

Document 1-C (page 1 of 3)

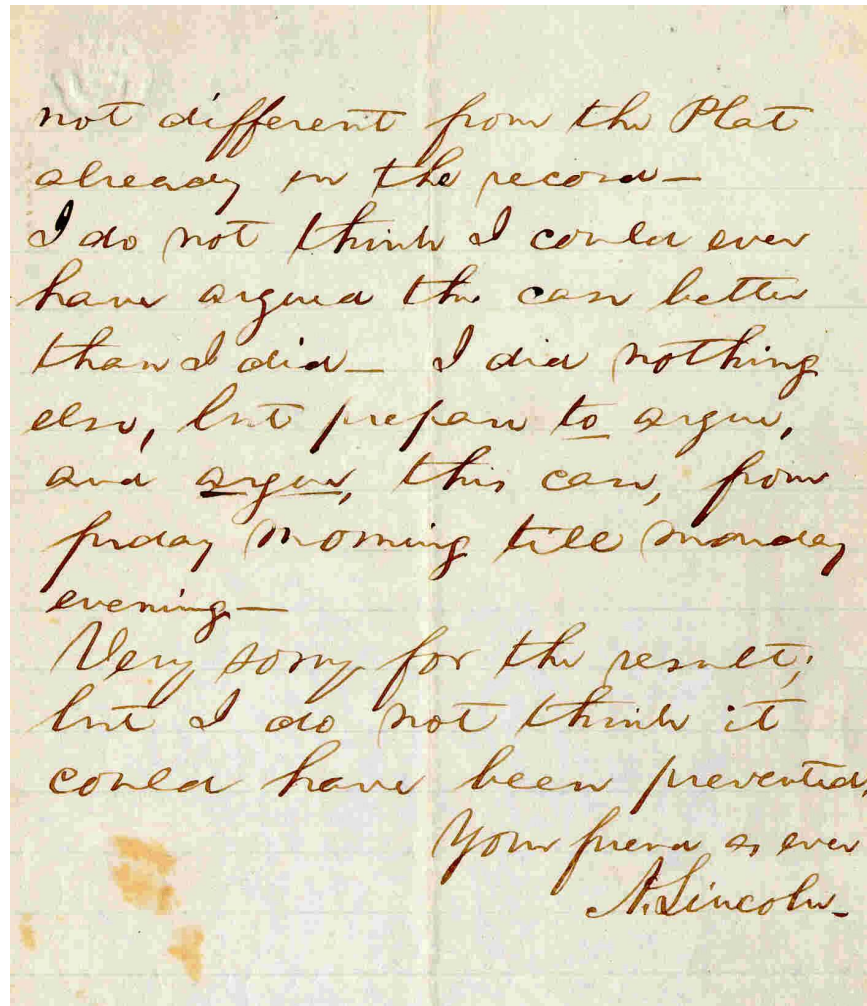
Springfield, Jan^y 16. 1856
C. Hoyt, Esq
My dear Sir:
Our case is de-
cided against us. The decision
was announced this morning -
Very sorry; but there is no help.
The history of the case, since it
came here, is this. - On Friday
morning last, Mr. Joy filed his
paper, and entered his motion
for a mandamus, and urged
me to take up the motion as
soon as possible. I already
had the points and authori-
ties sent me by you and by
Mr. Goodrich, but had not
studied them. I began prepar-
ing as fast as possible. The
evening of the same day I was
again urged to take up the case.

Autograph Letter Signed, Abraham Lincoln to C. Hoyt, 16 January 1856, Henry Horner
Lincoln Collection, Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois.

Document 1-C (Page 2 of 3)

I refused, on the ground
that I was not ready; and
on which plea I also got
off over Saturday. But on
Monday (the 14th) I had to
go into it. We occupied
the whole day, I using the
larger part. I made every
point, and used every author-
ity sent me by yourself &
by Mr Goodrich; and in
addition, all the points I
could think of, and all the
authorities I could find my-
self. I had B. Bar. 70. and
made all out of it that I
could. When I closed the
argument on my part, a large
package was handed me,
which proved to be the Plea
you sent me. The Court re-
ceived it of me, but it was

Document 1-C (Page 3 of 3)

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The paper is aged and has some brown stains at the bottom. The handwriting is in cursive and matches the style of Abraham Lincoln. The text is written in two paragraphs. The first paragraph discusses a legal case and the time spent on it. The second paragraph expresses regret and ends with a signature.

not different from the Plat
already in the record—
I do not think I could ever
have argued the case better
than I did— I did nothing
else, but prepare to argue,
and argue, this case, from
Friday morning till Monday
evening—
Very sorry for the result,
but I do not think it
could have been prevented.
Your friend as ever
A. Lincoln.