Cincinnati, May 4, 1855.

My dear Sir,

I have never believed the organization of one harmonious party out of the various elements which compose the Anti-Nebraska People's movement of last fall to be a practicable thing under existing circumstances. What the future may bring forth I have not attempted to conjecture.

That there are grounds on which those elements may be honorably combined for the next State election seems to me clear. To such a cooperation two things are needful: first, a common platform—and this is plainly suggested by the actual situation—no more slave States; no slave territory; annual sessions; single Districts; just and equal taxation;—and, second, a fair representation of the different cooperating elements upon the same ticket both as a matter of principle and a matter of policy. Of principle because to each element should be guaranteed respect for its special views; of policy because an unrepresented element would naturally give but a cold support to a ticket on which it had no part.

This seems to me a very simple commonsense view of the matter. It is the view which I have constantly taken in conversation and in correspondence.

You object to the action of those who are anxious for my nomination. You admit that it has been "open", but not "free or fair". It has been at least honest and direct. If I had had the phrasing of the expressions of their wishes, I should have tempered them somewhat to be sure. If I could have foreseen the character of the opposition which is made to their gratification, I should, if possible, have suppressed their expressions altogether.

But why should not the wishes of those friends of the common cause be gratified? Why not permit the element of the cooperation to select its own representative upon the ticket? Is it right to attempt to constrain it to accept a representative, who however worthy in other respects, is not the representative it wants?

I have ceased to feel much personal interest in this matter.
I am anxious for the triumph of the cause of Human Freedom and Progress and shall do what I can to promote it. Only I must not be asked to endorse one form of antagonism to it for the sake of overcoming another.

I agree with you that the prospect of cooperation among the opponents of the Nebraska wrong is not very cheering. Since receiving your note I have been informed of the action of a secret meeting here last week in which a ticket was agreed on to be sustained and carried in the 13th July Convention through the action of the Kn councils or order. The names of the nominees have been handed to me. Certainly you may well contrast the "open" if not "fair" conduct of the Freesoilers with the "secret and exclusive mode of proceeding." The outsiders have never attempted to dictate, after this fashion or after any fashion, to the insiders who their representatives on the ticket should be.

There is no necessity that the K. N. forces should be "divided and conquered." If such an event should occur it will not be the part of those who have been and still are ready for fair and honorable cooperation.

For myself I do not fear the future at all. Hitherto I have aimed to do right and adhere to principle. Past, present and future are a logical series. If the duty of the present be done the future is sure. I shall continue to pursue the objects of my past life and let events take care of themselves.

Yours truly,
S. P. Chase.

XXI.

JACOB BRINKERHOFF39 TO ORAN FOLLETT.

Mansfield, May 21, 1855.

O. Follett Esq—
My Dear Sir,

Your note & inclosure of the 19th inst.—the latter of which is herewith returned—have come to hand.

39 Judge Brinkerhoff, 1810-1880; Democratic M. C. 1843-47, and was the author of the original draft of the celebrated Wilmot proviso; Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio.