

Washington Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Ead. Yours has been rec<sup>d</sup>. The unfortunate affair of my friend Russell has engrossed my time & attention for the last few days. He is of course innocent of any criminal intent & has become involved, to save others from ~~the~~ expense.

It will be a rich Chapter when written out.

Drummond has been here but I did not see him.

I had a confidential conversation with Montgomery Blair day before yesterday. I learn from that, that his interests are so well secured & so far advanced that it will not be worth while to array the Legislature on his side. His appointments I infer is determined upon. This with Bates sets up the Blair's & as I "train" with them sets me up well enough. The Ohio & Kentucky rendition case is before the Supreme Court. Wait & see what it will do. Concerning the other measures I would not be in a hurry. If division is inevitable, palliatives are not <sup>only</sup> useless, but injurious to their authors. Our friends begin to realize that our occupation of the Capitol till the 4<sup>th</sup> of March is by no means assured. An organization, undoubtedly exists —



= Va & Md. to prevent the inauguration of Mr Lincoln  
It is thought he will not be allowed to come here.  
I have no doubt if things do not change for the  
better, that he will sacrifice his life, if he should  
make the attempt. The case of S.C. must be dealt  
with at once. This week will probably bring her to  
a trial. Ota Buck, throws all of his influence  
with the rebels. Kansas will only be admitted  
in the event of the Senate falling into our hands  
by the withdrawal of Senators from the Gulf States  
— a thing certain enough to happen. You can  
judge what enormous & infinite dilapidation has  
overtaken the Sul Government from the result of the  
five millions of Treasury notes advertised ~~to~~ to be  
loaned at the lowest rate of interest. The average  
rate is 15 or 16 per cent & only two & half millions bid  
for it all. How have the mighty fallen. Members  
of Congress unpaid & likely to remain so, unless some  
new scheme can be devised to galvanize the  
Corps of the public credit. We shall not I think  
stick on this. Two things are certain — we must  
have the money & we have the power to raise  
it. Gentlemen holding Commissions for the next  
Congress, have cause for serious apprehension.