

Springfield, Augt 9. 1850
John Addison, Esq.

Dear Sir,

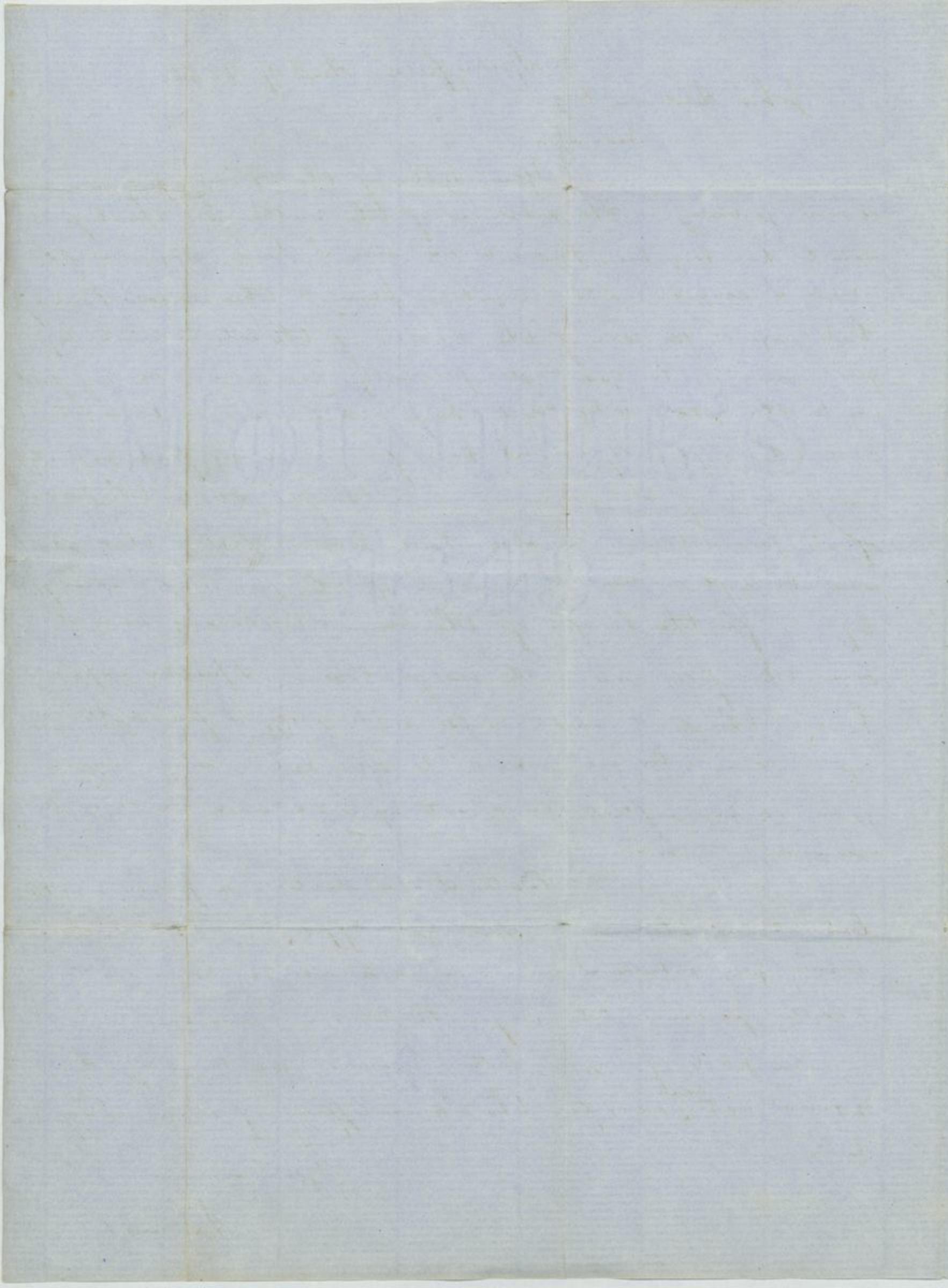
Your letter of the 31st of Aug. was received yesterday - The substance of the matter you speak of, in detail, has long been known to us; and I have supposed, if I would, I could make it entirely plain to the world. But my high regard for some of the members of the late Cabinet; my great devotion to Genl Taylor personally; and, above all, my fidelity to the great whig cause, have induced me to be silent; and this especially, as I have felt, and do feel, entirely independent of the government, and therefore above the power of its persecution. I also have long suspected that you were being persecuted on account of this piece of villainy, by, or for the benefit of the original villain; and, at once, this fills me with indignation - A public exposure, however, though it might confound the guilty, I fear might also injure some who are innocent; to some extent, disparage a good cause; reflect no credit upon me, and result in no advantage to you.

Mr Bates I see declines a place on the Cabinet; so that it is not yet apparent how I can serve you, which I am anxious to do so soon as I shall perceive the way - Write me again -

One part of your letter moves me to say I would not ^{now} accept the Secr Office, if it were offered to me -

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln



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John Addison. Esq.
Washington
D.C.

