

St Paul

July 15th 1857

Gentlemen

I have the honor to acknowledge your kind invitation, on behalf of my Democratic friends of this Territory, to partake of a public dinner, and also to address the citizens, on such day as may suit my convenience during my visit to this city. To say that I am grateful for this testimonial of your respect and confidence is but a feeble expression of my feelings. My object in visiting Minnesota at this time is to witness the wonderful changes which have taken place in this beautiful country within the period of ten years, which has elapsed since I last saw it. My time is limited and will all be occupied in visiting a few of the most interesting points of peculiar interest. Besides

the people of Minnesota are now
engaged in forming a constitution
and ~~the~~ organizing a state government
preparatory to their admission into the
Union on an equal footing with the
original States. It is your right and
duty, under the federal constitution, to
determine for yourselves the fundamental
principles upon which your local and
domestic institutions shall rest. Having
neither the right nor the disposition
to influence the result, may I not hope
that, upon reflection, you will approve
of my resolution not to participate in
any political discussions during my
present visit, and that you will pardon
me for declining your very kind invitation
to a public dinner.

Renewing my thanks for the flat-
tering terms in which you have been

Pleased to speak of my action in
the National Councils, I have the
honour to be very truly your friend and
obedient servant

S. M. Maynes

Wm W H Sibley
Ch of Gen Meeting
+

Wifes

Mc E Ames

of B Dublin

Chas E Howard

W W Kempsey

Com of Arrangements

Autographic letters
of the late Stephen
A. Douglas

8

Presented by
J. V. L. Beard -
March 14, 1868 -

Letter written to
Democratic Central
Committee Aug. 15,
1867, declining in
reply to Public
invitation at St. Louis
upon his visit to
this place -

150
3
450
554
150
600



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