

Washington, Feb. 20. 1849.

Dear Speed:

Your letter of the 13th was received yesterday — I showed it to Baker — I did this because he knew I had written you, and was expecting an answer; and, still inquired what I had received; so that I could not well keep it a secret. Besides this, I knew the contents of the letter would not affect him as you seemed to think it would — He knows he did not make a favorable impression while in Congress, and he and I have talked it over frequently — He tells me to write you that he has too much self-esteem to be put out of humor with himself by the opinion of any man who does not know him better than Mr Crittenden does; and that he thinks you ought to have known it. The letter will not affect him the least in regard to either Mr Crittenden or you — He understands you to have acted the part of a discreet friend; and he intends to make Mr Crittenden think better of him hereafter. I am flattered to learn that Mr Crittenden has any

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Date: Feb. 20, 1849
Description: Abraham Lincoln letter to Joshua Fry Speed.

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recollection of me which is not unfavorable; and for the manifestation of your kindness towards me, I sincerely thank you. Still there is nothing about me which would authorize me to think of a first class office; and a second class one would not compensate me for being snarled at by others who want it for themselves. I believe that, as far as the Whigs in Congress are concerned, I could have the Genl Land office almost by common consent; but then Sweet, and Don: Morrison, and Browning, and Lyman, Edwards, all want it. And what is worse, while I think I could easily take it myself, I fear I shall have trouble to get it for any other man in Illinois. The reason is, that Mr. Ganghey, an Indiana ex-member of Congress is here after it; and being personally known, he will be hard to beat by any one who is not —

Baker showed me your letter, in which you make a passing allusion to the Louisville Port-office. I have told Garnett Duncan I am for you. I like to open a letter of yours, and I therefore hope you will write me again on the receipt of this —

Give my love, to Mrs. Speed —

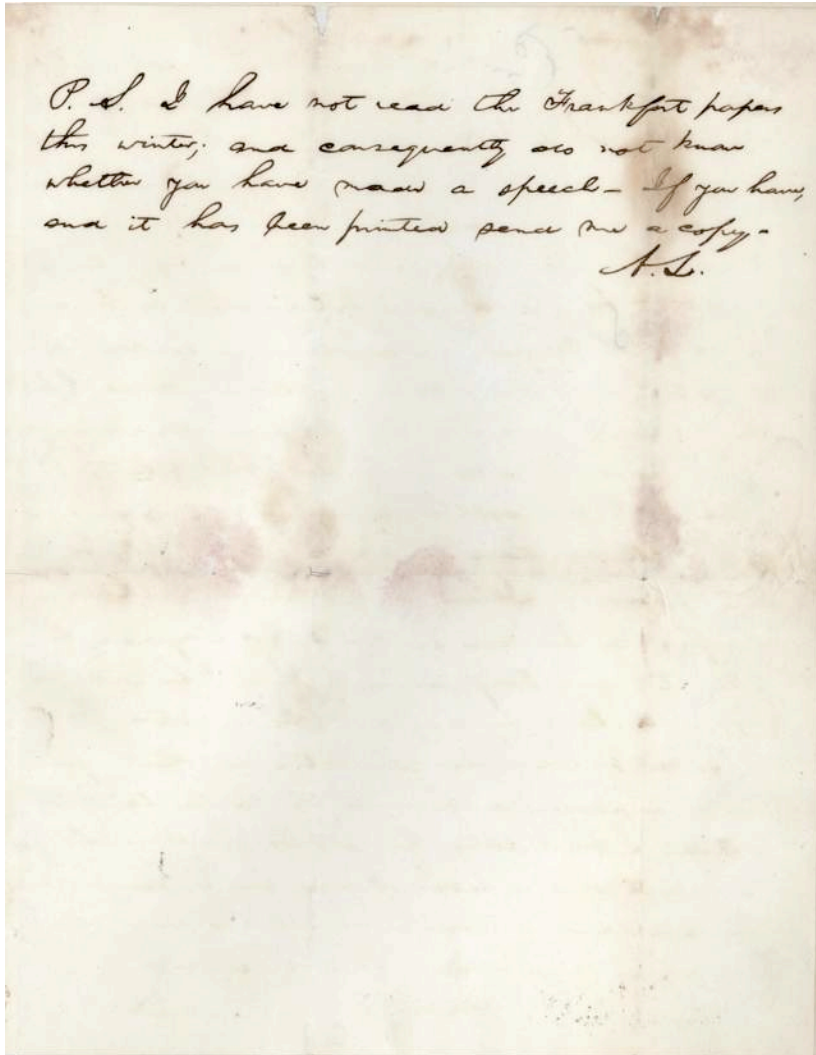
Yours as ever A. Lincoln

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P.S. I know I have not read the Frankfort papers this winter; and consequently do not know whether you have made a speech - If you have, and it has been printed, send me a copy.

A.L.