Private & Confidential

Executive Mansion,
Washington, March 26, 1863.

To His Excellency
Gov. Seymour

You and I are substantially the same man, and I write this chiefly that we may become better acquainted. I, for the time being, am at the head of a nation which is in great peril, and you are at the head of the greatest State of that nation. As to maintaining the nation's life and integrity, I assume, and believe, there can not be a difference of opinion between you and me. If we should differ as to the means, it is important that such difference should be as small as possible that it should not be enhanced by unjust suspicion on one side or the other. In the performance of my duty, the cooperation of your State as that of others, is needed—in fact, is indispensable. This alone is a sufficient reason why I think it wise to have a cordial understanding with you. Please write one or at least a letter as this—of course, say as we, just what you think fit.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln