

Collection #  
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## SCHUYLER COLFAX PAPERS, 1843–1884

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 oversized folder, 2 cartes de visite

COLLECTION 1843-1884  
DATES:

PROVENANCE: Several purchases from a number of sources between 1940-1998

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1939.0503; 2000.0308; complete list available in accession file

NOTES: This is an open collection. Material will be added as it becomes available.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Schuyler Colfax (1823-1885) was born in New York City, the son of Schuyler and Hannah Stryker Colfax. His father died before his son's birth, and in 1834 his mother married George Matthews. Two years later the family moved to New Carlisle, Indiana, just west of South Bend. After education in local schools, Colfax began his political career by assisting his stepfather, auditor of South Bend, as deputy auditor from 1841 to 1849. He also served as assistant enrolling clerk of the state Senate in 1842-1844. He married Evelyn Chase in 1844.

He combined politics with newspaper work and began working as a correspondent for the Indiana State Journal. In 1845 he became editor and part owner of the South Bend Free Press. He changed the name of the paper to the St. Joseph Valley Register, and it became a leading paper in the area. He served as a member of the Indiana Constitutional Convention in 1850.

Elected to the national House of Representatives in 1854, he served seven terms ending in 1869. From 1859 to 1861 he was chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and was responsible for reorganizing the overland mail service to California. In 1861 he was mentioned as a possible Postmaster General, but President Lincoln appointed Montgomery Blair instead.

In 1863 Colfax was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and held this office for three terms. He was generally considered a Radical Republican, though unlike some of his colleagues he ended by admiring Lincoln rather than reviling him. He was conferring with Lincoln in the White House just before Lincoln set out for Ford's Theater and his assassination. During his Speakership, however, the House passed a number of Radical measures. When Andrew Johnson succeeded to the Presidency, Colfax joined the opposition to his policies, and approved the impeachment, which was voted while he presided.

In addition to war and reconstruction, another important issue before the House while Colfax was Speaker was the growth of transcontinental railroads. On this subject Colfax was an unabashed enthusiast. During the summer of 1865, at the request of President Lincoln just before his death, Colfax took a lengthy tour across the continent. On his return he gave a number of lectures describing his trip, and incidentally showing the advantages to be gained by linking the West to the more settled parts of the country. This was the period when Congress was encouraging the building of

railroads by grants of land and money, a policy which Colfax clearly favored.

When the time came in 1868 for Republicans to nominate a presidential ticket, Gen. Grant was the clear choice for President. Colfax, because of his position as Speaker and his credentials as a Radical, was a leading candidate for the Vice Presidential nomination, along with Radical Senators Ben Wade, Reuben Fenton, and Henry Wilson. He was nominated on the fifth ballot, and the ticket was elected in the fall. At this same time Colfax married Ellen Wade, Senator Wade's niece.

Colfax's main activity as Vice President was to preside over the Senate. Even in this silent role, there were a few occasions when his silence would have been the better part of valor. It would have been better if he had made fewer claims about the purity of the Grant administration. In 1870 he announced that he would not seek reelection, but in the two following years he did little to restrain partisans who talked of nominating him for the Presidency, possibly with Charles Sumner as a running mate. This, along with intimations that he was friendly with some Liberal Republicans, resulted in his losing the nomination in 1872 to Sen. Henry Wilson on the first ballot.

Just at this time, the Credit Mobilier scandal broke. Colfax was among those members of Congress accused by Oakes Ames of receiving stock and dividends in the company in return for their influence. Ames under cross-examination gave contradictory evidence about having delivered stock and dividends to Colfax. However, Colfax's explanation of a large bank deposit (claimed to have consisted mainly of a dividend paid by Ames) made him look like a pensioner of George F. Nesbitt, a contractor who had supplied envelopes to the government while Colfax headed the Post Office committee. The total sum that Colfax was accused of receiving from Ames was only \$1200, and no final judgment of his guilt was made because he was already out of office. Nevertheless this affair ended his political career.

Despite his political troubles, Colfax continued in demand as a lecturer, speaking both about his travels and about other subjects as diverse as Abraham Lincoln, The Duties of Life, Education, Temperance, and Contract Labor. He went on the circuit about eight months every year. He died in Mankato, Minnesota.

Sources:

Materials in collection.

Who Was Who in America

Dictionary of American Biography

Willard H. Smith, Schuyler Colfax, the Changing Fortunes of a Political Idol, Indiana Historical Collections, Vol. 33, 1952

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection, filling one manuscript box, covers the years 1843 to 1884, and consists of correspondence, one manuscript lecture, two lecture transcripts, programs and invitations, and photographs. It was acquired by purchase from a number of different sources, between 1940 and 1998.

Early letters show Colfax's interest in local and Indiana politics. Letters from the period of his service in the House of Representatives show his interest in Kansas, in appointments, and in carrying Indiana in the 1868 election. There are also mentions of his lecture engagements, especially in connection with the lecture about his 1865 Western tour. In this same connection, a number of letters are written to an official of a local railroad [C. F. Hatch], and several of these mention his pleasure at having one of the road's locomotives named the "Schuyler Colfax."

With regard to Colfax's later problems, five letters are of interest. Two (2-8-1865 and 2-18-1865) show him considering acceptance of a "slice" of a silver mine in Nevada-- but "no such luck." The other three deal with his relations with George F. Nesbitt. One of 3-22-1869 shows him going out of his way on a trip to visit with Nesbitt in New York; one of 4-11-1869 shows him unable to be a pallbearer at Nesbitt's funeral but looking back with pleasure on the visit; four years later (1-29-1873) Colfax seeks confirmation from Nesbitt's son that Nesbitt sent him a \$1000

bill in 1868.

Later letters deal mainly with Colfax's lecture tours. Also present are programs and invitations from the August 31, 1865 reception given in honor of Colfax at the Occidental Hotel; a manuscript copy of his lecture "Across the Continent," along with typed transcripts of two other versions of the same lecture; and two cartes de visite, one of Colfax and one of Colfax with a group of men.

The calendar of correspondence gives in-depth information about the letters in the collection.

## CALENDAR OF CORRESPONDENCE

### Folder 1

- 1-2-1843 Colfax, Indianapolis, to "Dear Quaker" [Eben Woolman?] Have sent you papers; please distribute. Legislature is about to make Treasury notes receivable, about equal in worth to State banknotes. Hope this will accomplish some good. Politics-- Whigs vs. Locofocos. ALS. 2p
- 12-10-1843 Colfax, Indianapolis, to G. W. Matthews, South Bend, Ind. Summary of report by Auditor Morris. Will send you full report when it is presented. ALS. 1p
- 7-14-1845 Colfax, South Bend, to Albert [W. West?] Whigs not doing well in your county or Tippecanoe County. Discussion of politics in other counties. I have no wish to succeed Pomeroy in the Senate, and am not old enough. You could make money at the Journal. I would like to buy out Williams. Please send me a newspaper occasionally. ALS. 5p

### Folder 2

- 7-31-1852 Wm. H. Seward, Washington, D.C., to Colfax, South Bend. From standing among the people in Auburn [N. Y.], I conclude that Scott will be elected. Hope you can get our committee to attend to the German voters. ALS. 1p
- 6-22-1853 Colfax, South Bend, to A.N. Deacon. Enclosing 100 handbills. I can't afford to let you subscribe for less than \$1.50. ALS. 1p
- 9-27-1853 Colfax, South Bend, to A.N. Deacon. Bill for 100 handbills. ALS. 1p
- 10-12-1854 Colfax, South Bend, to Friend W. Majorities for me in St. Joseph, LaPorte, and Marshall Counties. Losses by Chamberlain. Brenton will be elected if the heavy foreign vote in Allen County does not defeat him. ALS. 1p
- 10-13-[1854] Colfax, South Bend, to J.H. Stailey. Election results—Colfax over Eddy by 1700, with other election results. ALS. 1p
- 7-6-1855 Colfax, South Bend, to Friend Stebbins. Thanks for standing up for Northern delegates at Philadelphia, also for friendly allusions to me. I did not seek to be a delegate, but once chosen I thought I should resist the Hunkerizing of the Order. Otherwise the Slave Power would be supreme in the next Congress. ALS. 1p

### Folder 3

- 2-4-1856 Colfax, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., to D.D. Pratt. My colleagues in the House and I agree that you are "the ALS. 4p

right man for the place." You have the advantage of bar support, weight of character, speaking ability, and former Whig allegiance. An anti-Nebraska Democrat should run with you for Lt. Governor. Am sure you are happy about outcome of struggle for the Speakership. Please reply.

- 7-26-1856 Colfax, Washington, to [Joseph R.] Williams, [Toledo, O.]. ALS. 1p  
Please hurry up your partner here to get the Kansas Reports bound just as soon as they come from the printer.
- 8-14-[1856] Colfax, Washington, to Friend Williams, [Toledo, O.]. Books are ALS. 1p  
coming along pretty well now, but only 1000 to 1700 day. We will get off most of them by adjournment. Who is to blame for delay? I'll probably go through Toledo without stopping.
- 7-23-1858 Colfax, South Bend, to Dear Sirs. I won't make a joint canvass ALS. 2p  
with Walker, because he wanted to make only one speech in each county in the district. I want to appear in the country townships. Schedule of speeches. Hope my throat holds up. Is there a [Reform?] tavern in your town where I can drive my team? We will beat them finely unless they bring in over 2000 railroad workers.

#### Folder 4

- 2-27-1861 H.G.O. Morrison, Lt. Gov. Ignatius Donnelly, and 26 others, St. ALS. 1p  
Paul, Minn., to Abraham Lincoln, President Elect. Urge appointment of Colfax as Postmaster General.
- 3-12-1861 Colfax, Washington, to My dear Sir. I can't understand why you ALS. 4p  
waited so long to express your opinion about the postmastership at Logansport. I heard from you on other subjects. Wilson's candidacy was supported by a majority of those I heard from. Hope you understand my position.
- 6-8-1861 Colfax, South Bend, to Friend W. [Joseph R. Williams, ALS. 3p  
Michigan]. Diplomatic appointments. I have to use my influence for people from Indiana. If Chandler and Bingham, from your own state, have been unable to do any-thing for you, I doubt if I could.
- 7-19-1861 Winfield Scott, Washington. Pass for Colfax to visit Gen. DS. 1p  
McDowell's headquarters.
- 9-19-1861 Colfax, South Bend, to My dear Sir. It is too late for me to have ALS. 1p  
any success in getting you an appointment. Write to Senator Lane, who has more influence than I.
- 10-3-1861 Colfax, South Bend, to Secretary of War Simon Cameron. ALS. 1p  
Recommends William S. Bearss Jr. to be Sutter of the 40<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteers.
- 12-12-1861 Colfax to Gen. G.B. McClellan. Urging redeployment of Gen. Transcript.  
Milroy's 9th Indiana to someplace where they can see action. 2p.  
Endorsement by A. Lincoln.
- 1-30-1862 Colfax, Washington, D.C., to Dear Sir [Elmira, N.Y.]. My ALS. 2p  
lecture will be the same as at Binghampton-- "The Duties of Life"-- the only one I have prepared. Any lecturer's fee should go for the purposes I indicated.

5-14-1862	Colfax, Washington, D.C., to Gov. Morton. The bill you alluded to did pass, and is all right; provides for reimbursement of states for enrolling and supplying and transporting their troops.	ALS. 1p
6-23-1862	Colfax, Washington, to Gov. Morton. Ref. your General Order 45: law passed last week allows one additional asst. surgeon to each regiment chaplain can be of any denomination, not just Christian.	ALS. 1p
6-23-1862	Colfax, Washington, to Sir: Permission granted to Lt. Parker to reenter U.S. Service.	ALS. 1p
7-1-1862	J. T. Boyle and eight others, Louisville, to Gov. O.P. Morton. Urging appointment of Rev. F. Senour as chaplain of U.S. Hospital at Indianapolis.	ADS. 1p
7-15-1862	Colfax, Washington, to Gen. L. Thomas, Adj. Gen. Requesting permission for Lt. F. Ryland to be recommissioned.	ALS. 1p
7-17-1862	H. C. Newcomb, Benjamin Harrison, and eight others to Pres. Lincoln. Urging appointment of Rev. Fauntleroy Senour to be chaplain of any military hospital.	ADS. 1p
8-19-1862	Theo. F. Stokes, Washington, to Colfax, South Bend. Long story about how Maj. Rees's son George ran off to enlist. The Major says he will disinherit his sons if they enlist-- are his opinions sound? Cap Lytle is very low. Description of troops around Washington. Turpie's chances to be elected.	ALS. 4p, with envelope

#### **Folder 5**

2-7-1863	Henry C. Bowen, IRS Office, Brooklyn, to Colfax. Discusses Mrs. Colfax's illness, the course of the war, and the popularity of a song about John Brown apparently written by Colfax.	ALS. 3p
11-7-1863	Colfax, South Bend, to My dear Sir. Mr. Hurlbud told a colleague he will support me. As a native New Yorker I have approved of Mr. H.'s stand and rejoiced in his election to Congress. I will not forget a friend, though I will make no special pledges.	ALS. 1p
12-10-1863	John B. Niles and 16 others, LaPorte, Ind., to Colfax. Congratulations on your election to Speakership of House.	ALS. 2p
12-22-1863	Colfax, Washington, to Friend Hanscom. Please correct proof of Wilkeson's speech by the enclosed. I would like a dozen copies if possible.	ALS. 1p
2-15-1864	Colfax, Speaker's Chair, Washington, to My dear Sir. I will come on Washington's Birthday, but on the 7:30 train. I scarcely find time to eat or sleep. I'll dine before I come.	ALS. 1p
4-22-1864	Colfax, Washington, to My dear Sir. Agree that a sales tax would raise a lot of money-- have pressed it to members of Ways and Means. But it would be hard to collect.	ALS. 1p
5-4-1864	Colfax, Washington, to My dear Perly. I am much obligated to you for your poetical funny-graphs last evening.	ALS. 1p
5-27-1864	Colfax, Washington, to Williamson Wright, Logansport, Ind. Of course we need success in the field and energy in the administration. Congress has done all that was asked of it, and	ALS. 1p, with photocopy

	more. There will be a draft-- one year, not three.	of envelope
8-30-1864	H. S. Lane, Crawfordsville, to A. Lincoln. Recommending W. S. Harker of Lafayette as a hospital chaplain.	ALS. 1p
10-3-1864	Colfax, Washington, to Gen. [J.B.] Fry. Complicated question, regarding drafted men who desert, and amount of credit to be given to a district where this happens and the men are replaced by men drafted in another district.	ALS. 1p
<b>Folder 6</b>		
2-7-1865	Colfax, Washington, to Gen. J.B. Fry. Introducing Thos. N. Stilwell, just elected to Congress from the 11th District, heretofore politically hostile.	ALS. 1p
2-8-1865	Colfax, Washington, to Frank Fuller. If you really men to "give" me a slice of a silver mine, with no danger of assessments afterwards which would bankrupt me, I shall be delighted. In case I go home via New York, let me know where you will be. My wife died two years ago after many years of ill-health.	ALS. 1p
2-18-1865	Colfax, Washington, [to Frank Fuller]. Won't have time to visit you in New York. Hope McCulloch will be Secy. of Treasury. How odd it would seem to get rich out of a Nevada gold mine-- no such luck. Planning western trip. Have invitation to visit Utah, but don't expect to be converted to polygamy.	ALS. 2p
3-28-1865	Colfax, South Bend, to Dear Governor. Thanks for volume of your educational addresses. I am giving a lecture on Education myself tomorrow at New Carlisle where I spent my boyhood. Came home with bad cold-- getting better. Planning trip West early in May.	ALS. 3p
10-13-1865	Colfax, South Bend, to My Dear Sir [T.H. Faile, Jr.?]. I have been up to my eyes in work since I returned home. I had my usual luck in the tornado. It raised from the ground & passed over my buildings unharmed. My moustache has gone to the home from which no moustache returns.	ALS. 2p with envelope
10-15-1865	Edwin M. Stanton, Washington, to Colfax. Welcome home from your tour. You are universally expected to be Speaker in the next Congress.	ALS. 1p
11-5-1865	Colfax, South Bend, to My dear Sir. I cannot accept your kind invitation. The Speaker cannot leave Washington while the House is in session. Enjoyed knowing two of your committee.	ALS. 1p
12-16-1865	Colfax, Washington, to My dear Sir. All evenings during holiday recess are booked for delivery of my lecture. Cannot leave Washington while Congress is in session.	ALS. 1p
12-24-1865	Colfax, Troy, N.Y., to General [R.C. Schenk, Chairman of House Committee on Military Affairs]. If you have some military legislation you desire speedy action on, your committee's turn will probably come on the morning of 8 or 9 January.	ALS. 1p
12-28-1865	Colfax, New York, to Governor [W.A. Buckingham of Conn.]. Thanks for presiding in N[ew] H[aven] and for your kind words. I might be able to speak in Norwich on 13 January. My usual fee is \$150.	ALS. 2p

[1865]	Note written on back of a collar. Colfax party to Hawley party-greeting.	AN. 1p
<b>Folder 7</b>		
4-4-1866	Lincoln's cabinet members tried to get him to adopt this policy, but failed. "One" has succeeded better with Pres. Johnson.	ALS. 1p
7-14-1866	Colfax, Washington, to My dear Sir. Thanks for speeding the dispatch of telegrams for the Westville convention. Please send me a telegram about the Democratic convention at LaPorte.	ALS. 1p
9-20-1866	Colfax, Washington, to Gen. R.J. Ogelsby and Gen. Carl Schurz. Introducing Col. G.A. Pierce of Valparaiso.	ALS. 1p
10-11-1866	Colfax, South Bend, to [Z.E. Stone, Lowell, Mass.]. I can deliver my lecture at Lowell on Friday 23 November, repeating it the next night for my friend Alley. Fee \$150.	ALS. 1p with front of envelope
11-7-1866	Colfax, South Bend, to Dear Sir. Have been able to accept only sixteen out of 200 invitations, so must decline yours.	ALS. 1p
2-3-1867	Colfax, Washington, to Mrs. [Mary Clemmer] Ames. Affairs at Capitol prevent me from calling as I intended.	ALS. 1p
4-5-1867	Colfax, Albany, NY, to W.F. Phillips. Mansfield & Lansing both telegraph that they must have the rights assigned to them.	ALS. 1p
4-14-1867	Colfax, Chicago, to Mrs. Ames. Have been busy, first traveling and lecturing, then answering pile of correspondence. Will retire altogether from lecturing on 20 May. Plans for summer indefinite. Have not heard from any of my New York lady friends, in whom I was supposed to be "deeply interested." You have seen into my heart deeper than anyone else.	ALS. 4p
4-15-1867	Colfax, South Bend, to Dear Sir. Am retiring completely from lecturing at end of May. Yours is among 220 invitations I am declining.	ALS. 2p
9-13-1867	Colfax, South Bend, to "My dear Creswell." John L. Thomas asked me to attend the state convention at Borden. I sent him a letter to read instead. The paper gives no account of him or of my letter. Please send me a copy of your speech; I am starting to speak for the cause in Ohio.	ALS. 1p
9-14-1867	Colfax, South Bend, to Editor Harpers Weekly. I am obliged to you for anticipating my denial of the 16 Reasons Circular, which I think was the invention of an enemy.	ALS. 1p
11-20-1867	Colfax, Washington, Dear Sir. Sorry, I cannot accept your invitation. I have retired from the lecture field altogether.	LS. 1p
<b>Folder 8</b>		
3-27-1868	Colfax, Washington, to My dear Sir. Please let me know the name of the delegate you said was for me. General Moorhead of Pittsburgh, who is warmly for me, wants to consult about the vote on the second ballot.	ALS. 1p
5-25-1868	Colfax, Washington, to [Ricard H.] Robinson. My digestion is fine, except when it contemplates the Modern Democracy.	ALSW. 1p
6-5-1868	Colfax, Washington, to T.J. Seixas, [South Bend]. Condolences	ALS. 1p



on loss of your children in an accident.

- 6-5-1868 Colfax, Washington, to Gov. [Frank Fuller], New York. Thanks for your congratulations. LS. 1p, with envelope
- [6-9-1868] Welcome to Chinese representatives on visit to Congress. AD. 2p
- 6-9-1868 Colfax, Washington, to Mr. Cowdin. Election will be virtually decided by October states. National committee has divided country up into five districts. Indiana will be sharply contested, and always has trouble in raising funds. Any extra money you can give or raise would be appreciated. ALS. 2p
- 6-10-1868 Colfax, Washington, to My dear Sir. Glad to hear you are interested in our success in Indiana. October states will win the election. Indiana is hard to carry, and we will need help from Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan. Mention of possible donors in Chicago and Detroit. The enemy has far more of the sinews of war than we. ALS. 3p
- 7-4-1868 Colfax, South Bend, to [T.J. Seixas, South Bend]. My sincere sympathy. It is hard to think of the things you should have said to the loved one, and now cannot. I will keep the picture of Eugene. ALS. 1p
- 7-11-1868 Colfax, Washington, to H.A. Spaulding. If all Republican business men would, we might save the state and win the election. The Democratic nominations suit us exactly. ALS. 1p
- 7-15-1868 Colfax, Washington, to Dear Friends. Schedule of return home after adjournment. Have refused all receptions except at home. Could "my locomotive," in which I feel a pardonable pride, take the train from LaPorte to South Bend? No need for a special train all the way from Chicago. ALS. 2p
- 10-10-1868 Colfax, Valparaiso, to My dear Sir [C.F. Hatch]. Speeches at LaPorte, Coffee Creek, Plymouth. Home to South Bend tonight. Please don't forget the engine and coach at LaPorte 2 pm Monday-- I must go to Goshen. ALS. 1p
- 10-12-1868 Colfax, South Bend, to My dear Sir. Robert Betts just brought your letter. He and I agree you are one of the best of men. ALS. 1p
- 10-13-1868 Colfax, South Bend, to My dear Sir [C.F. Hatch]. All went well with "my" engine yesterday. Have given your papers to my mother and stepfather, Gov. Baker, and W.A. Howard. ALS. 1p
- 10-25-1868 Colfax, South Bend, to My dear Sir. More distribution of passes. I suppose you have heard the joyful news that Mr. Phillips, your president, will vote for Grant and Colfax. He says his lack of faith in Blaine and his faith in me caused the decision. ALS. 2p
- 11-4-1868 E.R. Finch, M S and D & M RR, Toledo, O., to Colfax. Congratulations. Hope you and Gen. Grant will be spared from the dagger and bullet. I may be fired from the Railroad because of the position I took in City Council about apportioning printing contracts. Would appreciate your support and advice as a former director. ALS. 2p (Enclosed with ALS, 11-14-1868)
- 11-9-1868 Colfax, [South Bend], to My dear Sir. Arrangements for train on trip east to Washington. Regards to Mr. Phillips. ALS. 1p

11-14-1868 Colfax, South Bend, to Mr. [C.F.] Hatch. Enclosing letter from E.R. Finch of 11-4-1868. All I want is for you to know the facts. ALS. 1p

11-16-1868 Colfax, South Bend, to My dear Sir. Experience losing a trunk on your railroad. Found it had stopped at Toledo. Others have had the same experience. If you should want a good baggage master at Toledo, Robert M. Betts, baggage master here, is a paragon of fidelity--always awake, active, and accurate. ALS. 3p

11-20-1868 Colfax, Washington, to Marcia Wade. Our first letter from here is to you. Large crowd at Jamestown-- successful trip East in splendid special car. Hospitality from Shoemakers at Baltimore. ALS. 2p  
PS from Nellie Colfax 2p, with envelope

### Folder 9

2-17-1869 Colfax, Washington, to Dear Sir. Thanks for your offer, but Mrs. Colfax will not need any ornaments for the inauguration. I guess what the bird needs is oil. Come for dinner any time at 5 pm. ALS. 1p

2-25-1869 Colfax, Washington, to My dear Sir. Any time today or tomorrow will answer for the bird. Come for dinner today at five. ALS. 1p

3-22-1869 Colfax, Washington, to [George F.] Nesbitt. Starting for Ohio tomorrow. Republican caucus decided to recommit Tenure of Office Act to Judiciary Committee for another attempt to fix it. Can meet you in New York Saturday afternoon. This is a short visit but it is only the beginning. ALS. 1p

4-5-1869 Colfax, Washington, to G.C. Gorham, Secy. of Senate. Introducing Gil. Pierce, to whom you promised the position we talked of. He was the fifth commissary appointed by President Lincoln at the beginning of the Rebellion, and performed his duties well. He is now chairman of a leading committee in our state legislature. I endorse him through and through. ALS. 1p

4-10-1869 Colfax, Andover, Ohio, to Mrs. [George F.] Nesbitt. Sorry I cannot act as pallbearer at Mr. Nesbitt's funeral. Taking my wife from her childhood home here to South Bend. Glad I had a chance to visit with you that Saturday in New York. Condolences. ALS. 3p

5-5-1869 Colfax, South Bend, to C.F. Hatch. Thoughts about changing schedule of your #5 train to Chicago so as to make better connections to the East. ALS. 3p

5-29-1869 Colfax, South Bend, to General [W.T. Sherman]. Re: prisoner Thomas Higgins at Fort Macon. I will not appeal his case to the Secretary of War or the President. I am not appealing to you for political reasons. Higgins is penitent for his minor crime, and has already served 3 1/4 years in uniform and in prison. ALS. 3p  
Endorsed by Sherman "Release the man."

2-7-1870 Colfax, Washington, to Dear Sir. I do not feel like asking for any waiver of the rule, which seems equitable. But I will pass on your letter to Gen. Sherman, and suggest that Mr. Mayer seek the aid of his chief, Gen. Brice. ALS. 1p

4-22-1870 Colfax, Washington, to Mr. Tweedy. I enclose \$24 for 400 ALS. 1p

Colfax cigars. Sorry you lost the Governor, glad you saved one house of the legislature. The problem was largely delay in passing the 15th Amendment. Please give my condolences to Mrs. Rawlins if you know her.

- 4-25-1870 CHH, Centralia, Ill., to Pres. [U.S.] Grant. Warn Colfax his death is imminent-- by a villain hanging onto his carriage. I foresaw Lincoln's death. ALS. 3p (Enclosed with letter 4-29-1870)
- 4-29-1870 O.E. Babcock, Washington, to Colfax. Enclosing the above. ALS. 1p
- 5-12-1870 Colfax, Washington, to Wm. Orton. Complaining that he has not received telegrams from his wife's family in Ohio. ALS. 2p
- 5-27-1870 Elihu B. Washburne, Paris, to Colfax. Thanks for your article on poor [Anson] Burlingame. You should write an "inner history" of Congress in our time. Have read a great deal about the trial of McFarland. Despite its result, from a perjured jury, Graham and Hackett will be known for what they are. I honor Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Runkle for their behavior to Mrs. Richardson. ALS. 4p
- 8-11-1870 Colfax, South Bend, to Dear Sir. Sorry, the papers were misinformed; I have declined to address all fairs in New England, and will be speaking in this state all of September. ALS. 1p
- 12-13-1870 Colfax, Washington, D.C., to Mr. Dodge. Have just written to Mr. Adams that I cannot be in New York during the holidays. I am determined to retire from public life and the public eye. ALS. 1p

#### Folder 10

- 3-18-1871 John Hamilton, New York City, to Colfax. I learn that the President is indisposed to nominate Bancroft to Berlin and would prefer Orth, of whose worthlessness I know more than one instance. I can no longer support the President after his invasion of the Senate's power to check treaties. The true policy of the Republican party is to nominate you for President and Sumner for Vice President, thus gaining both the Radical and the Negro vote. ALS. 2p
- 12-18-1871 Colfax, Washington, to Mr. Spaulding. Have sent you my last six volumes of Paris Exposition reports and telegraphed you for a silver pie knife. Mother's health. ALS. 1p
- 12-23-1871 W. W. Belknap, Washington, D.C., to Colfax. Private individuals have been authorized to build a store and a telegraph office at Fort Monroe, but a private home is a new departure. There may be legal objections, but personally I would like to oblige. ALS. 2p
- 1-25-1872 Colfax, Washington, to Edwards Pierrepont, New York City. I have repeatedly stated my support for the President, and could not allow my name to be used in opposition to him, directly or indirectly. I would not feel at liberty to decline if renominated, but if someone abler or worthier were nominated instead, I would cordially support the ticket, and go back to private life without a regret. ALS. 2p, with envelope
- 3-2-1872 Colfax, Washington, to My. dear Col. I spoke up as I did in the ALS. 2p

state convention to avoid controversy and to avoid being attacked for "ill-omened ambition." I think the President's renomination is sure, but with him too the success of the party comes first.

- 3-8-1872 Colfax, Washington, to Henry Morford, Jr. Thanks for your genial letter and for the book, which I have just laid aside for my first leisure moment. ALS. 1p
- 5-11-1872 Colfax, Washington, to Edwards Pierrepont, New York City. Thanks for approving my leaving my name before the people for renomination. I hope your state convention will instruct either for or against; I think that four years ago the New York delegation voted against the will of those they represented. I refused to allow any state to present my name for President, in order to avoid any unfortunate division. ALS. 1p, with envelope
- 8-25-1872 Colfax, South Bend, to Mr. Myers. Thanks for your condolences on my mother's death. Our home is lonely and desolate, and my stepfather is overwhelmed. [Colfax's mother, Mrs. George Matthews, died 8-11-1872.] ALS. 1p

#### **Folder 11**

- 1-29-1873 Colfax, Washington, to Mr. Nesbitt. I am anxious to know whether your father's cash accounts show a gift to me of a \$1000 bill in June 1868. I think it was after my nomination and before the adjournment of Congress in July. Connection with newspaper account of \$1200 deposit (in bills) made by me on 22 June. ALS. 1p
- 2-26-1873 J.A. Garfield, Washington, D. C., to Colfax. I had observed the passages in the Credit Mobilier testimony which you refer to. I have known no public proceeding so brutal and unjust as some of this investigation. Calm and justice may eventually prevail. LS. 1p
- 3-30-1873 Colfax, South Bend, to Geo. H. Roberts, Lincoln, Nebraska. For reasons I have no time to detail, I have uniformly declined to interfere in Indian appointments. Your strong claims, and your acquaintance with members of Congress, should help you if there is a vacancy in the superintendency. Thanks for your sympathy in the midst of this pitiless storm of calumny and falsification which has burst unexpectedly and unjustly upon me. ALS. 2p
- 4-9-1873 Colfax, South Bend, to Charlie H. Phillips, Kokomo, Ind. With great pleasure I comply with your request, and send best wishes for your success in the field of labor you have chosen. Be generous. ASLS. 1p
- 6-18-1873 Poetic quotation. ADS. 1p
- 9-26-1873 Colfax, Eaton Rapids, Mich., to Mr. McCutcheon. Why don't you or Mr. Van Sill write a brief letter to the Chi. Inter-Ocean about your fair? Please send me a copy of what the Dem. paper says about Mrs. Higby. ALS. 1p
- 12-12-1874 Frank M. Heaton, Dept. of Interior, Washington, to Colfax, South Bend. Enclosing letter signed by 52 Hoosiers in Washington asking Colfax to come to Washington and give a lecture. You could fill the largest hall in the city. Please come we have not forgotten you. ALS. 3p

- 5-10-1875 Colfax, South Bend, to Edwards Pierrepont. Congratulations on your appointment as counselor [Attorney General] to a President of whom I think so highly. The bearer of this note, John T. Drew, dared amid a storm of invective and calumny to testify that he had seen [Oakes] Ames cash a check made out to "S C or bearer" and that clearly S C meant Southern Cotton [not Schuyler Colfax]. ALS. 1p
- 6-11-1875 Colfax, Andover, Ohio, to J.W. Aitken, Carbondale, Pa. I gave up Western engagements to be with you, but if any member of your committee dissents from choosing me, go ahead and select another speaker. Travel arrangements. ALS. 2p
- Folder 12**
- 6-1-1876 Colfax, South Bend, to Florian Seixas, Philadelphia. Hope you enjoy the Centennial exposition. Use this letter as an introduction to anyone you like. ALS. 1p
- 8-8-1876 Geo. W. Friedley, Republican State Central Committee, Indianapolis, to Colfax. Campaign is well organized, but we need speakers. Will you please help us? Note by Colfax on back, addressed to Under-wood: I am already booked up, but have advice for the committee. LS. 2p
- 9-10-1876 Colfax, South Bend, to Dear Kline. The date you ask for is promised to Mishawaka. Am starting tonight to Centennial exposition. Have just finished eight months of lecturing, from New England to Nebraska. Nearly all next season is engaged, too. Other speeches coming up. ALS. 1p
- 5-8-1881 Colfax, South Bend, to C.D. Wright. Thanks for your report on temperance and hours of labor, which I will read now the lecture season is over. I think I sent you a paper on Convict Contract Labor which I read at several Western fairs a year or two ago. ALS. 1p
- 12-4-1881 Colfax, South Bend, to Gen. Jas. E. Ekin, Louisville, Ky. Am home for Sunday between weeks of lectures in Pa. and N.Y. Thanks for pamphlet on Garfield memorial services. I loved Gen. G. very much. Was especially interested in Mr. Watterson's eloquent tribute. A postcard  
S
- 1-12-1884 Colfax, Missouri lecture tour, to C.F. Wingate. Enclosing list of thirty young fellow townsmen who might be interested in your journal "Indoors and Outdoors." Was struck with your tract #3. Please send me a set of sanitary tracts, in which Mrs. Colfax is much interested. ALS. 1p
- 8-15-1884 Colfax, South Bend, to J. Hill. As your railroad is to be at our gates so soon, I would like to write you about the difficulty of getting from here to Indianapolis by rail. As you start service here, think about this. ALS. 2p
- 10-20-n.y. Colfax, South Bend, to K.G. Shryock, Rochester, Ind. Please get me official figures on the last election. We lost four Republican representatives in this district, partly because speeches were not made right after the convention. ALS. 2p,  
with  
envelope

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1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0055).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.