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**Title:** Letters from Alexander McClure to Eli Slifer, 1854-59

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Confidential

Repository of Whig Affairs  
Chambersburg, Pa. 5<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sir—

James M. Sellers  
wishes his name mentioned  
in the "Chronicle" for Senator,  
and he and I will both  
esteem it a personal favor  
if you will have it done,  
I do not know tho' he will  
be a candidate, but he  
wishes to be in a safe  
line for it should circumstances  
seem to demand him to offer  
himself.

Mr Sellers contributed  
greatly to your nomination  
in 1857, and did much to  
sustain the nomination in  
the midst of threatened

disagreement of the malcontents  
He visited Leustown since  
prior to the selection of three  
Conferees, once with myself  
and earnestly urged the selection  
of conferees favorable to himself.

He neither expects or  
desires you to take a stand  
for him, but he will be gratified  
if you will have his name  
mentioned in a brief article.  
This is all strictly confidential  
of course.

Yours &c

A. M. Cline

Col Shyer

Confidential

Repository & Whig Office  
Chambersburg, May 6th [1854]

Dear Col-

James M Sellers wishes his name mentioned in the "Chronicle" for Senator, and he and I will both esteem it a personal favor if you will have it done. I do not know that he will be a candidate, but he wishes to be in a safe line for it should circumstances seem to demand him to offer himself.

Mr Sellers contributed greatly to your nomination in 1851, and did much to sustain the nomination in the midst of threatened

[Page Break]

disorganization by the mal-contented. He visited Lewistown twice prior to the selection of their conferees, once with myself, and earnestly urged the selection of conferees favorable to yourself.

He neither expects or desires you to take a stand for him, but he will be gratified if you will have his name mentioned in a brief article. This is all strictly confidential of course.

Yours &c  
A K McClure

Col Slifer

Private

Chambersburg, July 24

Dear Col -

Is it possible for you to elect a Whig Senator? If any person in Sumata can carry the district it is Sellers, for he can command influences in a contest not within the reach of any other man. He fears the district, and if it is hazardous he will decline. Please inform me particularly how things are, and what the prospect is. If there is a way of getting things in a safe condition, tell me how it is to be done. Mr Sellers must not be run and defeated. He is blamed, and very justly, for acting with me in your favor three years ago, and



if defeat is inevitable, it must  
fall on those who merit it  
more. An early reply will  
be gladly received.

Pollock will have from  
800 to 1000 in Franklin just as  
certain as the election comes,  
'Will that do for the "Green Spot?"  
Take care that we don't beat  
Union.

Nothing new here,

Yours truly

W. McClure

P.S. - My kindest regards to  
"Jack" and lady. Tell him  
I am looking for a letter  
soon for the paper as he  
promised.

Private

Chambersburg, July 24 [1854]

Dear Col-

Is it possible for you to elect a Whig Senator? If any person in Juniata can carry the district it is Sellers, for he can command influences in a contest not within the reach of any other man. He fears the district, and if it is hazardous, he will decline. Please inform me particularly how things are, and what the prospect is. If there is a way of getting things in a safe condition, tell me how it is to be done, for Sellers must not be run and defeated. He is blamed, and very justly, for acting with me in your favor three years ago, and

[Page Break]

if defeat is inevitable, it must fall on those who merit it more. An early reply will be gladly received.

Pollock will have from 800 to 1000 in Franklin just as certain as the election [comes?] Will that do for the "Green Spot?" Take care that we don't beat Union.

Nothing new here.

Yours truly  
A K McClure

PS.- My kindest regards to "Jack" and lady. Tell him I am looking for a letter soon for the paper as he promised.

Repository & Whig Office  
Chambersburg, Sept 11

Dear Sir -

Your favor is at hand. I hope that whatever action the State Committee may take in reference to Davis, will be taken speedily for in many counties tickets are printed four weeks before the elections.

You have doubtless been apprised of Sellers' nomination in Annata. I supposed that such must be the result for there is no man in the County approaches him in personal & political strength. I do hope indeed that he will be elected. I go to Annata to-morrow, & will be there some days on private business.



How so ridiculous a  
Story as that I am opposed  
to the Whip ticket in this county  
got into your section, I cannot  
imagine. There is not a man  
on the ticket for whose success  
I do not feel a personal as  
well as a political interest, for  
it is, without exception, one  
of the very best tickets ever  
nominated in the county. The  
Candidates are every one men  
of eminent moral worth,  
unquestioned competency,  
and sound Whigs. Besides  
I do not oppose Whip tickets  
its against my principle and  
I have never done it in my life.

Hoping to hear from you  
frequently, believe me

Yours truly

Ed Eli Huber

A. W. Melton

Repository & Whig Office  
Chambersburg, Sept 1 [1854]

Dear Col-

Your [fame?] is at hand. I hope that whatever action the State Committee may take in reference to [Darsie?], will be taken speedily, for in many counties tickets are printed four weeks before the election.

You have doubtless been apprised of Sellers' nomination in Juniata. I supposed that such must be the result, for there is no man in the county approaches him in personal & political strength. I do hope indeed that he will be elected. I go to Juniata tomorrow, & will be there some days on private business.

[Page Break]

How so ridiculous a story as that I am opposed to the Whig ticket in this county got into your section, I cannot imagine. There is not a man on the ticket for whose success I do not feel a personal as well as a political interest, for it is, without explanation, one of the very best tickets ever nominated in the county. The candidates are every one men of eminent moral worth, unquestioned competency, and sound Whigs. Besides I don't oppose Whig tickets - its against my principle and I have never done it in my life.

Hoping to hear from you frequently, believe me

Yours truly  
A K McClure

Col Eli Slifer

1854

Chamberburg, Oct 12

Dear Col -

Yours is at hand,  
Huzza for Pollock & Sellers!  
Our county has fully redeemed  
my promise to you some  
time ago, Pollock will have  
near 900. Pollock elected  
to Congress high and dry,

I know all about  
the Crawford movement,  
and in fact was in it  
myself as deep as I  
could be. I saw when  
in Annata in September  
that the election of Crawford  
as a division man  
was the only way of

Keeping Sellers right. I called  
on Crauford myself on  
the subject, and found him  
right. He is a reliable  
man, and you can depend  
on him. If your end has  
elected him, as I infer  
is the case, he would  
go to the d—l to accuse  
himself in the Baum news.  
You need not concern  
yourself about him. I  
know of no man, in  
all my acquaintance  
wh sticks closer to his  
friends and is more un-  
relenting with his enemies.  
And he will be no half  
way man—he always goes  
the whole hog or none.

You will have no reason  
to regret his election, either  
as regards your local issue  
or as regards you personally.  
Had I been in Sumatra  
I should have voted for  
him.

— But *buizza fu Pollich!*  
I think now that we shall  
have an honest administration  
and one that we can stand  
up to with our whole  
hearts. Of course Suage is  
a *Krum* fellow, and Laint  
but no difference, I am sure  
on the principle.

— I am much rejoiced  
at Selley's success and I  
am well aware how much  
you have contributed to it.



For your personal efforts  
for Selles. I feel personally  
grateful to you, for you  
probably knew that Selles  
& McChesne were identical  
in Sumata; and had he  
been defeated, it would  
have been chuckled over  
by such chuckle-headed  
fools as Bell as the  
reversion of McChesne  
dominion in Sumata.  
I do not try to control  
the county, but they insist  
that I am doing so, and  
whether guilty or not, they  
would have heralded Selles  
defeat as my defeat.

- Huzzah for Pollock  
Ed. Sipes. Yours &c McChesne

Chambersburg, Oct 12 [1854]

Dear Col-

Yours is at hand. Huzza for Pollock & Sellers! Our county has fully redeemed my promise to you some time ago. Pollock will have near 900. Robison elected to Congress high and dry.

I know all about the Crawford movement, and in fact was in it myself as deeply as I could be. I saw when in Juniata in September that the election of Crawford as a division [man?] was the only way of

[Page Break]

keeping Sellers [right?]. I called on Crawford myself on the subject, and found him [right?]. He is a reliable man, and you can depend on him. If your end has elected him, as I infer is the case, he would go to the d\_\_l to avenge himself on the [Baur?] men. You need not concern yourself about him. I know of no man, in all my acquaintance who sticks closer to his friends and is more unrelenting with his enemies. And he will be no halfway man—he always goes the whole way or [none?].

[Page Break]

You will have no reason to regret his election, either as regards your local issue or as regards you personally. Had I been in Juniata I should have voted for him

—But huzza for Pollock! I think now that we shall have an honest administration and one that we can stand up to with our whole hearts. Of course Judge is a Know Nothing, and I ain't—but no difference, I am sound on the principle.

—I am much rejoiced at Sellers' success and I am well aware how much you have contributed to it

[Page Break]

For your personal efforts for Sellers I feel personally grateful to you, for you probably know that Sellers & McClure were identical in Juniata; and had he been defeated, it would have been chuckled over by such chuckle-headed fools as Bell as the [overthrow] of McClure dominion in Juniata. I do not try to control the county, but they insist that I am doing so, and whether guilty or not, they would have heralded Sellers defeat as my defeat.

—Huzza for Pollock

Yours &c  
A K McClure

Col Slifer

Nov 20 1857

Chambersburg, Pa. 20.

My Dear Sir -

I am afraid I have  
got into a snarl. I never intended  
to apply for any office from Gen  
Pollack, and only a few days  
ago I gave a letter to Col Pat-  
terson for the same office. For your  
kindness however I feel immea-  
surably indebted, and the more  
so because it is unsolicited and  
I know sincere. I cannot, however  
make a formal application for the  
office after having recommended  
another; but if Gen Pollack thinks  
fit, to give me the appointment  
I would not refuse it. If Pat-  
terson cannot be appointed, then  
I would feel free; but I prefer

consistency to the office. My  
action however does not inter-  
fere with your voluntary re-  
commendation, and if it  
does no good, it can do  
me no harm. At any  
rate I heartily thank you  
for your kind partiality.

A dispatch before me  
received a few minutes ago,  
asks me to meet Col Benton  
at Hamsbury to-morrow  
evening. I will do so, and  
will write you from there.  
I will then be better posted.  
An Editorial this week will  
commend you for State Treasurer.  
Let me hear from you frequently,  
and let the letter be strictly private  
Yours truly  
A. M. Wilson

Chambersburg, Nov 20, [1854]

My Dear Sir-

I am afraid I have got into a snarl. I never intended to apply for any office from Gov Pollock, and only a few days ago I gave a letter to Col Patterson for the same office. For your kindness however I feel immeasurably indebted, and the more so because it is unsolicited and I know sincere. I cannot, however, make a formal application for the office after having recommended another; but if Gov Pollock thinks fit, to give me the appointment I would not refuse it. If Patterson cannot be appointed, then I would feel free; but I prefer

[Page Break]

consistency to the office. My action however does not interfere with your voluntary recommendation, and if it does no good, it can do me no harm. At any rate I heartily thank you for your kind partiality.

A dispatch before me received a few minutes ago, asks me to meet Col Curtin at Harrisburg to-morrow evening. I will do so, and will write you from there. I will there be better posted. An editorial this week will commend you for State Treasurer. Let me hear from you frequently, and let this letter be strictly private

Yours truly  
A K McClure



1858  
or 1859.

Chambersburg, Oct 14

Dear Sir -

I will be a candidate for  
Speaker. Will you aid me  
with Col. Wagoner? Please  
have the Chamber to pay a  
kind word for me. Write  
me on the subject. Will you  
be a candidate for Treasurer?

Yours

A. M. Delane

W. S. L. S. S.

Chambersburg, Oct 14 [1858 or 1859?]

Dr Sir-

I will be a candidate for Speaker. Will you aid me with Col Wagenseller? Please have the Chronicle to say a kind word for me. Write me on the subject. Will you be a candidate for Treasurer?

Thine  
A K McClure

Col Slifer

Private

Chambersburg, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>  
56

Old Sumner is after  
me hard—he has thrown several  
members from me in Phila.  
Lancaster, (Darwin) Carey, Bug  
ner & Co are in his interest. I  
have his tracks; and to-day  
wrote him very frankly, that  
if his personal interests were  
to be flung into the contest  
In Speaker, I meant to under-  
stand the case fully, I will  
soon have him understand that  
in such a fight he may pos-  
sibly throw me, but that I  
will certainly fling him.

I understand him. He

will fight as long as there is  
a fair prospect of defeating  
me; when hope fades, he will  
fall around all of us. If it  
only ever becomes understood  
that he has a candidate for  
Speaker to advance his Presi-  
dential aspirations, I can safely  
pledge you that that candidate  
can't be nominated.

Among them they have flattered  
Patterson until he scarcely knows  
whether he is for me or not.  
Can he control Naginseller?

My letter to-day written  
to him will make him up.  
It is respectful and conciliatory  
but its determined tone he will

fully comprehended. When I hear  
from him I will write you,  
I don't fear him. He  
may throw a few weak men  
into hostility; but before the opinion  
concerns he will be better  
understood, and even weak  
men will see how they are to  
be used & cheated.

Excepting to yourself, Bro.  
Larger & a few others, I have been  
non-committal on the Treasurer  
question. No circumstances can  
arise to drive me from my well  
settled choice, and I shall uniformly  
refuse to give hopes to outsiders.  
When my hands are loose I shall  
then be free to sustain you efficiently.

I have a letter from Reynolds



volunteering to go for me, and  
asking me to go for you and to  
take care of him, doubting  
whether he ~~was~~ is a safe man,  
I told him I could not pledge  
myself for Treasner, but referred  
him to you, stating that my  
position was perfectly satisfactory  
to yourself.

Had a letter from Dick  
of Pittsville. Much indebted to  
you, I will write to the members

Write me at any time  
any thing new trans up

Yours truly  
A. Melrose

Rev. E. S. Fisher

Private

Chambersburg. Oct 28th [1858]

Dr Col-

Old Winnebago is after me hard - he has thrown several members from me in Phila. [Sainence?], (Dauphin) Carey, Bergner [one word illegible] are in his interest. I have his tracks; and to-day wrote him very frankly, that if his personal interests were to be flung into the contest for Speaker, I meant to understand the case fully. I will soon have him understand that in such a fight he may possibly throw me, but that I will certainly fling him.

I understand him; He

[Page Break]

will fight as long as there is a fair prospect of defeating me; when hope fades, he will fawn around all of us. If it only once becomes understood that he has a candidate for Speaker to advance his Presidential aspirations, I can safely pledge you that that candidate can't be nominated.

Among them they have flattered Patterson until he scarcely knows whether he is for me or not. Can he control Wagenseller?

My letter to-day written to him will wake him up. It is respectful and conciliatory but its determined tone he will

[Page Break]

fully comprehend. When I hear from him I will write you.

I don't fear him. He may throw a few weak men into hostility; but before the session convenes he will be better understood, and even weak men will see how they are to be used & cheated.

Excepting to yourself, [Bomberger?] & a few others, I have been non-committal on the Treasurer question. No circumstances can arise to drive me from my well settled choice, and I shall uniformly refuse to give pledges to outsiders. When my hands are loose I shall then be free to sustain you efficiently.

I have a letter from [Nymuller?]

[Page Break]

volunteering to go for me, and asking me to go for you and to take care of him. Doubting whether he ~~now~~ is a safe man, I told him I could not pledge myself for Treasurer, but offered him to you, stating that my position was perfectly satisfactory to yourself.

Had a letter from Frick of Pottsville. Much indebted to you, I will write to the members  
Write me at any time any thing new turns up

Yours Truly  
A K McClure

Col E Slifer

Chamberburg, Apr 19<sup>th</sup>  
Dad

I have no instructions  
to give you the South. I am that  
if Holcomb is to be put in, Chase  
must yield in due time. I do  
not fear the South. I am in  
less danger there than you are.

In the West we stand  
with equal chances - perhaps you  
occupying the advantage. I take  
it however that Donkey needs  
no instructions.

Dont apprehend that I will  
cut loose from you at all - I think  
you know me better. I shall say  
as before, that my position

fulfills that I should take part  
in the contest at all - but under  
no circumstances can I be  
so complicated as to embarrass  
me ~~at all~~ after the election  
of Spake. I must then be  
free to give you all aid in  
my power.

I am fully persuaded  
that I can be Spake without  
complicating myself at all,  
and if I make the fortune  
in that way, I can then  
render tenfold more service  
to you than otherwise. I mean  
however to spare no efforts where  
effort seems to be needed  
Write me  
Yours  
Melrose

Chambersburg, Nov 19th [1858 or 1859?]

Dr Col-

I have no instructions to give for the [North?]—save that if Holcomb is to be put in, Chase must yield in due time. I do not fear the [North?]. I am in less danger [one word illegible] than you are.

In the West we stand with equal chances—perhaps you occupying the advantage. I take it however that Bomberger needs no instructions.

Don't apprehend that I will cut lose from you at all—I think you know me better. I shall say as heretofore, that my position

[Page Break]

forbids that I should take part in the contest at all—but under no circumstances can I be so complicated as to embarrass me ~~at all~~ after the Election of Speaker. I must then be free to give you all aid in my power.

I am fully persuaded that I can be Speaker without complicating myself at all, and if I make the position in that way, I can then render tenfold more service to you than if otherwise. I mean however to spare no efforts where effort seems to be needed Write me

Yours &c  
McClure



Chambersburg, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>  
1862.

I hear of Samner's game  
with the Treasurer Candidates al-  
most every day; and have had  
the different candidates put  
as to his policy, through their  
parties.

Let the Phila Register of Mills  
attend the opening. We must lose  
no chances.

I have treated Chase with  
great courtesy - have not asked  
for strength in his section in  
any other event than the impossibility  
of his election. It is not probable  
that he will go for Samner. He

is ambitious and will not  
share with his friends.

Lawrence's election is an  
impossibility. If in this I am  
mistaken, I will run up to  
ignorance of politics. If any other  
man can beat me, then I am  
in danger.

Have a letter from Sellers.  
He thinks Lechman may be  
more formidable than he is gene-  
rally reckoned. I think so too.  
It seems to me that he is in a  
good position for men to fall on  
as a second choice.

Patterson is a d-d fool, &  
will never know it. He will die  
in blissful ignorance of the fact.  
Sucky fellow! Still if he does

any thing like the former thing. I  
will allow his friends, in the event  
of my success, to say where  
he shall go. I calculate upon  
the necessity of putting him quite  
beyond his merits.

I shall spare no pains  
for my defeat now would be  
a sorrow neither not only  
to myself; but I fear that  
it would inevitably drag you  
down with me, a result I  
would infinitely more regret than  
an aster to myself.

Yours truly

A. McClure

Chambersburg, Dec 4th [1858]

Dr Col-

I hear of [one word illegible] game with the Treasurer candidates almost every day; and have had the different candidates posted as to his policy, through third parties.

[Set?] the Phila Register of Wills attend the opening. We must lose no chances.

I have treated Chase with great courtesy—have not asked for strength in his section in any other event than the impossibility of his Election. It is not probable that he will go for [one word illegible]. He

[Page Break]

is ambitious and will not war with his friends.

[One word illegible] Election is an impossibility. If in this I am mistaken, I will own up to ignorance of politics. If any other man can beat me, then I am in danger.

Have a letter from Sellers. He thinks Cochran may be more formidable than he is generally reckoned. I think so too. It seems to me that he is in a good position for men to fall on as a second choice.

Patterson is a d\_\_\_\_d fool, & will never know it. He will die in blissful ignorance of the fact. Lucky fellow! Still if he does

[Page Break]

any thing like the [fair?] [thing?], I will allow his friends, in the event of my success, to say where he shall go. I calculate upon the necessity of putting him quite beyond his merits.

I shall spare no pains for my defeat now would be a serious [overthrow?] not only to myself; but I fear that it would inevitably drag you down with me, a result I would infinitely more regret than disaster to myself.

Yours truly  
A K McClure

Private

Chambray, Dec 26<sup>th</sup>

Beloved

Your favor is at hand.

I had a letter from Wood to-day. He does not name committees.

I have not indicated or promised a single position on the committee; but it has always been my purpose, in the event of my election to put Mr Wood on Mass & Meass, in the opinion that I think him well fitted for the position. I have, however, not so intimated to any of his friends or to himself. You can say so to Griff in confidence; and



you know me well enough to  
assure him that what I mean  
to do shall be done.

Being myself entirely  
free from pledges or complica-  
tions as to the Committee,  
I can fulfil any ~~any~~ ex-  
pectations you may encourage  
for our mutual benefit with  
any one-reluctance as I do fully  
that your prudence & good judge-  
ment would place me under  
no obligation that would not  
be proper to discharge.

I had a letter from J. R.  
Campbell, M.B. He is decided &  
is active. He entertains no doubt

of the Schuylkill delopment. The  
Clouds are clearing away, and  
with the effort I mean shall  
be made, I shall go through  
I mean, however; to use every  
means, and want all the  
strength I can command out-  
side to guard against accidents

Yours truly

McClure

Ed. Shippen

Word note concerning  
himself fully swarmly.

Private

Chambersburg, Dec 25th [1858]

Dr Col-

Your [one word illegible] is at hand. I had a letter from Wood today. He does not name committees.

I have not indicated or promised a single position on the committees; but it has always been my [purpose?], in the event of my Election to put Mr [Wood?] on the Ways & Means, for the reason that I think him well fitted for the position. I have, however, not so intimated to any of his friends or to himself. You can say so to [Graeff?] in confidence; and

[Page Break]

you know me well enough to assure him that what I mean to do shall be done.

Being myself entirely free from pledges or complications as to the committees, I can fulfil any ~~any~~ expectations you may encourage for our mutual benefit with any one—relying as I do fully that your prudence & good judgment would place me under no obligation that would not be proper to discharge.

I had a letter from [J?] H Campbell, [one word illegible]. He is [decided?] & is active He entertains no doubt

[Page Break]

of the Schuylkill delegation. The clouds are clearing away, and with the effort I mean shall be made, I shall go through I mean, however, to use every means, and want all the strength I can command outside to guard against accidents

Yours truly  
Mc Clure

Col Slifer

Wood writes committing himself fully & warmly.

Hanover, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>

Dear Sir

We have had a consultation about salaries, and it has been agreed to make the salaries of the State officers as you suggest, and also to enclose the pay of the Phila & Supreme Judges. Mr Chan, Chas<sup>r</sup> Map & Meas will offer the amendments to the appropriation bill.

Yours truly  
M. C.

Harrisburg, Mar 1st [1859?]

Dr Col-

We have had a consultation about salaries, and it has been agreed to make the salaries of the State officers as you suggest, and also to increase the pay of the Phila & Supreme Judges. Mr Chase, [Chairn?] Ways & Means will offer the amendments to the appropriation bill.

Yours Truly  
MC



Chamberstrog. April 14<sup>th</sup>  
56.

The statements in Shaw's letter  
are mainly without a shadow of  
foundation. I made no arrange-  
ment with him; save to pay him  
what he admits. I did pay him  
promptly; and on settlement of the  
matter with Bombage, I cau-  
tioned him not to allow any  
thing more for him, come from  
what quarter it might. He was  
very artful to get me to in-  
crease the amount; and finally  
told me that you had agreed to  
\$500. My only answer was, that  
whatever you agreed to, you would

fulfil. I did not for a moment  
suppose however, that you had  
done any such thing. I never  
saw him any attempt to pro-  
cure notes at any rate. He cer-  
tainly thinks I am a scoundrel  
like himself, and that I have  
procured money from you for  
him & must pay it over. Best  
plan is to let him go - I want  
to write to him if come on  
any such subject. In due time  
he can be disabused of the  
impression that I have swindled  
him by keeping money paid  
for him.

I send you the letter you  
speak of relative to King

We are quiet in politics, the  
Senatorial nomination is within  
my reach without difficulty;  
but my business interests press  
strongly for a declination, what  
say you about it?

Yours

A. M. Cline

Edw. Eli. Sifer



Chambersburg. April 14th [1859]

Dr Col

The statements in Shans letter are mainly without a shadow of foundation. I made no arrangement with him, save to pay him what he admits I did pay him promptly; and on settlement of the matter with Bomberger, I cautioned him not to allow any thing more for him, come from what quarter it might. He used every artifice to get me to increase the amount; and finally told me that you had agreed to \$500. My only answer was, that whatever you agreed to, you would

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fulfil. I did not for a moment suppose however, that you had done any such thing. I never gave him any authority to procure notes at any rate. He evidently thinks I am a scoundrel like himself, and that I have procured money from you for him & wont pay it over. Best plan is to let him go- I [one word illegible] to [write?] to him of course on any such subject. In due time he can be disabused of the impression that I have swindled him by keeping money paid for him.

I send you the letter you speak of relative to King

[Page Break]

We are quiet in politics. The Senatorial nomination is within my reach without difficulty; but my business interests press strongly for a declination. What say you about it?

Yours truly  
A K McClure

Col Eli Slifer

Chambersburg, 1790  
Col. Elihu Spurr

Mr. House, the leave  
is after 7 o'clock for an Encampment  
& must give bond for their return

Please give a few more Bonds  
& I will be responsible to you  
for the safe return of the  
Deuts. There will be no  
doubtfully about it for he is  
a most careful & prompt  
man in such matters

Trustees  
A. McClure



Chambersburg, May 11th [1859?]

Col Eli Slifer-

Mr Houser, the bearer, is after Tents for an Encampment & must give [bond?] for their return  
Please go upon his [Bond?] & I will be responsible to you for the safe return of the Tents.  
There will be no difficulty about it for he is a most careful and [prompt?] man in such matters

Yours truly  
A K McClure

Senate Chambersburg. July 20

Dear Col - The Spirit-Specimen in a  
desperate effort to defeat my  
nomination for Senator. has  
this morning published a tissue  
of the most infamous libels -  
of which the above is one. Please  
send me ~~some~~ such an  
answer as the enclosed.

So far from harming me,  
it has only had the opposite  
effect.

Truly yours

M. C.

Private

Chambersburg July 20 [1859]

D Col-

The Spirit - Locofoco - in a desperate effort to defeat my nomination for Senator, has this morning published a [tissue?] of the most infamous libels - of which the above is one. Please send me some such an answer as the enclosed.

So far from harming me, it has only had the opposite effect.

Truly thine

MC

1859

Chambersburg, Aug 19<sup>th</sup>  
Spri-

I will be nominated on Tuesday next by the Conference by acclamation; but there is a terrible struggle before me. It looks now as if Hill will be my competitor. If so we will have a jolly time, and a doubtful contest. Nothing but Herculean efforts will save the district. It is naturally against me, and with Hill there will be a most desperate effort made to elect him. He is very timid about entering the race; but I think that if the party will give him a cordial nomination,

he will stand the fight. Myers  
of Adams, is still in earnest,  
this county is entitled to it;  
but it is not impossible that  
he will be shuffled off by  
some arrangement.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> I will open the  
campaign & it will continue  
mightily until the election. Carey  
will be with me the first week,  
or most of it. McMichael will  
spend several days with me  
in Adams.

Say to Keubel that he must  
make his arrangements to be with  
me on the 3<sup>d</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of October.  
That is the time he can serve me  
best, and he will be thrown into



our heaviest districts, where he will  
have immense meetings. Tell  
him that the time I have named  
must be mine,

I will be in Adams from  
the 26<sup>th</sup> <sup>of Sept</sup> until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.  
If he can be with me at any  
time there, I shall be glad: but  
to Franklen he must come.

I have sent a check on  
Barringer as you suggest. When  
I go down I will make satis-  
factory arrangements about it.

We will have a most ear-  
nest campaign, and will deserve  
a triumphant success, & hope to  
realize it.

Yours &c

A. M. C. L. C.

Wm. C. C. C.

Chambersburg, Aug 19th [1859]

D Sir –

I will be nominated on Tuesday next by the Conference by acclamation; but there is a terrible struggle before me. It looks now as if Nill will be my competition. If so we will have a jolly time and a doubtful contest. Nothing but herculean efforts will save the district. It is naturally against me, and with Nill there will be a most desperate effort made to elect him. He is very timid about entering the race; but I think that if the party will give him a cordial nomination,

[Page Break]

he will stand the fight. Myers of Adams is still in earnest, & his county is entitled to it; but it is not improbable that he will be shuffled off by some arrangement.

On the 5th I will open the campaign & it will continue mightily until the election. Carey will be with me the first week, or most of it. McMichael will spend several days with me in Adams.

Say to Kunkel that he must make his arrangements to be with me on the 3d 4th 5th & 6th of October. That is the time he can serve me best, and he will be thrown into

[Page Break]

our [heaviest?] districts, where he will have [immense?] meetings. Tell him that the time I have named must be mine.

I will be in Adams from the 26th of Sept until the 3rd of October. If he can be with me at any time there, I shall be glad; but to Franklin he must come.

I have send a check on Bombeger as you suggest. When I do down I will make satisfactory arrangements about it.

We will have a most earnest campaign, and will deserve a brilliant success, & hope to realize it.

Yours &c  
A K McClure

Col Eli Slifer

As Will try & spend a night with you in  
a few days

Chambersburg, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>

Dear Cal.

I now care for but one  
thing - that is your re-election. In  
that command me in any way  
& to any extent.

I have written both our  
members, and asked it of them to  
go with me for you. They both  
are then election to me, and  
know it. I fear nothing in  
that quarter. I will write Dec-  
larion also. He ought to pay  
some respect to my wishes in the  
matter. It was my \$300 judi-  
ciously expended in that county  
I need him. Yours truly W. M. McClure

Chambersburg. Oct 13th [1859]

Dear Col-

I now care for but one thing - that is your re-election. In that command me in any way & to any extent.

I have written both our members, and asked it of them to go with me for you. They both owe their election to me, and know it. I fear nothing in that quarter. I will write [Dularos?] also. He ought to pay some respect to my [wishes?] in the matter. It was my \$300 judiciously expended in that county [saved?] him.

Yours truly  
A K McClure

I will try & spend a night with you in a few days

Chambersburg, Nov 14

Dear Sir

I have written Gen Shaffer with freedom on the subject of his combinations. I am satisfied that he is head & ears over in arrangements touching State Treasurers, Commissions, Clerkships and now reaching the Speaker at the close of the session. He will pretty certainly defeat himself, unless he change his position speedily. I will advise you when I hear from him.

I have had two letters from Ramsdell, & have answered him as you suggested.

There have been some things



tricks of political diplomacy played  
off at Philadelphia recently, of  
which I have been advised privately.  
Cameron is blamed for manipula-  
ting the whole affair. It embosoms  
More for Doan. Lawrence & Hoffman  
for Speakers, Everett & Roush for Clerks  
and Geo R Smith for Speaker at the  
close of the session. I am satisfied  
that such an arrangement has been  
attempted, but am not positive  
as to Cameron's active complicity.  
It matters not however More is  
not a dangerous man. All  
that is necessary is to have all our  
friends guarded against the possible  
danger of defeat, and we can carry  
two-thirds of the caucus.

I will be down pretty probably  
next week. Can you do any thing  
you dispatch for me if I can be  
of service. Our two weeks count  
has just closed; and after fixing  
up a little will have a breathing  
spell.

Yours truly

W. M. Deane

Col. E. S. H. J.

Chambersburg, Nov 14 [1859?]

Dear Sir-

I have written Gen Shaffer with freedom on the subject of his combinations. I am satisfied that he is head & ears over in arrangements touching State Treasurer, Committees, Clerkship and even reaching the Speaker at the close of the session. He will pretty certainly defeat himself, unless he changes his position speedily. I will advise you when I hear from him

I have had two letters from Ramsdell, & have answered him as you suggested.

There have been some heavy

[Page Break]

freaks of political diplomacy played off at Philadelphia recently, of which I have been advised privately. Cameron is blamed for manipulating the whole affair. It embraces Moore for Treasurer, [Lawrence?] & Shaffer for Speakers, Evett & Rauch for Clerks and Geo R [Smith?] for Speaker at the close of the session. I am satisfied that such an arrangement has been attempted, but am not positive as to Camerons active complicity. It matters not however – Moore is not a dangerous man. All that is necessary is to have all our friends guarded against the possible danger of defeat, and we can carry two-thirds of the caucus.

[Page Break]

I will be down shortly; probably next week. [One word illegible] down any time you dispatch for me if I can be of service. Our two weeks court has just closed; and after fixing up a little will have a breathing spell.

Yours truly  
A K McClure

Col Eli Slifer