Henry C. Bowen to
Salmon P. Chase
Nov. 16, 1863

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private

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United States Internal Revenue,
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

Brooklyn, November 16th 1863

Hon'd S. P. Chase
Sec'y Treasury

My dear Sir

The time has come, in my judgement, when, in the most quiet way, your friends - the friends of freedom and lovers of the Union - should take action in reference to the political welfare of the country. There is only one way, now, in which we can be defeated and that is by inaction. Every proper, judicious, movement, of late, has brought forth abundant fruit. I have good reason to know that what your friends have done, without much concert of action, has resulted in great good. The copperheads begin to fear and tremble and are preparing for all sorts of unholy alliances. To allow them to go forward without counteraction, to prevent their mischievous work, would

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be both indiscreet and wrong. For one I am afraid to act for fear I shall not move in accordance with some general plan. To be plain with you, if you are prepared directly or through confidential friends, to communicate your views I should be glad to know them believing that through our paper (The Inde[pendent]) & in other ways I can render important service.

If you were here I should like to talk you some things which might help on matters and make them go more smoothly than they now do.

I suppose your duties — those of your office — may call you here before many days. I wish you could be here next Sabbath — the 22d inst — as our Mr Beecher will then make his first public appearance in our church. It will be a memorable day and the occasion will bring a vast throng of distinguished people — including Mr. C[hase] on their way to your city — On many accounts, not necessary to enumerate, I hope business will open the way for you to come to New York

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at that time. It will give me great pleasure, in a most informal way, to give you a resting day at my house, if agreeable to you,

I think, when I see you, I can convince you, that you are suffering personally greatly, and the country is losing largely, for the want of better management in the collection of Internal Revenue. This however is strictly private

I know you will pardon this intrusion upon your valuable time and believe that I remain as ever

Your faithful friend

Henry C Bowen

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