cooperation with the Whigs and Liberal Democrats, of last year. But I have been accused of special hostility to the whigs. This is the point which I wish to draw your attention to and for the purpose of expressly denying the fact. So far as the Whigs differed from me in political views—so far also as circumstances made them, in my judgment for the time, the supporters for the Slave Power, I was against them. But I always endeavored to be fair and liberal, I exerted my influence to secure the adoption of the rule of popular choice in the appointment to office by the Legislature at that session. That is where the plurality of the people of a County or District were whigs I wanted to have whigs associate judges and other officers appointed by the Legislature. This fact, and others I might state, disperse the charge of illiberality.

But I am near the end of my sheet and have already said too much, because, as some one once said, I had not time to say less. Very truly & sincerely yours

S. P. Chase.

XVI.

SALMON PORTLAND CHASE TO ORAN FOLLET.

Washington, Feb, 23, 1855.

My dear Sir,

I enclose my remarks on presenting some New York petitions, with corrected proceedings, which I hope you will find it convenient to put into the Journal. Let me thank you for your kind words in a recent number.

We are in the midst of a warm debate\(^{34}\) on slavery occasioned by circumstances, which the Telegraph will have informed you of, before you receive this. I was obliged to lead because nobody else would, but after the ice was broken Wade and Fessenden did their duty gloriously. I could hardly speak at all for a cold.

Yours truly

\(^{34}\)Reference to action in Senate, Feb. 16, 1855, proposing passage of bill treating human beings—slaves—as property within the meaning of the Indian intercourse law. Proposition was to pay two Indians of the Chickasaw nation the value of certain slaves—forcibly seized and carried away by some white persons from Texas. *See Cong. Globe, XXX, p. 771-2.*