

# DOCUMENTS

## SELECTIONS FROM THE MURRAY PAPERS

The papers of William Pitt Murray in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society were received from his daughter, Mrs. Winifred Murray Milne, last November. They number about two hundred letters, commissions, and documents of various sorts, dating from 1842 to 1911. With these papers were received a number of pamphlets, some of considerable value, about twenty maps, and a few newspaper clippings. Most of the letters are addressed to Murray, although there are a few written by him and a few of which he was neither the writer nor the addressee. To those who are familiar with the career of Murray the value of the collection for the history of Minnesota will be obvious. Born in Ohio in 1825, he graduated in law at Indiana University in 1849 and came to the incipient territory of Minnesota the same year. He immediately took an active part in politics, serving in both houses of the territorial legislature, in the constitutional convention of 1857, and as a representative and senator in the state legislature. He also played a prominent part in the government of St. Paul, being a member of the city council most of the time from 1861 to 1879 and city attorney from 1876 to 1889.<sup>1</sup> Besides these and other political activities the papers reflect Murray's interests in transportation problems, fraternal orders, religion, education, and charity. Thus they are of value for nearly all phases of the history of Minnesota, and some of them throw light on social, economic, and political conditions in other states and even in foreign countries.

The documents here printed are selected primarily for the purpose of illustrating the character of the material in the collection. At some future time it is hoped that a calendar of

<sup>1</sup> Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 535 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

the whole collection may be published. The first letter deals with a subject that has been and still is of perennial interest—the utilization of the Fort Snelling Reservation. Those who are now advocating the establishment of a western military academy on the reservation will find the letter a storehouse of arguments, many of which are as applicable to-day as they were in 1849. Following this is a letter relating to an early project for solving the problem of transportation between St. Paul and St. Anthony. Judge Nelson's letter shows that "deserving Democrats" had to be taken care of in Washington even in 1853. The letter from Kansas, which follows, forecasts the coming storm in that territory and indicates that there was considerable emigration from Minnesota to Kansas. W. W. McNair's letter is of interest for the information which it contains about the Liberal Republican movement in Minnesota, while the last letter throws light on commercial relations between the United States and Hungary and on political conditions in the latter country.

C. K. SMITH TO THOMAS CORWIN, SEPTEMBER 1, 1849<sup>1</sup>

[Murray Papers—Printed Letter]

A MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE NORTH-WEST.

TO THE HON. THOMAS CORWIN, OF OHIO:

SIR:—Nature and education have given you an unlimited command over the most beautiful figures of speech. Your talents, eloquence, and honesty have placed you prominently before the American people as one of her most gifted and able statesmen. You occupy an elevated position in the affections of your countrymen, and in the councils of the nation. Your bold, truthful, and independent course in the Senate of the United States, is admired and approbated by many, very many of your fellow-

<sup>1</sup> Charles Kilgore Smith had been in the territory less than two months on the date under which this letter was printed. Born in Cincinnati in 1799, he was admitted to the bar in 1840 and was serving as a judge when President Taylor appointed him secretary of Minnesota Territory. On his arrival at St. Paul early in July, 1849, he appears to have taken a leading part in all sorts of move-

citizens. Your position would seem to give authority to address you on any subject, which may be considered in anywise interesting to the public.

I therefore, without any further apology, proceed to remark, that peace is at all times desirable, war always to be deprecated; yet it seems a law inherent in human nature, that we cannot always have the one or avoid the other. In all the preceding ages, nations have occasionally been involved in sanguinary strife. The future promises no well-grounded hope of an exemption from this dire calamity. The Gospel, and all well-meant and philanthropic efforts of peace associations, will fail to avert it. No human means seem adequate to secure the blessings of perpetual peace. It is true, that wars are not so frequent now as in the earlier ages. A reference to the chronicles of mankind would lead one to believe that the business of the human race, in its earlier ages, was mainly to kill and be killed. In the first wars, the only arms used were perhaps those given by nature; in the progress of ages,

ments. He is credited with having been the founder and organizer of the first Masonic lodge in the territory, a charter member of the first lodge of Odd Fellows in St. Paul, the prime mover in the establishment of the Minnesota Historical Society and its first secretary, a leader in the foundation of two of St. Paul's churches, the originator of the public school system of the state, and a member of the first board of regents of the university. All of this was accomplished in less than two years, for Smith made many enemies and, presumably because of the bitter antagonism towards him, he returned to Ohio in 1851, where he died in 1866. *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 8: 495; 12: 108; 14: 714.

Thomas Corwin, one of Ohio's most brilliant and distinguished statesmen, was a Whig leader in the United States Senate at this time. Murray is authority for the statement that Smith was a relative of Corwin's and owed his appointment as secretary of the territory to his influence. W. P. Murray, "Recollections of Territorial Days and Legislation" in *ibid.*, 12: 108.

Smith included this letter in full in his "First Annual Report" as secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, printed in the *Annals* of the society "for the Year A. D., 1850-1" (St. Paul, 1851). This report was omitted, however, from the reprint of the *Annals* issued in 1872 as the first volume of the *Collections* and again reprinted in 1902. The document is there introduced as follows: "Public attention has also been called to the propriety of establishing the Western Armory at St. Paul, and a Military Academy at Fort Snelling. The reasons for the latter institution at that point, are fully set forth in the following letter."

other arms were invented, and new means of injury and destruction used. As the implements of war increased, in the same ratio wars decreased; and were it possible to have the art of war so improved, that death would be the certain portion of all who engaged in battle, it would, in our opinion, put a period to wars. While fists and clubs were the only arms employed, men rushed into hostilities with much less hesitation than they now do.

Hence we conclude, that the more destructive wars become, the less likely will they be engaged in. This being true, a thorough military education, given to any people, is likely to prove a very effectual means of preserving peace. When a nation is known to be thus prepared, the belligerent powers are more likely to respect her rights, and to use every means of avoiding a conflict. It is, however, wholly impossible, that all should be thoroughly educated in military science. Nor is it necessary; it is quite sufficient that a number large enough to guide and direct all military operations, should have received such a training. Accordingly, in the earliest history of our Republic, it became our policy to establish a military academy. We had passed through the war of our independence, and in that war, the want of men who had received a military education was apparent; and the advantages of it were strongly evidenced by the efficient aid rendered us by foreigners who came among us. It is not easy to estimate the benefits which resulted from the military skill of Steuben, and the discipline which he established at Valley Forge, during the time our army was in winter quarters at that place. General Washington felt the advantages of military science so strongly, that in his eighth annual message, he recommended the establishment of a military academy in these words:

“In proportion as the observance of pacific measures might exempt a nation from practising the rules of the military art, ought to be its care in preserving and transmitting by proper establishments, the knowledge of that art. Whatever argument may be drawn from particular examples, superficially viewed, a thorough examination of the subject will evince, that the art of war is at once comprehensive and complicated; that it demands much previous study, and that the possession of it in its most improved and perfect state, is always of great moment to the security of a nation. This, therefore, ought to be a serious care of every government; and for this purpose an academy where a regular course of instruction is given, is an obvious expedient which different nations have successfully employed.”

Five years after this recommendation, Congress, by law, established a military academy at West Point, where it still remains. This was by the "Act fixing the military peace establishment of the United States," approved March 16, 1802. However, "An act to authorize the purchase of a tract of land for the use of the United States," approved July 5th, 1790, was the first law on the subject of West Point. But the academy did not do much for a number of years. It lingered along until the war of 1812, which taught its advantages anew. Soon after that war, new energy was given to it; and it went into active and efficient operation. Many acts of Congress have, from time to time, been passed, regulating this institution. Formidable opposition has arisen at various periods. It has, however, at length won its way to general favor as an institution of great benefit. If there were any lingering doubts remaining, the late war with Mexico must have dissipated them. The incalculable services rendered by those who had been educated at West Point, in that struggle, must satisfy every one of its vast utility. Whatever may be the opinions of the bravery of our soldiery who were engaged in Mexico, it cannot be denied, that our long list of brilliant military achievements is mainly owing to the science taught at West Point. It is no part of the object of the writer to labor an eulogy upon our military academy. The names of Ringgold, Swift, M'Kee, and Clay, who fell in the Mexican war, together with a host of others who escaped their fate, attest the advantages of the institution; and as long as the brilliant victories obtained by our arms in Mexico, from Palo Alto to the city of Mexico, live on the pages of history, that long will the vast utility of the military science taught at West Point be remembered.

But it is not alone in the military art that "West Pointers" have distinguished themselves. In every department of life—in the tented field—at the bar—in our seminaries—in authorship—aye, even in the pulpit, West Point can boast its stars. No institution in our country gives a more practical and useful education than West Point.

Taking it for granted, that all will admit its utility, and that its benefits and favors should be well and equally diffused throughout our country, we would inquire, Does the institution at West Point answer our purposes in its present condition? Is that place sufficient to educate all whom it is desirable should be thoroughly instructed in those solid branches which are essential to a good military education? Does it satisfy the wants and

avoid the prejudices, which grow with the growth and strengthen with the strength of the country? By an act of Congress, approved July 7th, 1838, the number of Cadets is limited to two hundred and fifty. The rule of admission is, that one Cadet shall be admitted from each Congressional district. Since this rule was established, the ratio of representation has been increased from 47,700 to 73,000. Thus the number of Cadets does not increase in proportion as our population increases. The population of the United States then was about 13,000,000. It is now supposed to be over 20,000,000. Our borders are continually and rapidly extending; and if the spirit of war remains as rife as in former times, the danger of being involved in hostilities will greatly increase; and we will consequently require a greater number of men educated in military science.

If this reasoning be correct, our circumstances demand an increase in the number of Cadets; and if the number be enlarged, the establishment at West Point is wholly inadequate for their accommodation. In fact, it is not sufficient, under its present organization, to satisfy the country, nor accommodate the present number authorized by law. Although the number which may be admitted is two hundred and fifty, yet, from some unaccountable reason, the ordinary number in the institution is about two hundred. For various reasons, many of them are dismissed; doubtless most of them for good cause, AND PERHAPS ALL. The number of graduates since its organization, we cannot state. We have no data at hand to enable us to determine with certainty; but it does not exceed twelve hundred, which is twenty-five graduates for each year since the organization of the institution. Quite a small number indeed, in comparison with our present immense population of 20,000,000. As before stated, we believe the number of Cadets should be increased so as to be commensurate to the increased population and wants of our growing and widely extended country. This will require a similar or auxiliary institution elsewhere. The new institution should be in the West, to meet the wants of the country. It is but just, that the convenience and interest of the great West should be accommodated in this matter. Millions of money from the public Treasury are disbursed in the East, while to the West it is dealt out with a parsimonious hand. It is justice to the West to have some public favor in this way. She has long complained of injustice in this matter; and the time is fast approaching, when

she can enforce, by her numerical representation, this equitable demand.

But it is not in this view that we urge the erection of a military academy in the West. It is mainly in regard to the necessity and convenience of the matter that it is urged. If it be a good thing, its benefits should be equally diffused. In looking for a particular location for this auxiliary institution, there are three important considerations which should influence its locality. The health of Cadets being a matter of paramount importance, that should be the first consideration. The second should be the convenience of access to the place; and the third should be the economy of the matter in a pecuniary point of view. The place which combines these advantages in the greatest degree should be selected.

In casting about, we can name no place which seems to combine them in so great a degree as FORT SNELLING. Viewing all things, this strikes us as being the very place for such an establishment. It is more like West Point for scenery, health, and many other particulars, than any place on the American continent. Its buildings, arrangement, and whole conformation are very similar. It will so impress any person upon inspection. It is a military post, established in 1819. The march of our population westward, now renders it of little use for military defence. At all events, it could be sufficiently manned by Cadets for all practicable purposes; and the expense of keeping it up would not be more than the present expenditure, so that the Government would not have to lay out one additional cent by converting it into an academy.

It will be seen, however, by the act making appropriations for the support of the military academy for the year ending the 30th of June, 1850, that the sum of \$171,394 61 was appropriated, which is taken as the average sum appropriated yearly since the organization, to keep up and sustain the institution. It has been in existence forty-seven years, which multiplied by the appropriation of \$171,394 61 will produce the sum of eight millions fifty-five thousand five hundred and eighteen dollars; which, divided by twelve hundred, will leave an expenditure for each student of six thousand seven hundred and thirteen dollars. WE STATE THE FACTS WITHOUT NOTE OR COMMENT.

FORT SNELLING is in a place which is, beyond all question, one of the most healthy in the United States; in fact it is proverbially healthy. It is useless to extend our remarks on this point, for it can have no rival as to health.

Next of its convenience. It is situated on the Mississippi river, at the confluence of that and the Minnesota or St. Peters river—easily arrived at by means of steamboats at all times, except when blocked up by ice. By reference to the map, it will be seen that Cadets from Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, will find it of easy access—much more so than West Point. These and the States that will spring up in the North-West, will, before many years, have one half of the population of the United States. Thus it is seen that Fort Snelling commends itself to favor from considerations of convenience.

We come lastly to notice it with reference to public economy. The fort is large and capacious—well built with stone—and has ample room, admirably adapted for the accommodation of three hundred Cadets. It has all the necessary buildings, out buildings, &c., and appears as if built purposely for an academy; so that no expense need be incurred for buildings. Connected with it is a military reservation of twelve miles square; that part of the reservation immediately surrounding the fort is well suited for parade ground. It is understood that the Government has authorized the preliminaries to a treaty with the Sioux Indians, which, it is presumed, will be consummated ere long. Thus we shall acquire a tract of country extending from the fort, west, between the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers; so that any number of acres may be appropriated and set apart for the use of the academy. Perhaps no other suitable place in the country could be selected, which would have this and so many other arguments in its favor, but Fort Snelling. These facts show, that on the score of economy it is a very desirable location for a military academy; and thus we find it combines all the advantages which should commend a place as a site for such an institution.

The scenery around this point is by no means inferior to that at West Point. The place is, as before stated, at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers—the former, a beautiful stream, which winds its way from the south-west until it unites with the Mississippi, which comes from the north-west. On the point upon an elevated piece of ground, stands Fort Snelling—a place strong by nature, and rendered almost impregnable by the military works. It looks as though the dogs of war might bark at it until they split their brazen throats, and it would laugh in scorn at the power of battle. Far away to the north-west stretches a beautiful plain, smooth as a meadow. Turn your eyes



around, and for beauty and sublimity of scenery—from the bold precipice to the smooth, beautiful lawn—clumps of trees—oak openings, which look like an old orchard—in short, all that can please and charm the eye is here presented. South of the Fort, in full view, is Mendota, the station of the American Fur Company. Back of this the country rises in beautiful grandeur, and spreads to the eye a delightful landscape. Whatever advantages which pleasing scenery, bold or beautiful, may have upon the mind, is here to be realized. Taking it all in all, it seems that Congress should look to this matter, and proceed to organize at this place, at an early day, a military academy, on principles similar to West Point. In every point of view, the establishment of an auxiliary institution seems the best policy, and Fort Snelling the place.

S.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA TERRITORY, September 1st, 1849.

(Chron. &amp; Reg. Print, St. Paul.)

[Endorsed:] C. K. Smith Letter Mil. Academy.

S. B. ELLIOT TO MURRAY, November 15, 1852

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

CINCINNATI Nov 15 1852

W P MURRAY Esq

DR SIR

I have received two letters from you of late which ought to have been answered before but a multiplicity of engagements has prevented.

Enclosed please find the form for a charter which I hope you will succeed in getting through. I doubt not it can be made *useful*. I keep pretty well posted on Minnesota Improvements and I cannot think of any project that will take so well as a Plank or Rail Road from St. Paul to St. Anthony with the privilege of extending it to Sauk Rappids or Crow Wing. Or if a Rail Road is preferred perhaps it would be better to get a privilege to extend from St. Anthony to some point towards Fon du Lac. Perhaps a charter for a Rail or Plank Road from St Paul to Stillwater would be worth something if you can get them both t[h]rough.

Please let me hear from you often and I shall have plenty of time in a few days to answer all your letters pro[m]ptly.

160 acre Land Warrants are now worth \$150.00.

Yours truly

S B ELLIOT

R. R. NELSON<sup>1</sup> TO MURRAY, March 3, 1853

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

WASHINGTON March 3/53

FRIEND MURRAY

Your favor enclosing papers &c was handed me a few days ago by Mr Sibley.<sup>2</sup> I will present them personally to the President as soon as the inauguration is over. I know of no applicant but yourself for that office and your chances are good.

The Democratic party must succeed in preventing those individuals who opposed us last fall from being rewarded for their treachery, and I am pretty sure that Mr Pierce will do the fair thing.

Minnesota is well represented here Olmstead,<sup>3</sup> Col R, Lowry,<sup>4</sup> Hollinshead,<sup>5</sup> Steele<sup>6</sup> &c are all on hand.

<sup>1</sup> Rensselaer Russell Nelson was born in New York in 1826, was admitted to the bar in 1849, and came to St. Paul the following year. In 1857 President Buchanan appointed him a territorial judge, and on the admission of Minnesota to the Union he was made a United States district judge. He resigned in 1896 and died in St. Paul in 1904. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 543 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

<sup>2</sup> Henry H. Sibley was the delegate from Minnesota Territory in Congress at this time. *Ibid.*, 702.

<sup>3</sup> Probably David Olmsted, who located a trading post at Long Prairie in 1848, moved to St. Paul in 1853, and became editor of the *Minnesota Democrat*. He was prominent in territorial politics, serving as president of the council in the first legislature, 1849, and as mayor of St. Paul in 1854. In 1855 he was a candidate for the position of delegate but was not elected. The reference may be to S. Baldwin Olmstead of Belle Prairie, who was president of the council in 1854 and 1855. The spelling of the name in the document would indicate the latter, but the former was the more prominent in politics. *Ibid.*, 565.

<sup>4</sup> Probably Sylvanus B. Lowry, who had been associated with Rice and Sibley in the Indian trade. He was a member of the Democratic party and served in the council in 1852 and 1853. Governor Gorman appointed him adjutant general in 1853, but he was removed from office soon afterwards as a result of political quarrels. W. H. C. Folsom, *Fifty Years in the Northwest*, 439 (St. Paul, 1888); William B. Mitchell, *History of Stearns County*, 2: 1080 (Chicago, 1915).

<sup>5</sup> William Hollinshead came to St. Paul in 1850 and formed a partnership for the practice of law with Edmund Rice and George L. Becker. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 338 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

<sup>6</sup> Doubtless Franklin Steele, who played a prominent part in the early history of Minneapolis. *Ibid.*, 738.

There is no doubt but what true & firm Democrats will receive the appointments most of them I hope in the Territory, but that is perhaps doubtful. The ultimate success of the party is the great object, and we must attain that if possible.

Remember me to Williams<sup>1</sup> & all others

Yours truly  
R. R. NELSON

AARON FOSTER<sup>2</sup> TO A. L. WILLIAMS,<sup>1</sup> February 26, 1855

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

LEAVENWORTH CITY KANSAS Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 1855

FRIEND WILLIAMS

I promised you before leaving St Paul, that I would write to you and give you a description of the country. we are all in good health, and hope this may find you, and yours the same. we arived here on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, one month from the time we left St Paul. we were all unwell at the time, but have enjoyed excellent health since. I am inclined to think this is a very healthy section of country. I am much pleased with the climate, the coldest day this winter, the thermometer was only five degrees below zero. the River has not closed this winter at this point. the last Boat left here on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, but a Boat might have come up any time during the winter, we are looking for one up every day, they Telegraphed from St Louis to Weston, that a Boat would leave on the 20<sup>th</sup> this month, you will understand from that, that we are not out of the way of the lightning, as it strikes within five or six miles of us. this Town, or City as it is called, is situated two and half miles below Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri River, and is a most delightful situation, there are about fifty buildings including all kinds and sizes, and the

<sup>1</sup> Doubtless Amzy L. Williams, who was a law partner of Murray's in 1853, as evidenced by a letter from Williams to G. W. Featherstonhaugh, February 17, 1853, in the Murray Papers. The existence of such a partnership is confirmed by Murray's daughter, Mrs. Winifred Murray Milne. According to C. E. Flandreau, Williams came to St. Paul in 1851. "Bench and Bar of Ramsey County" in *Magazine of Western History*, 8: 63.

<sup>2</sup> Aaron Foster, born in Pennsylvania in 1817, settled in Stillwater in 1846 and moved to St. Paul the following year. He was a carpenter by trade and served as a justice of the peace for a number of years. He enlisted in the army in 1864, but died before entering the service. J. Fletcher Williams, *History of the City of St. Paul*, 168 (*M. H. C.*, 4); T. M. Newson, *Pen Pictures of St. Paul*, 70 (St. Paul, 1886).

inhabitants number 2123 and consist of the following clases, one hundred men, twenty three women, one hundred children, one thousand dogs, and nineteen hundred woolves, and we look for a large adition to our present population when spring opens, of a few thousand rattle snakes. fifty of the male population, are Lawyers and the rest you might swear was Carpenters. the great difficulty with this place, is that there cannot be a good title given, as this Town is situated on the Deleware Reserve, and the Lotts are Surveyed off only 25 feet front by 110 deep, I do not think this will be the seat of government, it is a strong Pro Slavery hole, and a great portion of the Lotts are owned by Missourians, and our Governor is free Soiler all over. they elected a strong pro slavery man to represent us in Congress, yet I do not think this will be a slave state, although the Missourians help us very generously at the Elections. I think we will come the Paddy over them this spring Election. we have Organized a sositie eaquel to the H. Ns. I suppose you understand that. I am affraid some of our St Paul Boys are strongly tintured with the Pro. speaking of the St Paul Boys there are in this place Sellors,<sup>1</sup> Dr Day,<sup>2</sup> James Kirkpatrick<sup>3</sup> Mr Russell and myself. A J Whitney<sup>4</sup> is here at times St Paul is well represented here. Kirkpatrick is very feeble, he will not be able to stand it long. I do not like liveing in this Country as well as I do in Minnesota, yet I like the climate much better I have my health much better here. I have not had a cold since I came to the Territory and have stoped Coughing entirely. we all live in Buildings without plastering, and no person sick in the Country, there are five Companys of Soldiers at this Fort, and none of them sick. there is no timber in this Country, and Lumber is very dear, matched

<sup>1</sup> Benjamin L. Sellors was in St. Paul as early as 1849 and served as sergeant-at-arms of the second territorial council, 1851. *Minnesota Pioneer*, January 9, 1851; Williams, *St. Paul*, 215, 266 (*M. H. C.*, 4); Minnesota Historical Society, *Annals*, 1850-51, p. 64 (St. Paul, 1851).

<sup>2</sup> Probably Dr. David Day, who practiced medicine in St. Paul from 1849 to 1854. If so, he must have soon returned from Kansas, as he was a partner with J. R. Jenks in the drug business in St. Paul in 1856. Newson, *Pen Pictures*, 109; *St. Paul City Directory*, 1856-57, p. 85; Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 167 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

<sup>3</sup> James Kirkpatrick was a resident of St. Paul in 1850. Williams, *St. Paul*, 268 (*M. H. C.*, 4).

<sup>4</sup> Andrew J. Whitney came to St. Paul in 1853 and was appointed clerk of the supreme court the same year. He was city clerk of St Paul in 1858. *Ibid.*, 340, 410, 462; Newson, *Pen Pictures*, 394.

pine flooring \$65.00 per thousand feet, Green Cotton Wood boards 30.00 per thousand, Lathes are 8.00 per thousand. Dry goods, Groceries, and provisions are cheaper here than St Paul. they have been ploughing on the Government Farm all winter except January, we have had no rain but once since last June, we have had three snow storms but it only stops a few days with us, but it blows the hair off of a mans head—a perfect hurricane. I wish you would do me a small favour if you can that is call on Mr Morrison<sup>1</sup> and tell him we are all well and that I will write to him after I get leisure, and he owes me some six or seven dollars ask him how much it is and get it, and pay Mr. Terry<sup>2</sup> the amount of my postage since I left, and pay yourself for trouble, and if any left send it to me, when you write. Send me a paper at times, and I will do the same excuse this letter, or me as I have four more to write this evening. I am affraid you will not be able to get much information out of my scriblings, but you are a Lawyer and ought not only to be able to read bad writing, but make out what a man realy ment, if he only had sence enough to express himself. Give my respects to all the folks in St Paul and accept the same yourself

Respectfully Yours

AARON FOSTER

N B write soon and direct your letters to Fort Leavenworth Kansas we have no post office here yet

W. W. McNAIR<sup>3</sup> TO MURRAY, July 31, 1872

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

MINNEAPOLIS July 31<sup>st</sup> 1872

HON W. P. MURRAY

DR SIR

I have gone to St Paul twice since the day our committee met to see you but failed to find you either time

Upon consultation with Democrats since the action of the State Com<sup>te</sup> & the liberal Com<sup>te</sup> in determing to have sep-

<sup>1</sup> Probably Wilson C. Morrison, who settled in St. Paul in 1848 and died there in 1892. Newson, *Pen Pictures*, 87; Williams, *St. Paul*, 198, 200, 269; *St. Paul City Directory*, 1893, p. 998.

<sup>2</sup> John Carlos Terry was assistant postmaster in St. Paul from 1853 to 1871. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 773 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

<sup>3</sup> William Woodbridge McNair, born in New York in 1836, settled in St. Anthony in 1857 and was admitted to the bar the same year.

arate Conventions I find them almost unanimously of opinion that it would have been better to have had but one Convention, but that since the calls have been issued & the resolution recommending that in all other conventions & primary meetings the Democrats & liberal Republicans co-operate it would be better to do so, I therefore assent to this plan should you think best to adopt it.

Permit me also to suggest that in the call we adopt some distinct party name as for instance "Democratic Republican Convention for the 3<sup>d</sup> Congressional District of Minnesota" or some other equally good name, and then invite all who are willing to join in endeavoring to secure the election of Greely & Brown & the local tickets placed in nomination by the "Democratic Republican party" in the several counties in this District of the State, & who favor the adoption by the people of the Principles enunciated in the Platforms adopted at Cincinnati & Balt<sup>r</sup> to join with us.

As to the representation it will, in case a convention of Democrats & Liberals is called have to be based upon the entire vote & I would suggest that we take the vote for Governor last cast and allow to every Three hundred voters or a majority fraction thereof one delegate except in the counties in which the entire vote does not exceed Three Hundred when we would allow one delegate as heretofore. I have made a compilation of the vote cast at the last gubernatorial election, in the several co[un]ties now comprising the 3<sup>d</sup> Dist & enclose it as it will save you some time & trouble, should you think best to base the representation upon the entire vote of the district. The first column of figures is the N<sup>o</sup> of votes cast for Mr Austin in the respective Counties,—the second the number cast for Mr Young—the third the aggregate for each county—the fourth the N<sup>o</sup> of Delegates allowed by the call for the last State Convention upon the basis of One Delegate to every one Hundred and fifty votes,—the fifth the N<sup>o</sup> of delegates allowed to each County upon a basis of one to every Three

He served as county attorney of Hennepin County from 1859 to 1863 and as mayor of St. Anthony from 1869 to 1872. He was a candidate for Congress in 1876, running on the Democratic ticket, and in 1883 was offered the nomination for governor. His death occurred in 1885. In 1872 McNair and Murray were selected as members of the Democratic campaign committee for the third congressional district. Isaac Atwater, *History of Minneapolis*, 1: 453 (New York, 1893); *St. Paul Pioneer*, June 20, 1872.

Hundred voters in the county which I think would be about right, except in the case of Stearns County where the Democratic vote has been much larger than the Republican so that in changing the basis of representation from 150 Democratic to 300 of both parties the representation for Stearns is reduced from 11 to 8. how would it do in fixing the apportionment to give them the usual number eleven (11) & say nothing about it. I would also suggest that I think a good time for the convention would be the day before the state convention at 2 P. M. if a hall can be determined & St. Paul the place.<sup>1</sup> On Monday when in St Paul I saw Mr Staples<sup>2</sup> & I conclude from what he said the foregoing suggestions would meet his views if satisfactory to the other members of the Committee. It is no doubt time the call was issued

Respectfully yours

W. W. McNAIR

JOSEPH FUCHS TO MURRAY, July 2, 1875<sup>3</sup>

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

TABAKGASSE N<sup>r</sup> 1 COMPTOIR BEI RUDOLF HERZOG

PEST, UNGARN July 2 /75

WM. P. MURRAY Esqu. ST. PAUL

DEAR SIR

I make free to inform you that through various reasons the negotiations with the I Hung. Transp. C<sup>o</sup> were not concluded; a brother in law of mine who was instrumental in founding it, thought to see good reasons why he should withdraw his funds first, and laterly even his countenance from the institution. On my arrival (the 31<sup>st</sup> May) they showed willingness to have me

<sup>1</sup> The *St. Paul Pioneer* of August 4, 1872, contains the call, signed by the members of both the Liberal Republican and Democratic committees. Stearns County was allowed eleven delegates, as suggested by McNair.

<sup>2</sup> Isaac Staples, a prominent lumberman of Stillwater, was another member of the Democratic committee for the third congressional district. A branch of his business was located in St. Paul. *St. Paul Pioneer*, June 20, August 4, 1872; Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 734 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

<sup>3</sup> The printed heading to the sheet on which this letter is written is of some interest. It begins "Joseph Fuchs, Commission-Merchant," and is continued by the following at the left of the sheet with a German version at the right: "offers his services for the purchase and sale of raw products as well as other merchandise on Commis-

unite with them, even though they had fallen out with my friends; since a large share of needed funds were withdrawn they confine their business only to forwarding, leaving Commission etc., alone. Under such circumstances it required no deep insight to perceive that the I Hung. Transp. C<sup>o</sup> were not the parties best suited to further my views, & do justice to the manufacturers I am to represent.

I discontinued therefore the negotiations, that were hardly commenced, and after some search in another direction, it is now my pleasant duty to inform you that I have been able to induce Mr. Rudolf Herzog to lend his influence and become an associate in the agr. implement business to which I shall wholly devote myself. (Unless indeed the government of the U. S. should see fit to appoint me its representative, in place of Mr Kauser who has resigned through stress of business). Mr. R. Herzog is an old businessman and landowner, besides being the founder of the first factory in Hungary for the manufacture of bone meal & of animal coal; his factory has lately become the property of a stock C<sup>o</sup> but he has a large interest there yet & remains the leading & counseling director of the enterprise. Mr Herzog is one of our well known businessmen and any of our banks will on proper application give his financial standing.—The business will for the present be conducted from the office of Rud. Herzog Tabakgasse N<sup>r</sup> 1 under the firm & name of Joseph Fuchs which I alone will sign as below.

The letter of introduction which you were so kind as to give me, to the american minister Mr. Orth I have not yet delivered; I was in vienna, but could not take the time to call on him.

I hope that Mrs Murray & the children are well; now that I am so far away, I would give something to sit on your front stoop in the shade & read the St. Paul Press or the Pioneer for that matter.

The Hungarians elected their legislators yesterday. Those who pay taxes to the amount of abt \$5<sup>00</sup> pr year & that promptly paid, have the franchise; the right to choose their representatives was granted only a few years ago, & our people consider it a great

sion. Represents home and foreign producers and American & European manufacturers of agricultural machinery and implements. The highest references at Home and Abroad. Sole representative of the celebrated Japanese Paper Ware which will not leak, break, shrink, or fall to pieces."

<sup>1</sup> Imperial Hungarian Transportation Company.



boon, show also that they appreciate it by displaying of national (red, white & green) banners with the name of the favorite candidate; The Sundays are used for processions in honor to the candidate, he holds his programme speeches, & is conducted to his house by his adherents who deafen each other with cries of: *Éljen.* (cheer.) The franchise is considered by too many as yet as a plaything a toy and without considerable noise they consider it has no value. with the greatest respect I am yours obedient servant

JOSEPH FUCHS



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