

**Frederick Douglass to Mary Todd Lincoln**

Rochester, New York, 17 August 1865.

Autograph letter signed, 1 page.

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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 Obe<sup>dt</sup> Servt.

Frederick Douglass.