

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

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

## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from Isaac Toucey to Nahum Capen

**Date:** April 4, 1863

**Location:** I-SpahrB-1966-16

### Contact:

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

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

15  
My dear Sir

Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> ult was read  
by me with very great pleasure. I was not  
indifferent to the partial opinion which you express  
of my speech to the people of Hartford on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
of March. It is proper for me to say to you in self-  
defense, that it was given to the public as  
taken down by verbatim by the phonographic  
reporter of the New York World without revision,  
& of course appears in the disordered garb of  
extemporaneous debate in an excited popular  
assembly. Dating typographical inaccuracies  
& misapprehensions of the reporter, it is a  
daguerreotype of what took place on the occasion.

a pretty full expression of my views.  
The only remedy for the evils which have  
fallen upon the country is in the legitimate  
action of our institutions, which will soon  
transfer political power from the radical  
abolitionists to the conservative classes.  
This is inevitable, or, after two centuries  
teaching, we are found not ripe for repub-  
lican government.

Your visit to the great statesman  
in retirement must have been very  
instructive & agreeable on both sides.  
I have always said that time wd  
vindicate the wisdom of his policy,  
& that history wd do him justice. We  
are already beginning to reach the

standpoint of the historian.

Send you herewith my exact  
testimony before the Naval Committee of the  
Senate in the form of questions & answers,  
which I think much better than to  
blend it with an editorial.

Looking with a good deal of  
interest for the 1<sup>st</sup> volume of your  
History

I remain  
with the highest regard  
your sincere friend

J. Toucey  
Hartford April 1863

Nahum Capen Esq  
Boston }

My dear sir,

Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> [illegible] was read by me with very great pleasure. I was not indifferent to the partial opinion which you express of my speech to the people of Hartford on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. It is proper for me to say to you in self-defense, that it was given to the public as taken down ~~by~~ verbatim by the phonographic reporter of the New York World without revision, and of course appears in the disordered garb of extemporaneous debate in an excited popular assembly. Bating typographical [illegible] and misapprehension of the reporter, it is a Daguerreotype of what took place on the occasion

[page break]

and a pretty full expression of my views. The only remedy for the evils which have fallen upon the country is in the legitimate action of our institution, which will soon transfer political power from the radical abolitionists to the conservative classes. This is inevitable, or, after two centuries teaching, we are found not ripe for republican government.

Your visit to the great statesman in retirement must have been very instructive and agreeable on both sides. I have always said that time would vindicate the wisdom of his policy, and that history would do him justice. We are already beginning to reach the

[page break]

standpoint of the historian.

I send you herewith my exact testimony before the Naval Committee of the Senate in the form of questions and answers, which I think much better than to blend it with an editorial.

Looking with a good deal of interest for the 1<sup>st</sup> volume of your History

I remain  
with the highest regard  
Your sincere friend

I. Toucey

Hartford Apr 4th 1863

Nahum Capen, Esq.  
Boston