

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Edwin D. Morgan to Abraham Lincoln, July 1, 1863

54 & 56 Exchange Place,

New York, July 1, 1863

Dear Sir

In view of the impending battle I am sure you have considered the question of strengthening Genl Meade from the force under Genl. Dixen. There is another matter that you probably have not considered. Viz Placing Genl McClellan in command at Elmira N. Y. with the approval of Governor Seymour with authority to gather thirty thousand troops. Genl McClellans popularity with the soldiers will enable him to enroll nearly all the returned Soldiers and Elmira is an important Military post. I pray you consider this,¹

¹ Following the Union defeat at Chancellorsville in May, 1863, Lincoln received several letters and telegrams which urged him to reappoint General McClellan to a field command. Though Lincoln did not respond to the above communication from Morgan, he had written Alexander K. McClure the previous day in response to a similar request. In his reply to McClure, Lincoln wrote that reappointing McClellan would be like "opening one leak to stop another." See *Collected Works*, VI, 311.

I am dear Sir

Truly Yours

E. D. Morgan