

Danville Ky

Nov 16. 1864

To the President of the U.S.

I offer my congratulations on your grand endorsement, by this great nation; and I pray God to guide, support, and give you complete success, in the remaining part of the vast work committed to you.

It is of my unhappy state, in its present betrayed, and perilous condition, that I beg to be allowed to say a few words.

The old secession party here, and the re-
-loped portion of the Union party - are now united and
have possession of the state. This power is exerted, in all
official stations, by the re-loped Union party; but in
the open ^{perous} traitor and warlike parts, by the old seces-
-sionists, or yet. Governor Bramlett is at the head
of the power - and he, & his whole influence, and the most
of his officials, civil and military, - are special objects
of distrust to every loyal man in the state. The simple
question here is, will the General Government sustain
the state authorities that have betrayed it, and us - or will
it sustain the national course and party here - in defiance
of the state authorities? If the ~~power~~ ^{power} - we will recover the
state quickly - if the ~~power~~ ^{power} - you will have to conquer it after a

white, by arms. I do not desire to see the state au-
-thorities set aside: but, as often as they are relied on, they
will do harm, and harm only. You have no need of Governor
Branlath; every evidence of your confidence in him gives
him the means & a pretext to injure our cause - or to in-
-terfere with your policy. To obstruct the operations of the
~~Government~~ of the Govt Government - by every means, short of
those that would demand immediate punishment - is the
best sense that can be put on the whole conduct of the State
Government. The remedy - at once effectual and temperate -
is to decline to act through it - to act directly by your own
officers - to ignore Governor Branlath as far as possible - to
be civil to him, to restrain him, not strengthen or trust
him - or those with, under, or around him. - When I say him
- I mean them all - civil & military - banded against the nation.

In these circumstances, every thing depends
on the capacity, fidelity, and zeal of the officers ^{civil & military.} ~~of the Govt~~ -
- ~~of~~ the Govt Government, in Kentucky. Not one of the
military officers hostile to your Administration can
safely be left here; and there are many of them. Not one
of the your civil officers, who is even doubtful or un-
-diligent, should be left in office. The remedy is sharp;
but it is the alternative of anarchy and bloodshed.
The recent arrests made in this state, will
do incalculable good - or harm - according as they are

sustained, or repudiated at Washington. Great efforts
have been made to induce Genl Barbridge to release
the eminent disturbers of our ^{state} - whom he has lately
arrested. Judge Bullitt should have been brought to tri-
-al - he was unquestionably & unmorally guilty. It ev-
-er was Jacob, Mr Sharpman, Col Woodford, and such men
- are the very exact subjects of restraint, if not more -
provided Kentucky is to have any chance of repose, or
return to her loyal position. - Their release by
an Order from Washington - followed or attended by
the removal of Genl Barbridge from his position here
- would be throwing the whole power of the National Ex-
-ecutive, against the national cause here. If Genl
Barbridge is sustained at Washington, the result will
be, that the leading conspirators of the state will fol-
-low the lead of the Louisville Journal, and succumb; -
the state will have quiet - after some attempts at
explosion - and the mass of the people - seeing the nation
- preserved, and slavery beyond being saved - will acqui-
-esce in what they see to be the course & end of events.

My excuse for venturing to trouble you
in this way - is my sense of the importance of the cri-
-sis here - and my apprehension that ~~my~~ suggestions
directly opposite to those I am making, will be

prepared on the Administration - from influential
persons in this state.

With best wishes
and great respect

R. J. Breckinridge



His Excellency Abraham Lincoln
President of the U.S.
Washington City

Rev. R. J. Breckinridge

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