

Kansas Memory



James L. McDowell correspondence

Section 6, Pages 151 - 180

This item contains letters to James L. McDowell. Correspondents include Edmund G. Ross, Alexander Caldwell, Thomas Carney, Senator Preston Plumb, General Thomas Ewing, members and staff of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, individuals working for the Kansas State Fair Association, staff of the Department of the Interior - General Land Office, and others. The letters from Thomas Carney focus on topics such as the Fugitive Slave Law, the Kansas militia, and Missouri border trouble. McDowell held a number of public positions in his lifetime, from notary public to city mayor to U.S. Marshal and major-general of the Kansas militia (including organizing to defend the state during Price's Raid in 1864) to postmaster for Leavenworth. He was also actively interested in agriculture, helping to organize the first and later state fairs for Kansas.

Date: 1860-1892

Callnumber: James L. McDowell Coll. #425, Box 1 Folder 3

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 225880

Item Identifier: 225880

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James L. McDowell correspondence

Carmey [Thomas]

447

April 16th 1864

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McDowell

I have made arrangements
to sell to you the German paper for 2000.
500 of Cash balance on 12 mo² Due 1st Jan
his note you & I to endorse it & sell
& make you a mortgage upon the
whole concern

If this meets your approbation
Endorse the note & receive his mortgage
and oblige

Carmey

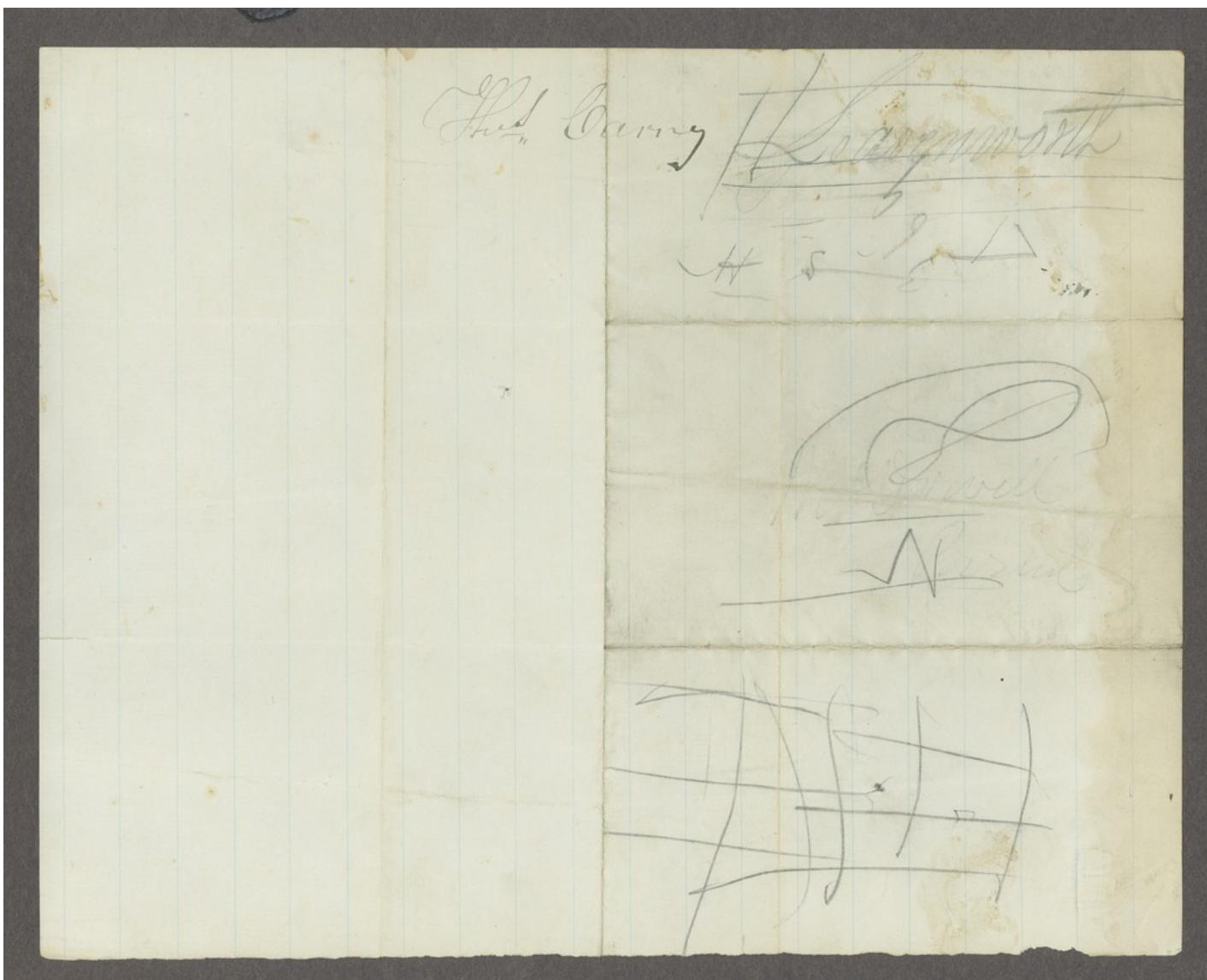
Sawyerman wants Mr
Mc Dowell to sign on 3 big Month endorsed
by his Col^d G. Carmey. for \$500 each.
the first 5 J^o can pay -

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James L. McDowell correspondence



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James L. McDowell correspondence

Lee, Albert L.

947

~~Private Correspondence~~ Cavalry Division,

Baton Rouge La 10th 12th 1864.

James L. McDowell Esq
Leavenworth
Kansas

KANSAS STATE
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Dear Sir

Yours are more than
ordinary pleasure than from
a sister Anna that I am
introducing largely to you for
my nomination to Congress-
ional Honors.

I agree - & find that I
cannot without slight delay de-
cide which are first & on what
date, exchange views personally
with my friends during the
interval.

I desire however very urgent
that in case an election fol-
lows my nomination & shall
be only glad & happy to re-
ciprocate to myself the third
July election which goes

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have already written,
I shall be glad when
you receive my news
from the prospect of the campaign,
or other things you
may think proper to add.

J. L. McDowell
Capt. 1st Regt. K. T. C.

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Niege, J. B.

947

Leavenworth City, Kansas

Oct. 28 1864.

Rt. Rever^t Dear Sir,

I take great pleasure
in introducing to you M^r. J. L. McDowell
one of our most worthy Citizens, and a personal
friend of mine. He goes to S^t Fe on business
for one of our most substantial firms in the
banking line. Any favor extended to Mr. McDowell
by you and your Gentlemen shall be acknowledged
most gratefully by yours

Very respectfully
J. B. Niege.

Letter from Bishop Niege of Kansas to
Bishop Salmeron of Santa Fe New Mexico

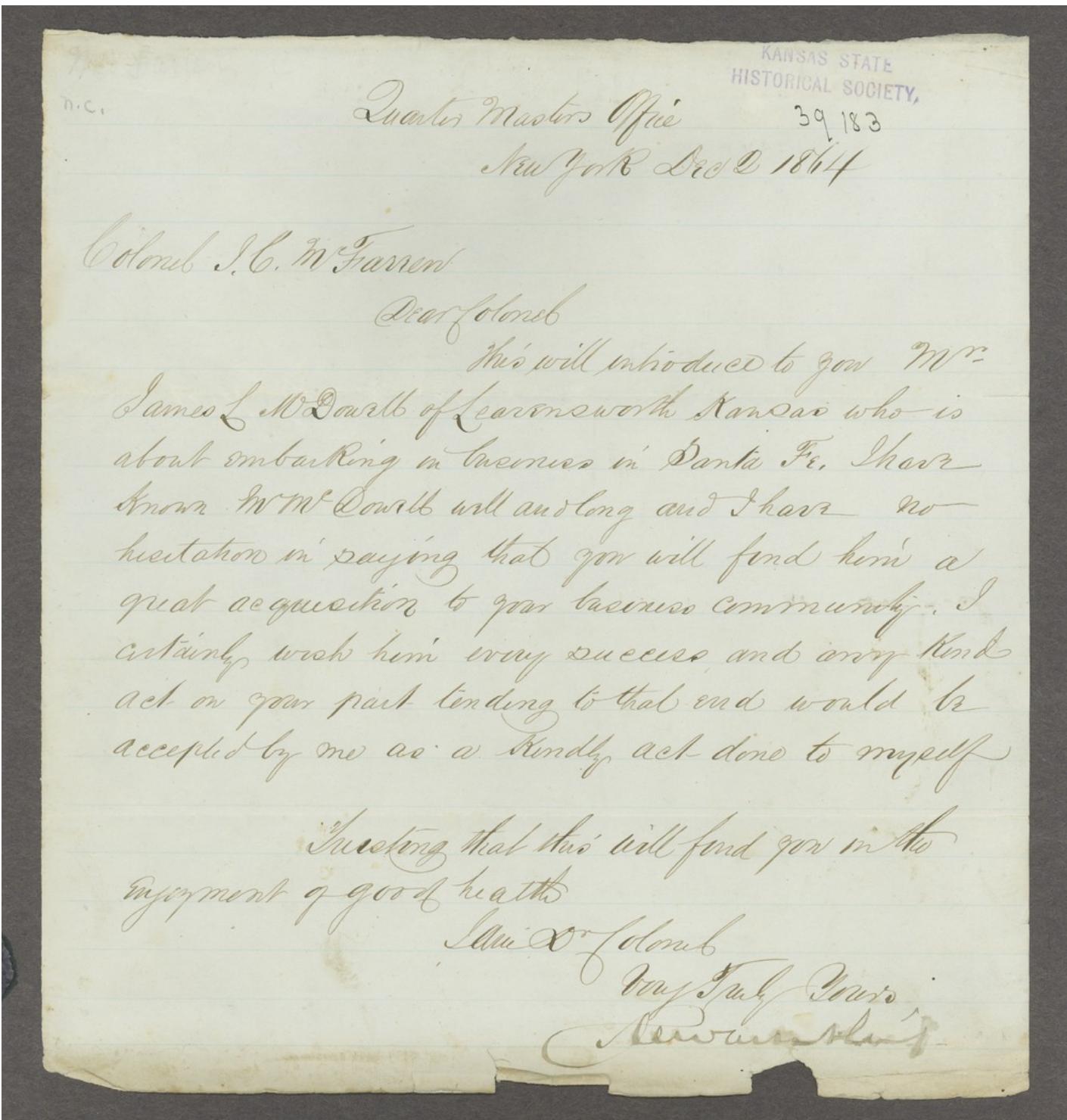
↳ John Baptist Lamy.

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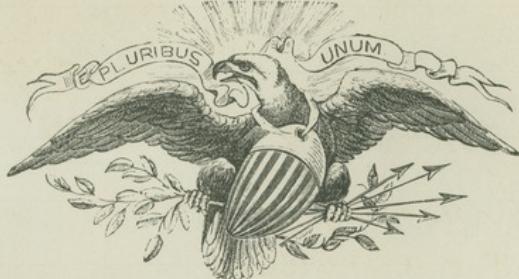
James L. McDowell correspondence



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M.C.

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
39183.



No. 90.....

STANDING PASSPORT.

PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE.

Santa Fe N.M. Jan'y 16 1865.

THE BEARER HEREOF James L. McDowell, of Leavenworth
county of Kansas

has authority to pass the military posts in

the Department of New Mexico until further orders.

Approved:

Pioneer of my General Orders:

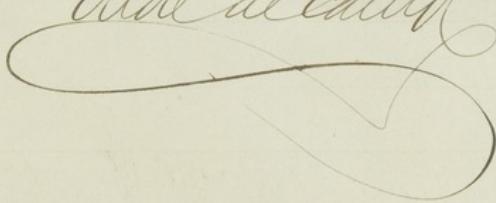
D.W. Brewster
Acting Adj't.

Commanding Dept.

Provost Marshal,

Wm. W. Wood

Aide de Camp

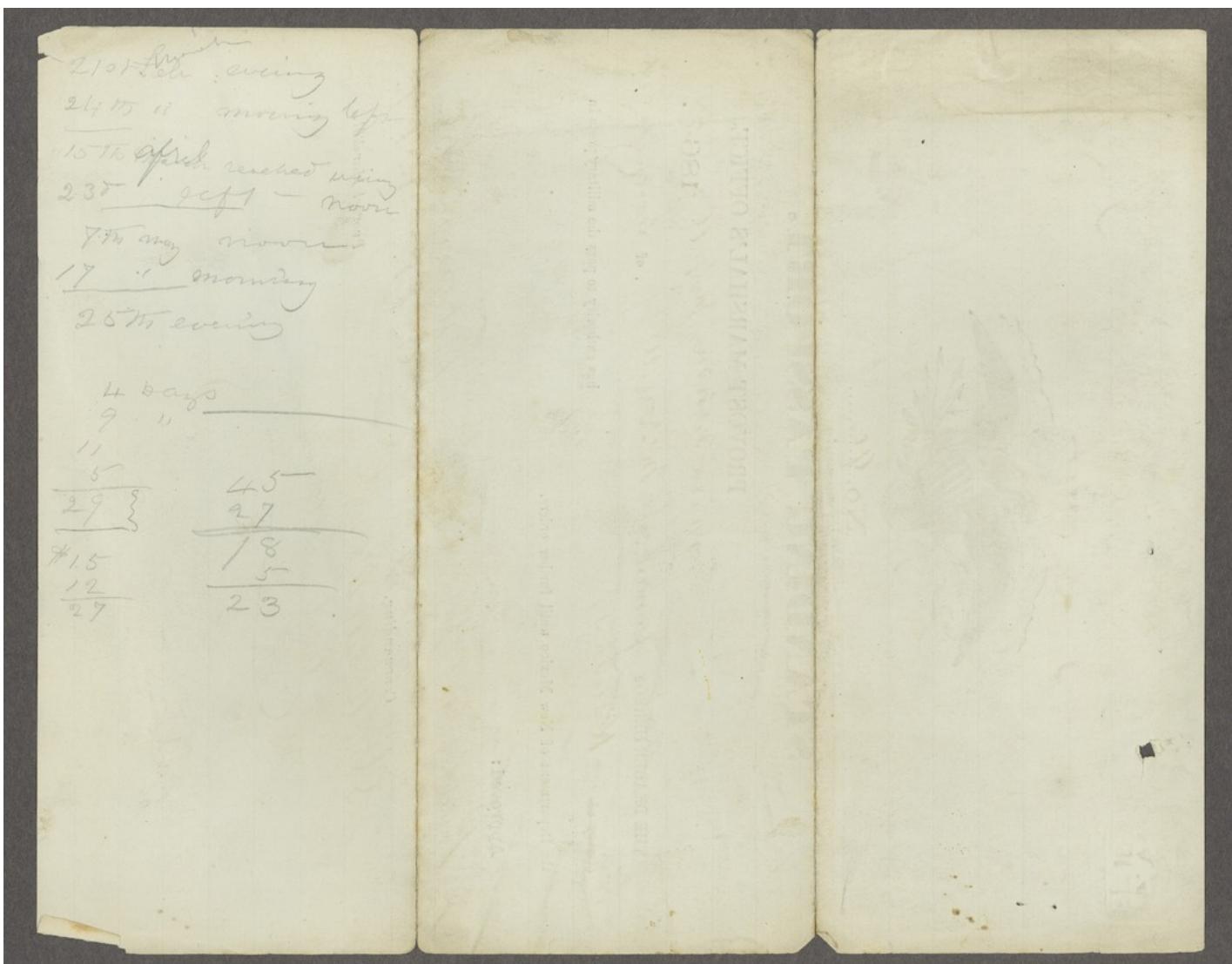


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Carney Thomas

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Apl. 21st 1866

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W^s S. I dreamt to me that as
the Germans have a Sheriff
Court & Deputy Marshal. & some
policemen that the Germans ought
to have the R.D. Clerk. They
have always been our friends, & what
for, without reward, therefore,
I feel like doing for them
this favor, and I have come
& this conclusion after looking
the whole field over. I think
you will agree with me and
grant the favor asked for by Gen.
Einstein. I do not remember
the name of his friend.

Yours friend

J. H. Carney

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Carney, Thomas
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Washington Feby 7th 1866
Hon James D. Dixie
Chairman Committee on Post Offices &
Deans

Information having
reached me that charges have been
made against James L McDowell, by
certain persons, calculated to injure
him with those who have not been familiar
with a personal acquaintance and knowledge
of his character & standing as a man,
I deem it my duty to inform you that
I have known Mr McDowell intimately
since 1858, and ^{know} him to be an honest, capable,
and in every way reliable man.

U.S. Marshal of the District of Kansas
for four years, and Mayor of the City of
Leavenworth twice, he so discharged
his official duties as to win the
respect & confidence of the people
and the Government.

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The statement that has in view
manner participated in the illegal
-imate traffic of purchasing cattle
in the Cherokee Country to wholly
barrels, and this I know of my
personal Knowledge.

In the fall of 1864, Mr. McDowell
was employed by Mess Clark & Co.
Bankers of Leavenworth Kansas, as
their financial agent to take charge
of a drove of cattle that was purchased
by them for the New Mexican market,
and to dispose of the cattle on the best
terms in that market, which he did.
Mr. McDowell only received a salary
at the rate of \$300. a year for his
services. This information I received
from Clark & Co. I was Governor of
the State at the time these cattle
were purchased by Clark & Co, at which
time Mr. McDowell was in the trenches
defending the State against the raid
of the rebel Genl. Price. On his
return to Leavenworth with his

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James L. McDowell correspondence

Company. Clark & Co employed him
& take charge of a drove of cattle, which
was then nearly one third of the
way to Santa Fe.

Since I have known him, Mr. W. W. Davis
has never bought or sold any cattle on his
own account, and has never sold
any but the drove herein referred to for
Clark & Co.

There is no man ^{in the State} that stands
higher for integrity of character in
every particular than James L. McDowell,
and that Clark & Co themselves ever
dealt illegitimately in cattle their
character for honesty & integrity
would, wherever they are known,
successfully refute.

Very Respectfully
Yours etc
J. H. Lane
of Leavenworth Kansas

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James L. McDowell correspondence



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See Fleet, and
change the name
of the RR Co, also
authorize the County
to build Bridges
over the Kan

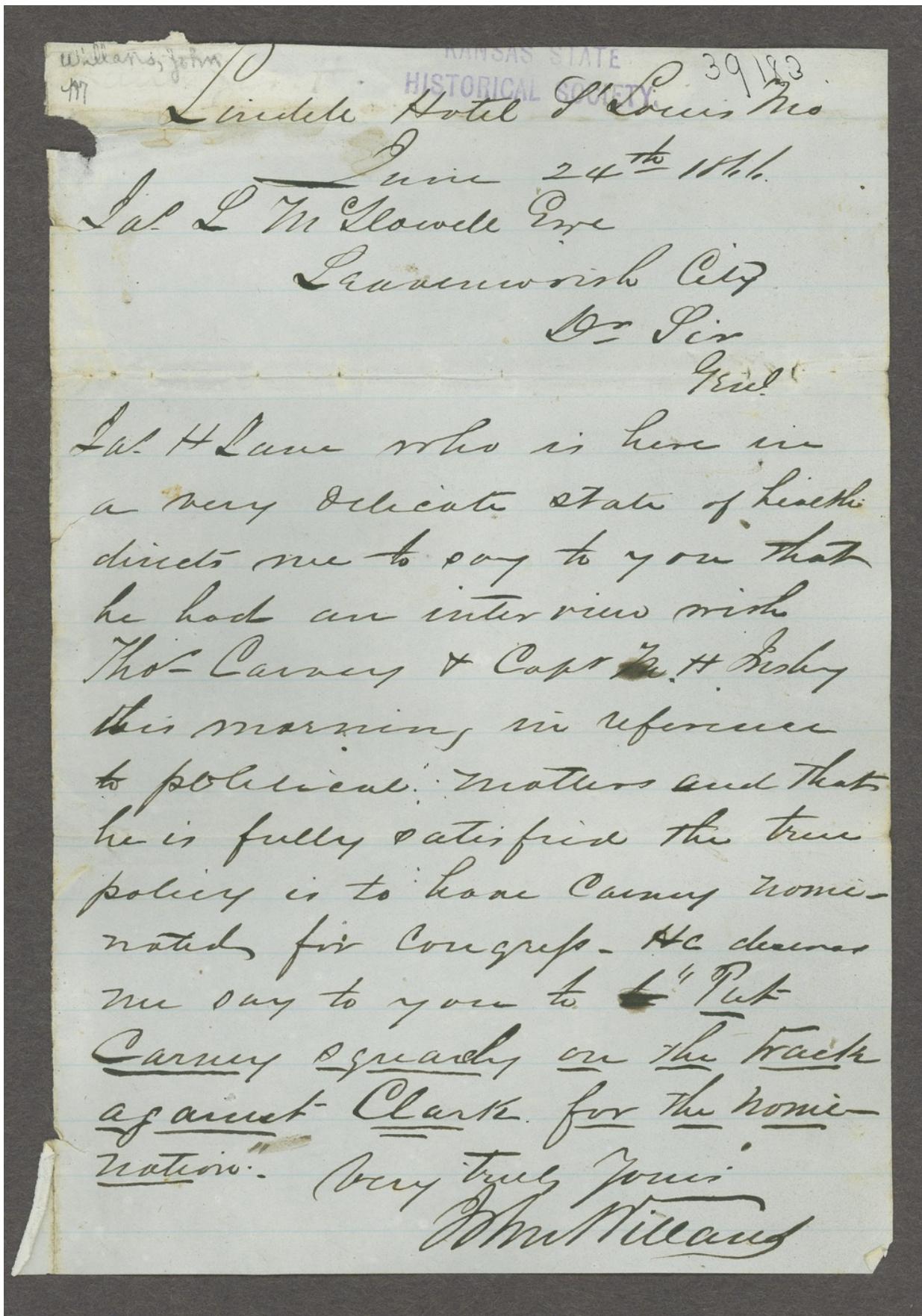
Seaton House

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James L. McDowell correspondence

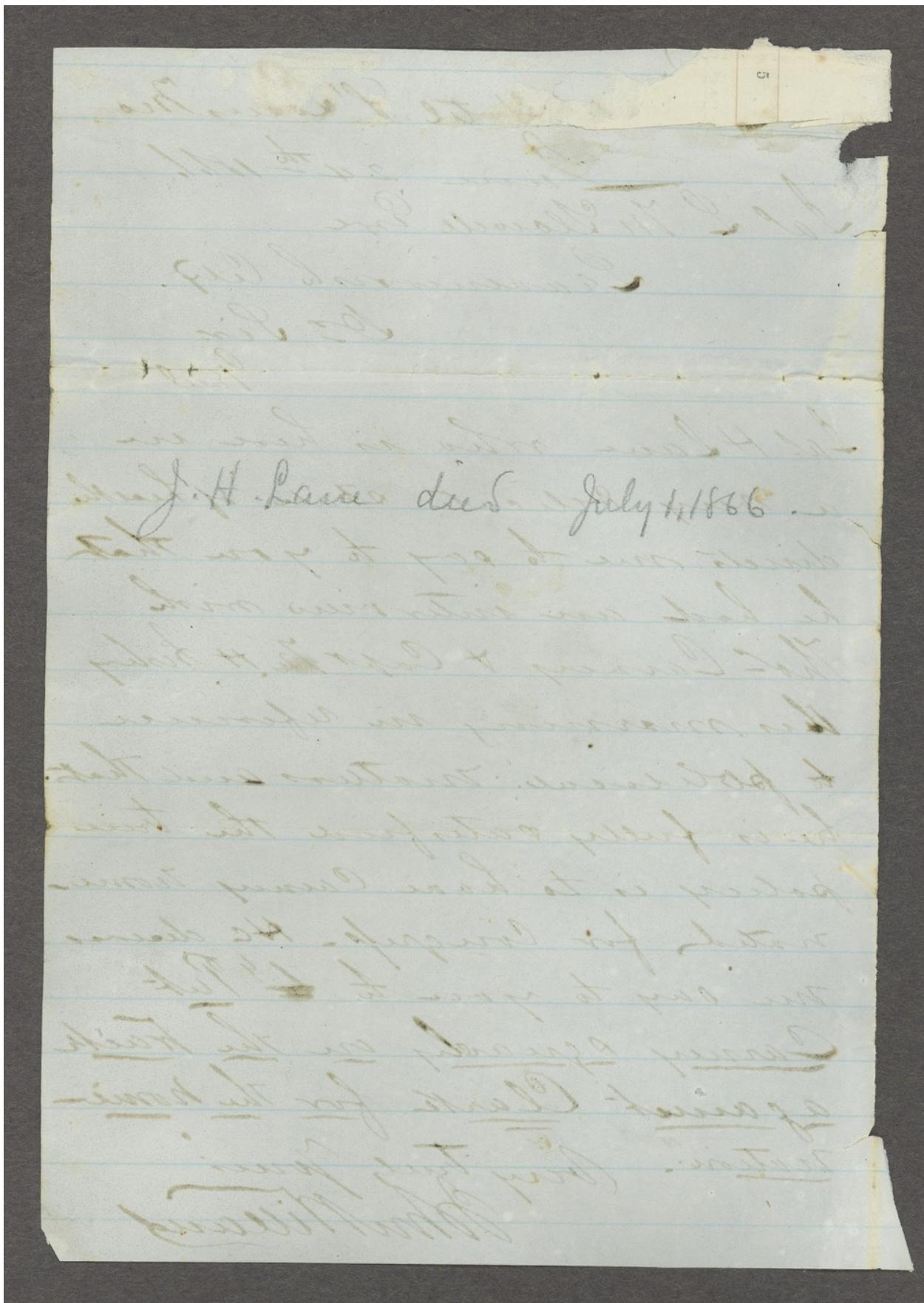


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James L. McDowell correspondence

Ewing, Thomas
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June 26, 1866

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

39183.

Washington June 26th 66
W^o 1/2 North & 8th.

Dear Mac:

Genl Caney & I had
an interview with th P. h. Se
the other day as to th lead with
Post office. On th 24th Senator
sent your name to th President
for transmittal to th Senate. To
day, Lane, Caney, Lee Smith,
and Capt (Ichorah) Smith,
called on th President. Pomeroy
& Mr. Bratney - who didn't know
you in Balt^o. but seem to know
all about you now - had an
interview with him first, &
filed a vehement protest
against you. But before we left,
th President promised to send
in your name to th Senate.

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James L. McDowell correspondence

I presume he did so this after-
noon. There will be a fierce
fight made on you, in
which I expect to engage
as far as an outsider can.
I think you need have no fear
of the result.

Get back Blaine
if he will to work his brother
on the subject - though I will
see him too.

It gives me pleasure
to know that I contributed con-
siderably to the good result
thus far - especially with
Oliver who is my personal
friend. And my pleasure
is increased from the fact
that I have no personal
end to promote by instigating
Anthony, & installing you. I
try to get him out, from pure

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James L. McDowell correspondence

hated of the match; & try to
get you in; from a feeling of
regard which made me years
ago, & will doubtless keep
me years to come,

Your friend.
Thomas Enright

James - L. McDowell Esq
Leavenworth, Kansas.

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Insley, M. H.
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Personal

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
Office of GILLETT & INSLEY,
54 MAIN STREET,

39 183

Leavenworth, Kansas, Dec 3 1866

James L' McDowell P.M.

Leavenworth

Mr Sir,

I was called upon to-day to pay \$50⁰⁰
which I subscribed to a fund which I was
told was to go to you to aid in the success
of the Post office. I did not pay it for the
reason that the agreement between you
myself & others had not been carried out
in good faith upon your part. You will
doubtless remember that it was distinctly
understood by us, before you were
appointed, that the "Conservative" was
to have the "Post Office printing, as well as
all of your other printing, and such
other assistance as you were able to

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give in the way of patronage we do
I do not suppose as yet, you have been able to
control the "little lish", but you have
had considerable other printing that
you have sent other places, we have
not had an order for which we have
received anything. I mention these
things to remind you that they have
not been forgotten by me, and should
not be by yourself. Now as I have, on
reflection, concluded to pay the boy
to fulfill my part of a contract, I told
Mr. Collier that I would not pay, therefore
I will not go to him, but if you
find out that it is credited, I will
send to you a check for the money
I intend that all specimens upon
my part shall be coined out in
good faith, Please let me hear from you
very truly M H. Miller

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Blair, Chas. W.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fort Scott Ks
Dec. 13. 1866 -

Dear General -

I have just rec^d notice
that the salary of this Post Office
is raised to \$800\$, so you need
not make application for increase
as requested in my last

Don't say any thing about this
increase of salary to any one, or it
had better, for the present, remain
unknown -

Give me what news you have
in the Senatorial question - who is
ahead show the wind blows -

In great haste

Truly Your friend

Chas. W. Blair

Genl J. L. McDowell
Lawrence Ks

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Insley, M. H.
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Office of GILLETT & INSLEY,
54 MAIN STREET,

Personal

Leavenworth, Kansas, Dec 21 1866

James L McDowell

Leavenworth

My dear Sir:

I was hasty in forming
and expressing my opinion to you.

I don't say that I did you injustice
and that I am sorry for it. - I shot
so often this & trust neither of us will
ever have come to think the other has
broken faith.

With high regards

I am most truly yours
McDowell

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Smithy
Dear S.

Wash DC March 21st 1867
KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 39183

I just got home from U.S.
and found your letter I then started off
& saw Mr Ewing He had been with
Department & put a letter on file for
you & he is perfectly satisfied that
all will be right & W Day He
wants to see the President said
that he would give him statement
about your making the reefer
Government &c. I will see Rondell
But he was not in will go again
tomorrow morning & will see him
then I am satisfied that you
are perfectly safe But will
keep a clerk with & if any-
thing is done I will know it
Rondell is a good friend of
mine & will tell me all. If
you want anything let me
know

Respectfully yours
L D Smith

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James L. McDowell correspondence

Wm. Thomas
Ms. A. 47 H. Mac.

Mar. 21, 1867
KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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I have filed with Randall & R. Prent also letters, notes, tips, stuff against your removal to make room for ~~anybody~~.

I went to see the Prent to night about you. He said there has been no effort as yet to induce him to remove you, & that he will not do it hasty. He told me to see Randall & M. so to him. Heafner of my regard. yourself is perfectly safe.

I read your letter to Rep. He was highly pleased at your suggestion that "local obstruction" had been removed so as to make it practicable for you to be his friend politically. He told me to say that while it was "too early to form combinations," yet he had done nothing against you & will do nothing. You can rely on him I think - But of this you may be true, that while I am in favor with the admⁿ - you shall not be touched -

Now rest easy. Sleep of nights - and don't dream of the Anthony nor trouble yourself abnt their trips to Washington.

Yrs. faithfully Wm. Ewing
J. L. McDowell.
At March 21, 1867

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HISTORICAL
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James L. McDowell correspondence

Bennett, H.B.

947

Confidential

Washington D.C.
April 17th 1887.

Dear Mr.

About two hours ago a friend of mine quickly informed me that a very determined effort was being made (Sub rosa) to remove you by placing Leggett in your office of Post Master of Leavenworth City and that they expected to accomplish it to day.

I immediately started out in search of Ewing, found him and gave him the point. We at once went together to Randolph, Post Master General, and had a plain talk with him about you and your merits, also about Leggett. He admitted the effort was being ~~much~~ made, but assured Ewing that he would not recommend it, and had not done so. Ewing also at once wrote a note to the President on the subject. So I think their nice little arrangement is completely arranged, the Senate will adjourn tomorrow and unless they accomplish their

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James L. McDowell correspondence

surprise to day it will be too late.
I do not think you need fear

Yours truly
H. B. Denman

P. S.

Regard this as strictly confidential

To:

Mr. James L. McDowell }
Leavenworth, K. }
 {

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James L. McDowell correspondence

Swing, Thomas, Jr.

947

W. - 284 '67 KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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N. Mac.

Randall told me the other
day the news will be no official,
to remain you, again - and that
there would be no occasion for
you giving yourself up unless
under circumstances -

You to go to 27.
to right, & as th's is the 4th I
can't see him. How will he
stay left. -

Sue: Clark is a clever
old soul. I know the things he
expects to pull on us - I'm not
implied much by tow things.

Yrs.

Thos. Engle

Randall will advise me if action is
contemplated - but don't trouble yourself
- there will be nothing done -
See J. L. McDowell

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James L. McDowell correspondence

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
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1st inst. P.M. Gen.

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Post Office Department

APPOINTMENT OFFICE,

Washington, July 15th 1867

Sir:

It is represented, by over four hundred citizens of Leavenworth City, that, upon the advice and pecuniary aid of the leading business men, you removed your office to the principal business street, and near the centre of business & population, giving almost universal satisfaction; that to effect this removal of 2435 was actually hard to you.

It is also represented that, very recently, you have, at the instigation of interested parties moved it a second time, to a location, very inconvenient and out of the way. That the public sentiment and interests of the great mass of citizens are thus disregarded, and the patronage of the people taxed almost beyond endurance by a public officer, who puts altogether about \$600 into his private pocket by the operation.

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This information is communicated to you
in order that you may have an opportunity
of answering these charges, and any evidence
you may offer, in disproof will be
carefully considered.

Very Respectfully
Yours affeclyt,
John B Skinner
Post Master Genl

James L McDowell Esqr
Postmaster
Leavenworth City
Kansas

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HISTORICAL
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James L. McDowell correspondence

Ewing, Thomas, Jr.

447

KAHNS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

39183

W² July 17. 1867.

3417 St.

Dear McDowell

I rec'dt tht the P. L. Se
byp charges had been preferred against
you which, if true, must result in
your removal - & hastened on here
to see about it.

I examined the charges to
day, & find the P. L. Se addressed to
you either on to the day before yesterday
or Davis, Nunneymore, Esqson
& one other swear that you made agreement
in writing, a copy of which is embodied in
the affidavit, agreeing to remove the Post
Office to Block 48 for £2500 & keep it
there 3 years: that £2475 was paid
on the agreement, & £25 subsequently tendered
which you refused. That you
removed the office back to Main Street
for £3500. - There is also a paper
asking your removal & charging you