

Henry Adams to William Hutchinson

Henry J. Adams was in Washington, D. C., as a special agent of Kansas Territory attempting to convince the U.S. Congress to pay claims for damages suffered by Kansas citizens during episodes of violence in the territory. Adams reported on the prospects of getting the claims paid during the upcoming session of Congress as well as on his concerns about being compensated for his lobbying efforts. He expressed particular concern that Charles Robinson intended to cheat him out of his pay. Adams also commented on Abraham Lincoln's election as president, and the possible secession of Southern states in response to the election results.

Creator: Adams, Henry J., 1816-1870

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Henry Adams to William Hutchinson

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Adams, Henry J.

KANSAS STATE
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25449,

Washington Nov. 14. 1860

Dear Sir

I have been here now nearly two weeks, and should have been here sooner but Mr. French has made such slow progress that there was nothing to do if I had been here, but he is now busily engaged with the claims and says he will be through with them before congress meets. So far as he has gone, he has approved most of the claims. He is very much pleased with the manner in which the commissioners did their duty. He says the manner in which the work of the commissioners was performed - the care and accuracy exhibited by them does them infinite credit." and that he shall make a very strong report in favor of their being paid, to the Committee. I am quite sanguine that we shall get them through this winter - I shall leave no stone unturned to accomplish that result. I think the distress in Kansas resulting from the draught will induce many to take an interest in the matter who otherwise would not. "Old Buck" has given \$100. for the relief of our people and promised to urge congress to do something for their relief - and the best thing they can do will be to pay these claims, and thus in some measure repair the mischief done by him and his predecessor.

Henry Adams to William Hutchinson

I should have written to you before but I have had nothing of importance to communicate - I will keep you posted as we progress. I could do nothing with the claim scrip, but have succeeded in making such an arrangement with some of our friends in Boston as will enable me to get through, I think.

Has Robinson signed the agreement in that book or have I any assurance that he will do what is right and what he has agreed to do, other than his word? I am sorry to say I cannot rely upon that. If he has not signed the agreement I wish you would try and get him to do so, or give his promise in writing to do what he said he would - give \$2000, when the claims are through. - or what would be more satisfactory still - deposit the scrip or bonds with yourself or Morrow to be handed over to me when the appropriation is made - I must have some guarantee other than his word - and if he refuses to do either of these things I shall consider it conclusive evidence of what I am well satisfied is the fact now, that he intends to cheat me out of it in the end, but I do not mean that he shall and if he refuses to do what is right now - it will cost him just about ten thousand dollars instead of two I only wish however that he shall do what is right

P.S. What I have said in regard to Robinson is only intended for yourself - H. A.

Henry Adams to William Hutchinson

There is a great deal of sympathy for the people of Kansas, in the States and there will be plenty of relief sent as soon as people are convinced as to the facts and a practicable system of relief presented. The conflicting reports at first confused many of our friends, but that is being cleared up. I was in Boston a few weeks since and subsequently in New York and did what I could to set the matter right.

"Old Abe" is elected! - that is glory enough for one day. They are running and pressing at a great rate down in South Carolina - but they have done that often before - the had better not secede unless they want their throats cut by their negroes. - if four or five of the "Cotton States" want to go - in God's name let them go I say. - we will then have a majority in both branches of Congress and can go ahead and do something for the first time these many years, for the good of the country.

What is going on with regard to appointments under Old Abe for the territorial offices - or rather the Federal offices in the territory?

I wish you would write and put me up in these matters. I presume efforts will soon be made to secure the local offices which will be at the disposal of the Executive.

Truly Yours - Henry J. Adams

P.S. What I have said in regard to Robinson is only intended for yourself. - H. J. A.