Executive Mansion,

Washington, January 14, 1863.

My dear Sir:

The proclamation has been issued. We were not proceeding; at least, were progressing too slowly without it. Now, that we have it, and bear all the disadvantages of it (as we do bear some in certain quarters) we must also take some benefit from it, if practicable. I therefore will thank you for your views concerning opinion whether General Thomas and Price, or both, could not, in whole or in part, be given over to colored troops, leaving the white forces now necessary at those places, to be employed elsewhere.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.