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### Letter, James Speed to Unknown, June 26, 1868

James Speed

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L. Ville, Ky, June 26<sup>th</sup> 1868.

My dear Sir;

Your very kind letter reached me by due course of mail. It found me and I am still constantly occupied in the Federal court which is in session here.

I have not yet spoken for Grant & Wolfson, but hope to do so during the summer or Fall. Stump speaking is not however my fort, and I confess to the weakness of not seeking to do that which I feel unable to do well. My heart & best efforts are in the cause which is represented by the Chicago ticket, and was glad to learn that you are with me in that.

Since my return to Kentucky, I have been surrounded by rebels. There are over five thousand rebel soldiers, from Maj. Gules

down, in this city, and a well informed  
gentleman from the western part of  
the state said to me this morning,  
that there were near 100,000 emigrants  
from the South in 1854. That plunges  
the radicals in a hopeless minority.  
And many excellent Union men are  
leaving the state in disgust. Migration  
to the state is by rebels and from the  
state by radicals. Kentucky is to the  
Union now what S. Carolina was  
before the rebellion. I trust she  
will not be as potent for mischief.  
Association with rebels & rebel sympa-  
thizers has kept my radicalism  
pure. I know from their conver-  
sation & conduct that the negro  
must have the ballot to secure his  
rights & knowing it feel constrained  
to advocate it.

I have gone cheerfully to work at  
my profession again & never expect to  
hold office. When I come to Wash. if  
I ever should, will call to see you.

With best regards to Mrs. G.  
I am yr. friend  
J. Garrison