

Executive Mansion,

Washington, September 4. 1864.

Eliza P. Gurney.

My esteemed friend,

I have not forgotten—probably never shall forget—the very impressive occasion when yourself and friends visited me on a Sabbath forenoon two years ago. Nor has your kind letter, written nearly a year later, ever been forgotten. In all, it has been your purpose to strengthen my reliance on God, I am much indebted to the good Christian people of the country for their constant prayers and consolations; and to no one of them, more than to yourself. The purposes of the Almighty are perfect, and must prevail, though we erring mortals may fail to accurately perceive them in advance. We hoped for a happy termination of this terrible war long before this; but God knows best, and has ruled otherwise. We shall yet acknowledge His wisdom and our own error therein. Meanwhile we must work earnestly in the best light He gives us, trusting that so working still condu-



ces to the great ends he ordains. Surely  
ly he intends some great good to fol-  
low this mighty convulsion, which no  
mortal could make, and no mortal  
could stay.

Your people—the Friends—have had,  
and are having, a very great trial,  
On principle, and faith, opposed to  
both war and oppression, they can on-  
ly practically oppose oppression by war.  
In this hard dilemma, some have cho-  
sen one horn and some the other.  
For those appealing to me on conscien-  
tious grounds, I have done, and shall do,  
the best I could and can, in my own  
conscience, under my oath to the law.  
That you believe this I doubt not, and  
believing it, I shall still receive, for  
our country and myself, your earnest  
prayers to our Father in Heaven.

Your sincere friend  
A. Lincoln.

