Executive Mansion,
Washington, September 11, 1863.

My dear Sir:

All Tennessee is now clear of
armed insurrectionists. You need not be repre-
seed that it is the nick of time for re-inaugur-
ing a loyal State government. Not a moment should
be lost. You, and the cooperating citizens there,
can better judge of the ways and means, than can
be judged by any here. I only offer a few sugges-
tions. The re-inauguration must not be such as to
give control of the State, and its representation in
Congress, to the enemies of the Union, during its fusion
there into political exile. The whole struggle for Ten-
nnessee will have been profitless to both State and
Nation if it so ends; that Gov. Johnson is put
down, and Gov. Harris is put up. It must not
be so. You must have it otherwise—let
the reconstruction be the work of such men
only as can be trusted for the Union. Exclusi-

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all other, and trust that your government, so organized, will be recognized here, as being the one of republicans from, to be guaranties to the state, and to be protection against invasion and domestic violence.

It is something on the question of time, to remember that it can not be known who is next to occupy the position I now hold, nor what he will do.

I see that you have declared in favor of emancipation in Tennessee, for which, may God bless you. Get emancipation into your new State government—Constitution—and then will be no such error as failed for your case.

The raising of colored troops I think will be great help, in any way.

Yours very truly,

Abraham Lincoln.