Collection Summary
Title: Samuel Freeman Miller Correspondence
Span Dates: 1854-1887
ID No.: MSS65919
Creator: Miller, Samuel Freeman, 1816-1890
Extent: 185 items ; 2 containers ; 0.8 linear feet ; 3 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Lawyer and associate justice of the Supreme Court. Letters from Miller to his brother-in-law, William Pitt Ballinger, relating to a broad range of political and judicial issues and a microfilm edition of Ballinger's diaries.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Ballinger, William Pitt, 1825-1888--Correspondence.
Harlan, John Marshall, 1833-1911.
Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1822-1893.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
Miller, Samuel Freeman, 1816-1890.
Tilden, Samuel J. (Samuel Jones), 1814-1886.

Organizations
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )
United States. Electoral Commission (1877)
United States. Supreme Court.

Subjects
Constitutional law--United States.
Courts--United States--Officials and employees.
Justice, Administration of.
Law--United States.
Practice of law--Texas--Galveston.
Presidents--United States--Election--1860.
Presidents--United States--Election--1876.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)

Places
United States--History--1865-1898.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations
Jurists.
Lawyers.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The correspondence of Samuel Freeman Miller, lawyer and associate justice of the Supreme Court, was given to the Library of Congress by Lucy Cocker Clarkson via Charles Fairman in 1988.
**Processing History**

The correspondence of Samuel Freeman Miller was arranged and described in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

**Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Freeman Miller is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Samuel Freeman Miller are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

**Microfilm**

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on three reels for use in the Manuscript Division. The microfilm is not available for purchase and may not be borrowed on interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Samuel Freeman Miller Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Scope and Content Note**

The correspondence of Samuel Freeman Miller (1816-1890) spans the years 1854-1887 and contains Miller's holograph letters to his brother-in-law William Pitt Ballinger, an attorney in Galveston, Texas. Miller comments on a broad range of political and judicial issues, including Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860, Reconstruction and relations between North and South, various judicial appointments, the nomination of John Marshall Harlan to the Supreme Court, Republican Party politics, and Miller's service on the electoral commission appointed by Congress to decide the disputed 1876 presidential election between Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden. The collection also includes three reels of microfilm reproducing typewritten transcripts of Ballinger's diaries in the Texas Archives at the University of Texas Library.

Miller, who served on the Supreme Court from 1862 until his death in 1890, relates news of the court and the status of various cases pending before it. In a confidential letter to Ballinger in 1866, he reports the Court's five to four ruling in the test oath cases striking down loyalty oaths after the Civil War. Miller briefly describes the reasoning in his dissenting opinion in the cases, yet quickly adds, in deference to Ballinger's circumstance as a former Confederate official, that he is "... not sorry that the result is adverse to my opinion, on your account and generally because I think the requirement unnecessarily harsh at present." The letters also contain news of family members.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence 1854-1875 (11 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>1876-1887, undated (11 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 1-3</td>
<td>Diaries of William Pitt Ballinger, 1871-1886 Available only on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,814.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>