Letter from Jotham Barker Pierce
to Arthur Knapp.

June 1st 1860.

- - - - - - 2 was there (Springfield Ill.) about a month and had the very distinguished honor to be the first one who announced and congratulated Old Abe on his nomination. During the Convention week he Lincoln was in our office nearly all the time, 2 got intimately acquainted with him. He is one of the finest and most plain spoken men 2 ever saw. - - - -

Arthur, 2 must have a vote for 2 long years - am sorry 2 could help Old Abe but no use to cry for it - But the first vote 2 do cast will be for free labor and free speech for the suppression of that infernal traffic (the African slave trade) - and for the total annihilation of slavery - 2 may be what some would call an abolitionist - but 2 do believe that a negro has a better

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right to himself than any one else has to him. I also believe slavery to be a wrong and a wrong ought not to exist under any circumstances. The great point Mr Douglas harps upon is "He don't care whether slavery is voted up or voted down". I say a man who declares this to be his own sentiments shows no regard for the future welfare of his country & shows no sympathy for that down cast & down hodden race and deserves to be classed with such men as Benedict Arnold and John Brown.

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