Dover Del.

Confidential. July 27. 1860

Dear Sir

Your esy. to day duly rec'd and my reply to the subject-matter, must be pretty much the same with my answer to a letter I rec'd from Mr Montgomery soon after the adjournment of the Baltimore Convention.

I am disgusted with Politics and thoroughly tired with them, and wish to have nothing to do with them.

But the very men and things which so disgust me, prevent me from being indifferent to passing events.

Mr Andrew Johnson was my first choice. He is out of the question and now, Mr Douglas is my first choice. I am utterly opposed to any compromise whatever, and I believe I had rather compromise with any of the other interests than with the Breckenridge.

Whilst then I am opposed to any

compromise, and if it depended upon me there would be none, with the Breckenridge men, for I would never agree to it, nevertheless, I think there will be some sort of one patched up on the 8th of next month, and there may be a possible condition of things, such as I may acquiesce in such compromise.

For instance — If the compromise should be effected by the Hunt and Sefton Delegates, over the Newcastle Bayonet, Wilkely and Custom House faction, and if that faction should secede immediately from the Convention (as many believe will be the case and some hope) and make open war upon that convention, its action and its nominees, then in that case, repugnant as compromise is to my feelings, I might consent to support at least the action of the Convention so far as it did

in putting down that faction in this State. But to swallow compromise with Breckenridge, secession and disunion, and the Boyd and Customhouse faction and all is utterly out of the question! I would sooner not vote at all.

Hoping as strongly as the Douglas men do here that there will be a bust up in the Convention of the 8th next, ~~they generally~~ ~~and~~ that the Boyd men will be driven from it, ~~the~~ Douglas men here generally approve of Cullom's putting off the meeting of the Convention as he has done.

We could wish to try, elect Douglas delegates entirely both in East and West Dover tomorrow. But most of us — indeed I think I may say all whom have recently seen — have determined not to meddle — to take no part in their proceedings tomorrow. I do not, myself, expect to attend the meeting.

We do not wish to be bound, nolens volens, to support the action of that convention, or to secede. They would like us very much to put ourselves

in that situation. They would like to make us subject to the same reproach of secession with themselves, or to compel us to support them any how. They will catch some that way, but some they will not.

As for the meeting on the 9th, it is deemed impracticable. One of the objections to the call put out by Colo Montgomery was that it did not allow time enough before the meeting of the Convention. This objection has greater force now. In the lower counties more time is needed than in New Castle. Especially as we have but one paper, and that of a limited circulation in Kent & Sussex.

It is expected that the delegation from your county will come down solid of the uncompromising Breckenridge faction, and that they will be stiffly overruled, and that they will consequently recede. This may think, to the Democratic party will be a happy riddance. I repeat, such a condition of things would do more than any thing to induce me to acquiesce in the action of the convention even with a compromise. And in that case perhaps I should acquiesce unless the compromise should be too objectionable.

Very Respectfully
J. G. Laws

Dover Sept. 19th 1860

Samuel Townsend Esqr

My dear Sir

Your letter came to hand and I hasten to reply. I have no doubt that until the whole matter is explained you will think strange of some things which transpired at our County meeting. One thing certain I believe Douglas is stronger in our County to-day than he was two weeks ago.

Matters were so far advanced toward the Convention before we held our State Convention that we could not arrest them to any good result.

More than half of the County ticket is made of the best Douglas men in our County – the Leg Court Branch has five Douglas men – the Legislature three. More tickets will be poled for Douglas and myself under the present arrangement than could possibly be poled otherwise now.

Men are different in this County from men in New Castle as you must know and having some twelve Douglas Delegates in the Convention it would be impossible to thwart the present state of things, by rebelling. I will explain more fully all when on Saturday I come up to see you. I did as you know advocate a straight out ticket but Mr Laws and Hill, Ridgely & Cummins and others having friends, near friend, on the ticket will not revolt. In your County things are worked differently. You are farther advanced, and God knows you are independent men. You need not fear the ticket already out to be under the finger of any man or set of men – three or four of the men were unknown to Saulsbury or Sharp. I am of opinion when you know all you will be pleased. As to Mr. Biggs my friends advise me to challenge him & Fisher to a series of joint meetings which I shall do. I am satisfied that the Breckenridge Central Com. did not intend any indignity to me or my friends – The Saulsburys will do nothing to hurt me – they have too much respect for my friends. Not a name in the Douglas ranks has yet been set down against me – they are all true and I believe will protect me.

In haste yours truly

Elias S. Reed

Toconsend Nov 10th 1861

My Dear Friend

I had the pleasure a few days ago of reading your letter to William Cusons and was very glad indeed that you was well and that you still remember Dick I believe the only news in our section is that Christopher Conie is dead and that John Simpson has another woman at his house I do not know her name but on other matters I am posted

Dover, Nov. 27, 1861.

Mr. Townsend:

The Legislature have just adjourned, to meet again on the second Tuesday of January next, without having done anything in the shape of legislation.

The Committee on the Tax, made a report this morning, in the shape of a resolution, asking the House by a vote, to assume the payment of the direct tax, which was voted down; and the matter remains just where it did before.

Messrs Betts, Broadaway and Rickards are the Committee of investigation on the Lottery Assignment, and are authorized to employ Counsel, but not to send for persons and papers.

I have not been able to learn much of the feeling of members as to whether they will legalize the

transaction between Francis and Morris. My own mind is made up in regard to the matter. My opinion is, the drawings now are illegal, the grantee having annulled the contract by his failure to pay at the time specified in the Act of Assembly; but whether the Legislature will overlook all this, and make good and valid these illegal proceedings, rather than stand the chances of being asked for a new Grant is a question yet to be settled.

I shall expect to hear from you right away; and at the same time would be glad to have your views fully expressed on this subject.

In haste,

John K. Jarvis.

George Town, December 20. 1861.

James Townsend Esq.

My dear Sir.

Your favor of the 14th. Inst. came duly to hand. I have since been to Philad. & Wilmington - & I should have answered it sooner. I did hope to have seen you - and indeed looked out for you, at Townsend - both going and coming - but was disappointed.

If I were to consult my feelings, simply, I would join in opposition to a General of France's grant to Morris & Co. But, to tell you, sincerely, I feel I have been lately - and probably, justly punished, for ever having had any thing, whatever to do with this infamous Lottery business. Could I have foreseen, what I now see, I would not have touched it, for any consideration. But I did not then know these men - as I now know them. I now desire to retire from all connexion with them, of any kind, & every kind - and to have nothing further to do with them - or for them - or against them. I hope, and pray for forgiveness, for ever having had any thing to do with them.

I regard the opinions of Bates & Bayard as unsound law. As for the opinion, & conduct of Wootten - it is beneath contempt. So too, the high functionary, who could so far forget his high duty - and the great principles of morality, as to advise an Attorney General's salaus to be greased - excites disgust. "A man who would offer a bribe" - would take a bribe. And that functionary's conduct is, perhaps, explained, by an application to him of this moral maxim.

If, ever I receive what these men owe me, in any part of it - it will be well - if not, it will be well also. And I hope to be enabled to live without it.

Very respectfully, & truly, I am your friend

Geo. S. Gaston.

Received Sep 5. 1862 of Samuel Townsend Esq. Thirty one dollars, and ninety eight cents, being six months for Rachel B. Davis on Bond due Sep 1. 1862.
Paid by his check on the Farmers Bank at New Castle Del dated 30th of August 1862.

$31.98

David McCorkey

West Chester Pa
Sep 5 1862.

Samuel Townsend Esq
Townsend P.O.
Delaware.

Dear Sir

Yours of the 4th instant I have just received. I looked amongst some unanswered letters and found yours of the 30th with your check enclosed to pay interest. above I send you my receipt. We have 2

much war excitement and politics of late, that I suppose I forgot to answer you at the time of its receipt. I hope you will excuse me and I will do better for the future. The Basket of Peaches I received yesterday by Adams Express. They are very fine for which I tender you my sincere thanks. We have a War meeting here this afternoon for the purpose of arming our people under the Governor's Proclamation. We must meet the

Crisis. We are promised a provost Marshal by the War Department and are looking for his Commission every day. Our secessers are getting very quiet apparently. Had you better not make a move in that direction for Delaware -

Your brother Major Townsend told me a day or two ago, that the City of Wilmington has elected a Union Mayor by a majority of 650 votes. That is good. Why dont you have it published in the Press. Dont you think you ought to have a Provost Marshal for your state to keep the sympathisers in order for I understand you have a great many. Delaware I think is loyal & Union and I think you ought to redeem her this fall and let a U. S. Senator of a different stripe of the one whose term expires on the 4th of March next

Yours friend very truly

David McCourtney

My dear Friend

You are not - you are the tramp of humanity - I cannot get little Patrick to agree to it and what I am to do about the idea - I am as partial as they would prove it a mistake if Morris was out of the way but that is a big event to a large expense to get a grant that Morris would still go on with his work as not by a Dollar - For me that is the dear truth in it - I shall be compelled to abandon the idea personally, but when we Morris be put out of the State entirely I shall stopped from drawing I can show you a thousand that will take hold generally - the fact is that we are want to go to the expense of a Grant while Morris is allowed to do as he does with the present one, and go opposition to all else - You say that a penal bill will be passed at Morris - if that is done so you can get it clear then we can have a chance - You are a Team, and if you can get a penal Bill at Morris and break him up - it will be the means of something turning up - My respects to your Brother & accept the same yourself

Yours most truly

[illegible]

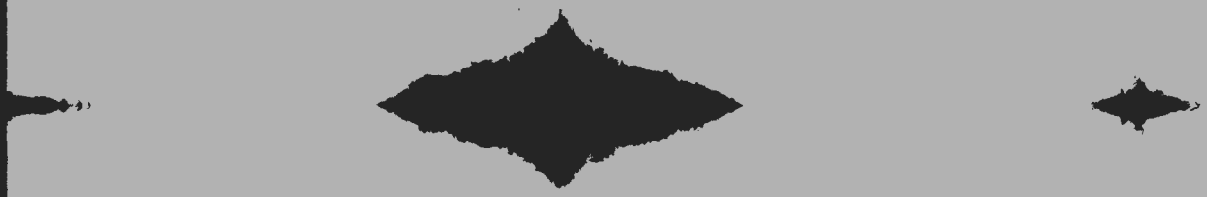
Dear Sir Wilmington Del Feby 19th 1863

I have just seen Jeffries and he told me Bill Frances Grant also Wood & Eddys grant have been repealed by the legislature of Kentucky since I saw Samuel Swann one of the firm of Wood and Eddy and he tells me that Morris Grant has also been repealed so all the Grants in Kentucky are now repealed. This will make a grant here ~~this~~ worth more, now is the time Jeffries also told me the legislature in this state would do nothing with their grant at this session

[redacted]

[redacted] Hammett

Morris is gone to Kentucky



House Representatives

Dover March 3. 63

Mr. Samuel Townsend

Esteemed Sir yours receiv and Contents noted in reply I will say to you that the legislature is a body are going down to Seaford by Raile Road tomorrow noon and return on thursday Evening Consequently you had better Come down on thursday Evening instead of tomorrow noon. Gamble at the head of the Black Republican members of the legislature have this day introduced a bill in the house this morning to amend the road law of Appoquinimink St Georges & Newcastle hundreds without any petitions for the amendment wanting at the Glory themselves Lattimers is with them heart & Soul

Yours &c

Jno. H. Bewley

Georgetown June 30. 1863.

Samuel Fenton, Esq.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of yesterday came to hand last night. It is no use for you & me to enter into a controversy on politics. I like you personally & I think you are sincere. I would do any thing, or say any thing to offend, a sincere man, willingly - but there is no good likely to arise out of a political discussion. You call yourself a Democrat. You have got hold of a few cant, catch, slang phrases about Democracy & Whiggery - & Black Republicans & Abolitionism - & see that: but, my friend, allow me to say to you, in all frankness you do not understand the questions at issue - & the awful crimes which the Democratic party

has inflicted on the Country - and
Cannot, therefore discuss the question
without resorting to these old Catch
words - only used by designing Politi-
-cians to deceive, & impose upon the
Credulous - & the ignorant. I am
not one of that Class. I know what
I am about - I understand the
issues - & the whole Course & history
of Democracy in this Country - And
understanding them as I do - I con-
-demn them. Democracy is a
very pretty word to Catch Votes -
And if the leaders would teach the
Democratic Principle which is
incorporated in our Republican,
Representative form of Government,
and be Content with such teaching -
there would be no dispute. We
should all agree upon that prin-
-ciple - but the doctrines they have
taught - & the acts they have committed

are unjustifiable - strong - Wicked.
I dare them where the foolish ex-
-tract in Dent's - Commonwealth
what Paper is responsible for it - or
what hair brained fellow wrote it:
but whoever wrote it - is either an
ignorant fool - or if not ignorant;
he is a knave - and a liar - and
is guilty of trying to deceive the
People, by calling bitter men than
he is, a Sun Wicker, by bad names.
I have never seen a more silly ar-
-ticle - more embodying without, so
much ignorance - & Rascon.
Who fought for the Independence
we now enjoy? Whigs. Who framed
the Federal Constitution? Federalists -
Who had been during the Revolution-
-ary War - Whigs. Who opposed the
Federal Constitution? & its adoption?
The Anti Federalists - with Jefferson
at their head - who afterwards called

themselves Democrats - Who de-
-stroyed the Federal Navy? Democ-
-rats - Mr. Jefferson - but they
continue this investigation! As I
said before, when you come to un-
-derstand these questions politi-
-cally in our minds, + act as I do.
But let us cease these Po-
-litical discussions. They can do no
good - so let us be friends.
I understand think I was right in
the view I took, when I said I
had thrown thousands of dollars
in the pocket. I did it, as a friend,
as this Town by my advice before at
Dover - Can not I be exhibited a
confidential letter to my enemies.
I regret it was a truthful letter -
as you say "a Sober letter" - it was
written for a sober purpose - of ex-
-posing to you the conspiracy - I did
not call he Mr. Lincoln: but I supposed
his administration against this opposing
democratic party - which is giving aid
comfort to the enemy. I am truly your
friend
Geo. L. Lazelle

State of Delaware
Office of Secretary of State

Dover, Del. Aug. 8th 1863

Samuel Townsend Esq
Dear Sir

Your favor of yesterday inviting me to be present at a meeting of the Democracy of your hundred to be held to day has been received.

It would afford me great pleasure to be at the meeting and to accept your kind invitation to dine with you if it were at all possible. The illness of my wife and engagement to see other patients

rendering it impossible for me to leave home. hoping your meeting may be a success I remain —

With Great Respect
Yours &c &c
Grove Saulsbury