

Executive Mansion,

Washington, July 13....., 1863.

Major General Grant

My Dear General

I do not remember that you and I ever met personally. I write this now as a grateful acknowledgment for the almost inestimable service you have done the country. I wish to say a word farther. When you first reached the vicinity of Vicksburg, I thought you should do what you finally did — march the troops across the neck, run the batteries with the transports and thus go below; and I never had any faith, except a general hope that you knew better than I, that the Yazoo-pass expedition, and the

like could succeed. When
you got below, and took
Port Gibson, Grand Gulf and
vicinity, I thought you should
go down the river and join
Gen. Banks; and when you
turned Northward, East of the
Big Black, I feared it
was a mistake. I now
wish to make the personal
acknowledgment that you
were right and I was
wrong.

Yours very truly

(Signed) A. Lincoln