

Rochester N.Y. August 17. 1865.

Mrs Abraham Lincoln:

Dear Madam: Allow me to thank you, as I certainly do thank you most kindly for your thoughtful kindness in making me the owner of a Case which was formerly the property and the favorite walking Staff of your late lamented husband the honored and venerated President of the United States.

I assure you that this inestimable memento of his Excellency will be retained in my possession while I live - an object of sacred interest - a token not merely of the kind consideration in which I have reason to know that ^{the} President was pleased to hold me personally, but as an indication of ^{his} humane ~~consideration~~ interest & sympathy of my whole race.

With every proper sentiment of Respect and Esteem

I am, Dear Madam, your Obedt Servt

Federick Douglass.

Transcript

Frederick Douglass to Mary Todd Lincoln, August 17, 1865 (The Gilder Lehrman Collection, GLC202474)

Rochester N.Y. August 17, 1865.

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln:

Dear Madam: Allow me to thank you, as I certainly do thank you most sincerely for your thoughtful kindness in making me the owner of a cane which was formerly the property and the favorite walking staff of your late lamented husband the honored and venerated President of the United States.

I assure you, that this inestimable memento of his Excellency will be retained in my possession while I live - an object of sacred interest - a token not merely of the kind consideration in which I have reason to know that [inserted: the] President was pleased to hold me personally, but [struck: of] as an indication of [struck: the] [inserted: his] humane [illegible strikeout] interest [in the] welfare of my whole race.

With every proper sentiment of Respect and Esteem

I am, Dear Madam, your Obed[ien]t Serv[an]t.

Frederick Douglass.