

Washington Dec 30th 1861

Dear Ead. Yours has been rec^d. 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 ^{only} useless, but injurious to their authors. Our friends begin to realize that our occupation of the Capitol till the 4th of March is by no means assured. An organization, undoubtedly exists —