Autangaville. July 17th 1855

Maj Hall

Dr Sir

In these days of "Know Nothing" delusion the confidence betwen man and man is so completely wrecked, that we know not who to approach or to whom we can make an frank expression of opinion. In advance permit me to say that I stile and am on board the old democratick ship "State Rights," firmly persuaded that it is the only craft competent to conduct this government to the greatness and grandeur which its framers designed it to occupy and while I have mind to think, or tongue to speak my motto will be, "never give up the ship, never give up the ship." We now truly a novel contest the like of which it is to be hoped we never again disgrace our history, a party claiming to be national without any common platform of principles, proposing to control the interests and destiny of this U S by preventing a few Irishmen from holding office, and as many Roman Catholicks from worshipping God as their Consciences might dictate is too supremely preposterous for us to concede to it a percentage in the mind of a sane individual. Although many honest and unsuspecting patriots have fallen victims to the delusion, When it triumphs, our

confidence in mans capacity for self government will be shaken, and look upon us as fit subjects for the superstitions of Mahomet or Joe Smith

Will it triumph? Are the people of these U States so far degenerated as to be thus easily duped? I cannot yet be brought to believe it, and can not yet believe that the good citizens of this State or county will be so readily humbugged

In this portion of the county the excitement waxes warm and much is to be done between this and the election. The friends of government, the old line democrats are up and doing and their blows do not always fall harmless. They are at work. They are in for the war, and if defeated they will be found at their post. I have never seen them more determined to do battle for their principles than at present. There are through this portion of the county more democrats actively engaged in the canvass than I have before seen and this is our only hope of success. Those opposed to us are equally active but we have the advantage in efficient canvassers. Below Pratville there will I am inclined to think be no falling off from the vote of 53. Autauganlle is represented as being almost unanimously against us. This is not the case. If the election was to come off to day unless we are much deceived we would have a majority. In Mulberry Beat we will perhaps lose one or two, which will be made up by two or three whigs, that refuse to be sold

At Milton I am told every thing is right. The few that had strayed off have nearly all returned and Parker, Benford, Monroe and Burns are striking heavy blows. Independence is not to be arcaded. Pool Kate and Jones are the most active men at that box and they are not idle. Judge Brown must answer for Kingston. Your services in the upper portion of the county your friends here expect to have. On tomorrow I expect to see Dr Wood for the purpose of endeavouring to prevail on him to take a tour from Milton to Chesnut Creek. If he can be induced to do so something may be effected. I shall be pleased to hear from you relative to our prospects in the upper portion of the county and your views of the result of the election both in county and State

Yours Respectfully
Leonidas Howard

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Lunidas Howard