Dear Sir,

Richmond, Dec. 6th 1861.

I received, two days ago, your favour of the 29th, enclosing your message to General Foote. I am much Solicited by the circumstance. I have seen both great presidents of the constitution, and you have drawn, I think, the present condition of our country. It is not more flattering than true. In addition to imminent danger, it has been proposed, in the view of the late war, to give us a national character, and, with it, national safety. We shall, no longer, be reckoned as a delusion by the European nations. Our free government has been found strong enough to stand the test of war, when our people were divided into parties, and many of them almost in a state of rebellion. Under the circumstances, that may we not achieve? especially by getting ready for war, in time of peace. I have no fear that our government will be inadequate to preserve the rights of peace of our people, or to keep us our just rank among the powers of the earth. The only fear is, that gained away by the power of power—feeling power and forgetting right—the adversary, provided for our liberties, by the virtuous of our fathers, will be destroyed. It is this fear, that, going in search of power—
decent and splendor, the just rights of power of the states, may be swept away. — Alas! that this tendency of human nature, the only check found in the golden principle of a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles, and reducing the deprivations of the people, at short periods, to the condition from which they were taken. This is a principle which the founders of our Constitution have deemed all-important to preserve our liberties. — I rejoice that, in almost, the first act of your administration, you have promptly acted upon this principle; that you also have disclaimed power, and paid a voluntary homage to that great principle. You have secured, at once, to the principles which the Nation had sanctioned, after a great struggle, and which brought the Republic into power. — On this act, so grateful to all who have a common interest in politics, I cordially congratulate you.

With the greatest respect and esteem, I am, Dear Sir,
your friend & citizen

[Signature]

Owen son is with me, I dwell.
He desires his best respects to you.