

Private & Confidential

Executive Mansion,

Washington, March 23, 1863.

His Excellency

Gov. Seymour

You and I are substantially stran-
gers; 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 na-
tion. As to maintaining the nation's life, and integ-
rity, I assume, and believe, there can not be a dif-
ference of purpose 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 suspi-
cions on one side or the other. In the performance
of my duty, the co-operation of your State, as that of
others, is needed—in fact, is indispensable. This
alone is a sufficient reason why I should wish to
be at a good understanding with you. Please write
me at least as long a letter as this—of course, say-
ing in it, just what you think fit.

Yours very truly A. Lincoln

