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The letters of July 16th & 25th 1858, were written during what is called the celebrated Lincoln and Douglas Campaign, when Douglas was a candidate for re-election to the U. S. Senate and Lincoln was also a candidate for the office, having been chosen by a State Convention of republicans in view of the election by the next General Assembly.

While Douglas had not been heartily indorsed by the democratic state convention, he was making a powerful canvas, on his own account.

My father was then the candidate from Madison County for the State Senate, and Mr Lincoln evidently considered it very essential to his own success, that the Madison County republicans should be elected.

Notwithstanding all efforts of the republicans and the indifferent support of the democratic convention for Douglas

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— as he had not been in entire sympathy with President Buchanan — a democratic legislature was elected which made Judge Douglas, senator, but as Lincoln remarked at the time, lost him the presidency. Douglas had been compelled to answer questions which defined his position on the slavery question, in their joint debates, which the South resented in the election of 1860.

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