

July - 2.

Phila: July 20. 1858.

My dear Gov.:

You seem to think that I wished you to renounce or abandon principles. Perhaps I am the last man on Earth to advise any such thing? Surely prudence is not inconsistent with principle; & one may exhibit cautious, tact, management, & wisdom & yet remain as true as steel to his principle. Do not understand me as having advised you to abrogate your Anti-Slavery views, or your peculiar ideas in application of territorial "Popular Sovereignty". If it were your opinion on this subject do not accord with my own view of a system of compromise in Democratic State man's life, but I have no doubt of the depth & honesty



of your consistency. I thought I  
saw an opportunity occur where  
you might, by proper management  
in despite of the intrigues of your  
opponents, fully restore yourself to  
the very strong position you  
occupied before your Interference  
letter made its appearance. It was  
simply to take the ground of treating  
the English Bill as a finality - to  
declare that while the Bill did not  
meet your personal wishes that  
it was the act of the Party - from  
which you did not choose to separate,  
& with which you did not choose to  
contend, & that under the circumstances  
you would regard it as a finality  
in a party sense. Had you done  
this your rival opponents would  
have been obliged to their hearts,  
& your friends every where would  
have shared with exultation, I  
wished you to avoid the very



center in which you now find  
yourself engaged with the adve-  
the Democratic party in most of the  
States, while attempting to deprive  
Mr. Douglas in the desperate course  
he has taken in Illinois.

I know not, however, why  
I should feel so sore except that  
you give true friends & that  
I have had no small share of  
feeling to say nothing of personal  
interest, in the whole of this  
business?

If the success of Mr. Douglas  
in Illinois is necessary to your  
Virginia, I care of course, under  
stand your policy, but if you  
can stand in <sup>to</sup> <sup>no</sup> <sup>hope</sup> your  
own merit (as I suspect you <sup>can</sup> <sup>lose</sup>)  
then I repeat the last thing you  
should desire is Douglas's election,  
& you should never have permitted  
yourself to be drawn into it



now proceed with the Adm<sup>l</sup> vi  
her or any other means, behalf.

I with an idea that you  
may distinctly comprehend my  
meaning?

My view is of Douglas be elected head the  
Anti Slavery party all set up for his  
a labor you in the work. If he be  
defeated then the probability is that  
all must come to you, & will come  
if you carry Virginia. There if you  
stand aloof & gradually work your  
way into the party against especially  
if it becomes the interest of the President  
to aid you as might be the case, you  
would stand in an extraordinary position  
of strength. But I do not think  
you can ever succeed so long  
as you deem it necessary to wage  
war on the President & the  
general party. If this be not common  
sense (tho' hardly & being largely refused)  
you are off. Still, that I shall  
always rejoice in your prosperity & success  
you may truly  
Yours truly  
H. C. W.

Her  
H. C. W.