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Abraham Lincoln to Ulysses S. Grant, Monday, July 13, 1863 (Congratulations on capture of Vicksburg)

Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress. Transcribed and Annotated by the Lincoln Studies Center, Knox College. Galesburg, Illinois.

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From Abraham Lincoln to Ulysses S. Grant [Copy in Nicolay's Hand]¹, July 13, 1863

Executive Mansion,

Washington, July 13, 1863.

My Dear General

I do not remember that you and I ever met personally. I write this now as a grateful acknowledgement for the almost inestimable service you have done the country. I wish to say a word further. 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 acknowledgement that you were right and I was wrong.

Yours very truly

(Signed) A. Lincoln

[Endorsed on Envelope by Lincoln:]

To Gen. Grant -- July 13. 1863.

[Note 1 Lincoln considered himself too far from the Mississippi to be able to give General Grant's campaign against Vicksburg the same close and directing attention that he gave to Union

operations in the Eastern theatre. That he was attentive nonetheless is apparent in this letter of congratulation to Grant for his success at Vicksburg.]