Washington D. C. Feb 11th 1856

Edwin A Parrish Dayton. O

Dear Edd. Your favors of the 29th ultimo & 1st inst. were handed me on Saturday the 9th by Campbell. How long they had been in his hands I do not know. Annie has not arrived, or had not on Saturday night so far as was known to the Schencks — they would be likely to know it if he had. Lida left their home on Tuesday for a relatives on the next square, where she spends a week or two & then goes to Cumberland. Although I have been much in her society I can not say that she is at all agreeable. Her deafness defys any ordinary line of conversation, besides she seems to me to be quite indifferent whether she hears or is heard. Dull & deaf, of course she has little society of any kind. The Schencks are very kind & I find a pleasure in going to their home when I am mad<u>e at home</u>. Bob told me on Saturday night that if the <u>Conservatives</u> — meaning thereby the old line Whigs & Democ — offered him

= the position he would not decline it. Nobody has
ever thought he would, I suppose. He says however
that he would not accept the fusion nomin=
=ation. Considering the entire absence of any
chance for him with the friends of fusion, the
declaration is well enough. I have not heard
anybody mention his name for the place
Except yourself. Campbell has impaired his
influence & damaged his prospects by his
course in regard to the Speakership. That
seems agreed among his friends. He thinks
himself unfairly treated in not being made
the Speaker. Perhaps he was. It is now plainly
his interest, to submit with grace, to what he can=
=not help. Kansas interests, the public, day after
day. Woods of whom you speak is not worthy of
your attention. He has the misfortune to have
an indictment pending against him in a
U S Court in Kansas, for a petit larceny.
Many disreputable acts are laid at his door.
He is justly regarded in Kansas, as a troublesome
& dishonest man. I believe I told you that he
had no authority to collect money &c.

I dined with the President on Saturday at 5 o'clock. I had met him several times before, in public occasions & once in Webster's room. He met Webster after we last met & having heard that he intended to remove Shoemaker from office I determined to go & see him. I went on Thursday & after some Conversation, he said if I would come & take "a quiet family dinner" with him on Saturday we could talk together alone. I agreed to do so. The dinner did not present the opportunity promised me. Senator Iverson of Ga Gov Medill of Ohio. Henry Stanbery & one or two other gentlemen were present. Of course the Conversation in this mixed Company was very general. The subject of Kansas was once or twice brought forward by allusions to myself, but the party fought very shy & handled it as gingerly as they would a torpedo. Indeed politeness required as much. After dinner in the drawing room, the President asked me to call & see him on Monday about my business, at half 5½ o'clock - in compliance with which I saw him this morning for an hour alone & held forth on Kansas.