

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Letter from Edwin Stanton to James Buchanan (Copy)

Date: March 14, 1861

Location: I-SpahrB-1959-9

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Washington, March 14. 1861.

Dear Sir:

Your favor was received last evening. I shall take care of it so that when required it may be returned. There is no doubt of Sumter being evacuated, report says the order has gone but that I think is doubtful. You will have noticed the resolution introduced yesterday by Mr Douglas in the Senate. That looks like a comprehensive platform for relinquishing everything in the seceded states, and even those that sympathize with them. To me it seems like the first steps towards a strictly Northern non-slaveholding confederacy.

In the last ~~two~~^{two} days nothing has occurred here to my knowledge, but what you will see in the newspapers.—

There has been no further action in respect to the Supreme judgeship. It is generally understood that Crittenden will not be nominated. Judge Campbell has reconsidered his resignation and will not resign immediately. The Court adjourns today. I am now writing in the Supreme Court room. If the Court ever reassembles there will be considerable change in its organization. Judge Grier went home sick two days ago. Judge McLean is reported to be quite ill. Lincoln will probably (if his administration continues four years) make a change that will affect the constitutional doctrines of the Court.

The pressure for office continues unabated. Every Department is overrun and by the time that all the patronage is distributed the republican party will be dissolved. I hope that peace and tranquility with cessation from your intense labors will long preserve you in health and happiness.

Yours truly
E. M. S.

P.S. The Supreme Court have just decided Mrs Gaines's case in her favor, four judges to three.

The Chief Justice, Grier and Catron
dissenting. They have also decided
that the Federal Government have
no power to coerce the Governor
of a state to return a fugitive from
justice although it is his duty to
comply with the demand.

yours,

E. M. S.