Private

Executive Mansion
Washington D.C., April 1, 1863.

Major General Hunter.
My dear Sir:

I am glad to see the account of your colored forces at Jacksonville, Florida. I see the enemy are driving at them fiercely, as is to be expected. It is important to the enemy that such a force should not take shape, and grow, and thrive, in the South; and in preserving its rank proportion, it is imperative to us that it should. Hence the utmost caution and vigilance is necessary on our part. The enemy will make every effort to destroy them, and we must do the same to preserve and increase them.

Your truly,

A. Lincoln