case, how, the joint debate,
the previous debate, and the correspondence which
took to the joint debate, it may make a larger job than
you wish to undertake. These are speeches, however, and so
frequent, refer to the joint debate, or to make them
a very proper, if not indispensable, accompaniment. If
however, you publish the joint debate, or, then it is proper
to preserve the scrap book, which can be had at cost.

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gent. Mr. Nicolay will forward you another whole set of the paper estates, so that Eagle's speech can be taken from the paper prevailing to his own from the prevailing one.

Of course I wish this whole to be accuracy very but especially let them be no color of complaint that a wrong or false in Eagle's speech has been charged.

Allow me to add that I esteem the compliment you paid me in the praise of the very highest I have ever receiving and to assure you am the other Kingsman that it place ever been in graphic remembrance.

Still, I think it would be unadvisable in this to commend publication of the companion. You can see that if you choose.

Yours very truly,

Abraham Lincoln

P.S. I forgot to say in the proper place that the copy of the Columb. & Cincinnati speech, which I now am in possession of, propely.

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, 1859

Transcript

Private
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-