

Joseph H. Geiger
to Salmon P. Chase
Nov 18, 1863

Mr. H. Geiger

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Private & Personal

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Columbus O. Nov 18th 1863

My dear Gov.

I expected to see you in Washington by this time, but as the business on which I expected to go "caved in" I shall not see you. I am doing but little now excepting reading newspapers and from them am forming my notions of the movements for the next campaign. The removal of the Radical Edwards, by Bates with the President's approval from the District Attorney's office in Missouri for being in his efforts opposed to the National & State executives clearly indicates that Mr. Lincoln intends to rely on the Conservatives. I observe also that he stated "that," "the emancipation proclamation was the greatest folly of his life". The New York World has the above extract and writes very commendably of the President. The Chicago Times, Missouri Republican and other local papers are growing very sparse of fault finding, and ^{are} apologizing for his past course.

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dict, and attribute his extreme measures (as they call them) to his ~~surround~~ings and Cabinet. These things taken in connection with the Call made for a Convention of War Democrats, at Cincinnati Decr 3rd to take measures for early action on the Presidency (the Call issued from New York City) under the management of Seward) shows to my mind conclusively that the War Democracy will make the first nomination for President and I think they will nominate Lincoln to forestall the action of the Union party. It is a pretty formidable movement as the Union and the mercenaries will join in it. You will also find that if the President speaks in his next message of the return of the Seceded States, he will take ground for their coming back as States with all the powers and benefits of States to be exercised by the people within them. This will be his bid to the Democracy. The game is Seward, and it will be

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a plausible one strongly backed.

I may be entirely wrong, but I believe that the Seward men are aware of the inability of Lincoln to cope with you in a fair Union Convention, and therefore the present Union party is to be re-organized and a new organization formed to the success of which the President will give his aid.

I have thus given you briefly my views, and reasons for them, and if we are to prevent this state of things and show these darned rebels and murderers that they are to be punished and are not to have honors and position in the Government they have tried to break down, we must have some organization and that pretty quickly.

Yours Truly

Jos. H. Seiger

