

Springfield, Sept. 27. 1856

Rev. J. M. Stertevant

Jacksonville, Ills.

My dear Sir:

Owing to absence yours of the 16th was not received till the day before yesterday - I thank you for your good opinion of me personally; and still more for the deep interest you take in the cause of our common country - It pains me a little, that you have deemed it necessary to point out to me how I may be compensated for throwing myself in the breach now - This assures that I am merely calculating the chances of personal advancement - Let me assure you that I decline to be a candidate for congress, or my clear conviction, that my running would hurt, & not help the cause - I am willing to make any personal sacrifice; but I am not willing to do, what in my own judgment, is a sacrifice of the cause itself -

Very truly yours
A. Lincoln.