

Abraham Lincoln papers

From B. F. Lemen to Abraham Lincoln, April 1, 1860

Stone House, Rocky Mountains April 1st "/60,

Dear Sir,

Knowing as I do your liberal views, and high toned liberty sentiments, I herewith take the privilege of addressing to you a few lines from the Rocky Mountains, in order that you may know that your interesting Speech delivered in Newyork¹ on the over whelming topics of the day, has been, by one at least, delightfully and attentively read— Read under the Shadowing brow of Pike's Peak

¹ This is a reference to Lincoln's speech at the Cooper Institute in New York, on February 27, 1860.

Where the granite piles high in the white bearded air,

'Mid Buffalo pathes and the haunts of the Bear,

When I saw that Speech, when I remembered the great, yet youthful with her efficient noble hearted Statesmen who are the good side of the question, I felt as a Spartan, proud of the name. It seemed to me that you whittled the Giant down to the little end of nothing and left him nothing on which to hang a hope, with Your Sling, and little pebble picked up from the brooks of the Revolution, You took him pop, center —, right in the forehead. He appears to me like "a poor boy at a frolic"— You chose a good "text," and did not, as was the old habit, of some of the iron-side preachers, preach from it, but to it, and that, verry closely, so pungently that I can not see how, Such Sinners, as Douglas and those reprobates, of the north at least, can avoid being convicted of their awfully fearful Slippery condition. Could they one, be induced to Stand and hear it — their knees would doubtless, "Smite, as did Bettocuzus but in that compulsion they would in all likelyhood require a "Strait-jacket," and all the merciful arrangements of an Insane Asylum. I heartily agree with yourself, and Seward, that the threats of Brawling disunionists, which we have heard so much of late, are but Flimsy air castles — Cob house work, Webs that will catch no Flies— I wish all Such to understand, that From the large Observatory in the Rocky Mountains, that the alarming prophetic declarations of the dough faces in the north and the labored calculations of the political astronomers of the South must all Fail— The great Southern Comet will not Strike, our American Earth and dash it into fragments as agreed on by them," nary once", as old Sam Butler would say. Wiser, and more thorough calculations have clearly demonstrated, that, notwithstanding, the comet's rappid approach, and its Firey appearance,

is nothing more, than a thin and exceedingly light vapor, or gaseous matter —, whose weight could not disturb in the least degree our “Star Spangled Atmosphere, much less the great globe itself, long tried, and well regulated in its revolutions Our political Earth which we call “Libutatus” — has too many Sustaining influences; its universal laws are too well Founded to be over thrown, or blown away by mear gass, or boddies containing no heavier matter than puffs, of the State unmeaning Word “Black Republic” I would have them taught as You have in Sentiment taught them, that there are mighty, controlling influences. Our Political world has has the Propelling forces, or George Washington power, — which drives onward, amid the meteoric stones and gaseous vapors of wandering Stars— It also has the impelling and repelling Thomas Jefferson, Republican forces — which holds its own matter, and at the Same time, repells Extreme, and obnoxious execrations, or, all extraneous substances. It also has a gravitating or adheasive influence, which is the magnetic blood of the Fathers of the First revolution. That power binds the whole Super Structure toward one Common center.

The Constitution, and the declaration of Independence are its morning, and Evening stars, the Ordinance of Eighty seven, its northern, great Constellation, or Pointers — and it has “Liberty and Union,” for its Pollar Star. And ere long by that great northern Beacon Republican mariners will wisely conduct its whole Navy and ship of State. Nothing would better please me, than to see the Giants' opponant at the helm, with the little Giant, the doughfaces, the fireeaters, and union brawlers with their Yelping blood hounds, all on board as passengers. In view of these happy influences, we may still repose securely and Soundly, the world will roll on in its successive order. I am now mining and well doing but hope to return ere the Election, our Country here is develloping Some flattering prospects, — mining, Agriculture, & Stalk growing, will be the bases here, we will soon be a free knocking State, all we want now is: Postal arangments, Indian treaties, &c,

B. F. Lemen

Permit me to remain Your true friend now in Rocky Mountains

[Endorsed on Envelope by Lincoln:]

B. F. Lemen