

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Orville H. Browning to Abraham Lincoln, July 1, 1863

Quincy, Ills — July 1, 1863

Mr President

I have heard enough to satisfy me that an effort is to be made to displace Bullitt¹ from the Collectorship of the Port of New Orleans.

1 Cuthbert Bullitt

He is honest, competent, sincerely and truly loyal; an efficient and valuable officer; the friend of the government, and your friend. Because he is your friend is one of the reasons of the attack upon him. Another is his determination to prevent, as far as he can, the government from being plundered. I trust you will not permit him to be sacrificed. He ought to have the control of the Custom house, and its employees. He knows best who should be there.

You have not as many friends about you, and holding office under you, as you should have. Many of them are stabbing you.

You should stand by those who are true.

I sympathize deeply with you in your present troubles and embarrassments, and trust that Genl Meade² will relieve you of much that has annoyed and oppressed you under his immediate predecessors.

2 General George G. Meade had replaced Joseph Hooker as commander of the Army of the Potomac on June 27.

The skies are dark above us now, but I still have an abiding faith that all things will yet be well.

Truly, as ever, your friend

O. H. Browning