Executive Mansion,

Washington, September 4, 1864.

Eliza P. Gurney.

My esteemed friend,

I have not forgotten—probably never shall forget—the very impression occasioned by 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, and much indebtedness to the good Christian people of the county for their constant prayers and consolations; and to none of them, more than to yourself. The purposes of the Almighty are perfect, and must prevail, though weerring mortals may fail to accurately perceive them in advance. We hope for a happy termination of this terrible war long before this; but how knows best, and has ruled otherwise. We shall yet acknowledge His mission and our own error therein. Meanwhile we must work earnestly in the best light He giveth us, trusting that so working still conduce...
ces to the great ends He ordains. Surely He intends some great good to follow this mighty confusion, which no mortal could make, and no mortal could stay.

Your people—the Friends—have read, and are having, a very great work. On principle, and faith, opposed to both war and oppression, they can only practically oppose oppression by war. In this hard dilemma, some have chosen one horn and some the other. For those appealing to me on conscientious grounds, I have done, and shall do, the best I can, 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 praying for our country and myself, your earnest prayers to our Father in Heaven.

Your sincere friend

A. Lincoln.