

Department of Interior

June 21st 1858

His Excellency

J. W. Fenner

My dear Sir

I have rec^d

your letter recommending
Genl. Chipman for the
Kansas Agency - But I
prefer you still prefer
Isaac Palmer as the best
appointment - It is strange
I can hear nothing of
him from any man
from Western Missouri.
Mr. Fessell of Leavenworth
is also recommended for
this place; and Judge Sles-
ton still insists with ear-
nestness the removal of
Montgomery - I am satisfied

Montgomery is not filling ^{his}
position as he should do.
Yet the protests of Liberton
& Whitfield have thus far
prevented my bringing his
case before the President.
While Genl. Chipman de-
serves something, yet I
fear he is too much addic-
ted to strong drink: how
is this? If you have any
personal anxiety on the
subject in Palmer's behalf
& know his fitness, I know
the President will make
no objection to him. Yet
politically it may be best
to appoint Herrill. So
far as I am concerned
I am willing to defer
to your judgment on
the subject.

Mr. Mix has been appointed
Commissioner of Indian
Affairs with the distinct
understanding that when
you return he will resign
and take his place as Chief
Clerk. Therefore I shall
appoint no Chief Clerk
till you return.

I have seen your
letter to the President
and seen the mass in which
you express an anxiety
to return. While I would
be glad to have you in
the office yet I regret
that you should think
of leaving Kansas until
you should have com-
menced the work you
have undertaken. The position

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You occupy is one to which
the eyes of the whole nation
are turned. You are the
only man ^{in that office} who has given
satisfaction to all sections
of the Union. This then
is the post of honor for
you. I am certain you
do not appreciate the im-
portance of the office you
fill. Your predecessors
have all broken themselves
down. They have left
the office with less char-
acter than when they assumed
it. The President and all
his cabinet are cordial in
their support of you and
the whole country with
them will deeply regret
to see you abandon an office

You have so satisfactorily
filled - I discover you
put your resignation on
the ground of personal
prejudicial sacrifices in
holding it - I regret this.

But the character you
are destined to win
for yourself by dischar-
ging its duties and bring-
ing order out of confusion
in enforcing law and
in securing to an agitated
people personal security
will be worth to you far
more in the future than
any personal sacrifices
you may make by a
continuance in the
office. Never during

a whole life-time will
you have an opportunity
of winning so enduring
a name as is now within
your grasp. The true sol-
dier will endure without
a murmur the hardships
of a long march, and the
deprivations and discom-
forts of a weary camp with
the hope that an op-
portunity will arise in
which he may win for
himself an honorable
name. Could I not in
this case urge you to
follow his example without
violating the privileges or
even the proprieties of a
true friend? I believe
you can go through with

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this Kansas question better
than any other man within
my knowledge - I know
the President has the same
confidence and desires
you to occupy still the
place you now hold.

In the States our party
have been divided between
Leconte & Anti Leconte
men - The ground of
reconciliation every where
adopted will be that the
English Bill is a finality
If the People will vote
to come in now that
ends the controversy; If
they do not - they must
remain a Territory till
a census shall prove
they have a population

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which would entitle them
 to a member of the House
 of Representatives. Should
 the people accept. You can
 be early reliever and
 your work is done. If
 they reject. Your influence
 will be needed to keep
 peace and prevent an ef-
 fort to come here with a
 new and another constitu-
 tion. - I believe you can
 hold the ship steady &
 keep this question from
 becoming a dangerous
 and an alarming element
 in the course of 1860

I have been the more
 urgent on this subject
 because I at the beginning
 pressed you into this service