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Item: Hamlin, Hannibal, Hampden, Maine to George Augustus Nourse, [St. Paul, Minnesota], April 16, 1857. ALS. 3 pages.

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Hampden Apr 16. '57

My Dear Sir

Your favor of the 30th ult. was recd last evening and I hasten to give you an answer.

I hardly know what to say in reply to your question. I was not at Weymouth at the time the Convention met to authorize the admission of Mexico as a State, and I forgot its boundaries, and whether it includes all your territory or not. If it includes all, it is too large and ought to be diminished, but whether that can be done safely is the question. If you ^{shall} elect, as I trust you will elect two Senators, who shall sustain the Nationality of freedom and the rights of free white laboring men, and

at the same time reduce the limits of
the State, I cannot doubt the South
would resist your admission, tho' I
hardly think they could be successful.
I think there are a few Senators from
the South or slave states who could not
be carried against you - Still the
demonstration of your boundaries may defeat
your admission - It will be at best a
doubtful experiment.

What I have feared was what I now
fear is that they will yoke you up with
Kansas, if she shall apply with a Const.
establishing slavery, or I presume she
will - I see no other fate for her - In
that case it would not matter what
might be the boundaries of your state,
you would come in -

As to what is really the wisest and
best course for you to pursue, I can
honestly give a decided opinion - Your
safe way is to conform to the boundar-
ies of the act of Congress - Then there
cannot be any reasonable doubt of your
success - Another course will leave it
in doubt -

What I have said you can repeat
to any one, but it will be unwise
to mix my name or opinion, publicly in
your affair -

God bless you in your association
with some Rep & Senator - The skies
are brightening - Success will crown
our efforts - One thousand cheers for St Louis

Yours truly
H. Hamlin

Geo A. Nourse Esq

Hon. H. Hamlin
Dated Apr. 16-1857
Recd " 29 "