that have been ~~afflicted~~ visited so cruelly, so unfeelingly ~~afflicted~~
upon a noble generous high minded community
accompanying your letters I received the list of the
several Central Committees throughout the
State, which I have handed over to Judge
Chambers President of our ~~Caucus~~
Conference - I have as desired presented your
most kindly, to all your friends of the democ-
ratic party, and such of the Opposition as inde
cated in your letter - Mr Iglehart & Mr Herbert
I have not met with, during the sitting of this
Convention - but shall (should I have the plea-
sure of meeting with them, deliver your very
kind message to them -

Knowing my dear Sir that you shrink from
no duty or sacrifice - which your Country demands
at hands - but that your absence from the Convention
has been occasioned by no fault of yours - I do
as a friend, although nothing could give me
more pleasure than to have your strong aids yet
~~do~~ advise under the circumstances by which you
are surrounded - to obey that higher law - paramount
duty & protection to your Family - and no consideration
of public duty should induce me to leave my home
till I was sure I could do so without peril to them -
Mr Briscoe & myself are most comfortably fixed
at Andersons - it is a high elevated situation in the
heart of the City, with a fine & elegant garden
of two acres, abounding in shrubbery & flowers - once
doubtless, the pride & delight of its former female
occupant - but now the neglected & decayed mem-
oir of the past - the family is very agreeable & the
boarders though not of the same church - polite
and social - Spriggs Harwood & his wife are also
boarding here - Briscoe desires me, as also all your
other friends to send yours very kind salutations

We are now discussing the fourth article of the
"Bill of Rights" - Mr Clarke yesterday opened the
debate in an able constitutional speech of 3 Hours
length, which I presume he will publish in Pamphlet
form - it was most attentively & appreciatively
listened to on our side - but badly received by
the Opposition - today Mr Briscoe made a short
but very effective speech upon his amendment to
strike out the word paramount, he was succeeded
by Mr Cushing in a speech which though beautiful & bright
in language - boldly asserted the supremacy of
the General Government, to the extinguishment of all
States right, in the right & power of secession -
absolute centralization. Tomorrow Mr Belt
of Prince Georges has the floor & I suppose from