My dear Mr.:

The incoming Cabinet, as published in the newspapers, more than shocks the better class of the Republic – inspiring confidence, as far as I have heard, in the bosom of every patriotic conservative. Considering my official connection and necessary dependence on the War Department, it might seem flattering to say more – save that you find me far from presuming on personal kindness, any distinction hitherto accorded when our relations were opposite of quite a different character.

Of relations, personal to myself, I do not foresee that I can have one to present; I have every reason to like to desire, so
to harmonize any official duties with yours, or to make them entirely satisfactory. That I have done before, succeeded in such endeavors, I may confidently appeal to every living Sec. of the Interior—excepting Governor Mason.

It is my purpose, if not before, to make my personal respects to the incoming President Secretary of War about the middle of March, I often fully conversing with the latter, our relative duties, with the utmost candour and moderation, to inform him of my determinations, cheerfully, in good faith. I do not think that such matters can be advantageously settled before the new Secretary has become a little warm in his place. One of these matters will be—Shall the Secretary of the army remain here, or return to Washington? I have not a wish to express on the subject. I communicate this to you, residing here, when Lord Clay came into the Presidency, I was not of his administration, but visited Washington some ten days later, it perhaps, unprofitably, the transfer of that Department. Now, as I have said, I am wholly indifferent—I do so;

I remain,

With great respect to you,

Very truly yours,

Winfield Scott.

Hon. J. B. Floyd.

* Signatures and date not visible in the image. *
Washington, D.C.