

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Francis Lieber to Charles Sumner, July 6, 1863

Te Deum Laudamus!¹

1 A Latin phrase which means, "We praise you, O God!"

New-York

6 July 1863

Anniversary of

Thermopylae

My dear Sumner,

I write to You very much because I have no one else to say it to — and I write, very much because I cannot help uttering it — that now is the time, now is the time that Government should briskly proceed with the Concription; for the two reasons that we want now troops more than ever, and that the draft would now proceed easier. Now is the time.

What I said on page 9 of my address is most assuredly well founded. I send a copy and mark the passage.

The Rebellion can never be stopped, unless it be crushed, and it cannot be crushed, unless we have a gigantic army that can both, annihilate on points, and run out in different directions without being materially weakend. If I ever saw anything dear I see this. I speak for many. Is there no way of pushing this draft vigorously?

Of course we cannot do anything with those men amassed in Pennsylvania.

Can You not do any something? Did not the catapults of old always ram and batter hardest toward the end? And did not Napoleon always bring the largest masses to bear on the enemy toward the end?

Ever Yours

Francis Lieber

Things do not stand well in Louisiana. What when those 9 months men will [daw?] off?