

From Edward Bates to Hamilton R. Gamble

[page 1]

Attorney General's Office,
August 2d 1861.

Hon[.] H.R. Gamble &c &c
Jefferson City

I rejoice, My Dear Sir, at the wise course taken by the Missouri Convention--I rejoice for the State at large, because I believe that internal peace & tranquility will soon be restored--and I rejoice for you personally, because I believe that you will be made the honored instrument of much good to our country. You, better than any extreme man, can tranquilize the State, & thus, enable the Gen[.] government to remove causes of irritation, by withdrawing a large portion of its troops, for which there will be need elsewhere.

The effect upon the general result will be great, & will soon show itself plainly.

[page 2]

The internal peace of Missouri & its security in the Union--patent & acknowledged--will do more towards the suppression of the insurrection in the border states, than 100.000 of our best men in arms. You see the prize before you--& God bless you in your efforts to win it.

I shall look for a proclamation from you every day--& probably, a letter to the President.

A recent opinion of mine, upon the Power of the President, (of which I sent you a copy) involving, as it does, some high points of constitutional law, is much talked of in lego-political circles. It runs counter to the preconceived notion (I do not say opinion) of many very good men, who, at the first presentation, are startled at the result. But many have found (& some have told me so) that it is much easier to denounce my opinion than to answer it.

[page 3]

Of course, I risk my reputation upon the roundness of its main conclusions. Some of the collateral points & incidental arguments may be open for reconsideration.

These two days, I am confined to my house with a bad cold, but am mending. By a letter, just now rec'd from Dr[.] Halsey, I hear that your family is well.

Farewell
from [your?] friend
Edw. Bates