

Gettysburg Nov. 2^d 1863



To His Excellency,

A. Lincoln,

President of the United States,

Sir,

The several States
having soldiers in the Army of the
Potomac, who were killed at the
Battle of Gettysburg, or have since
died at the various hospitals which
were established in the vicinity,
have procured grounds on a
prominent part of the Battle Field
for a Cemetery, and are having
the dead removed to them
and properly buried.

These Grounds will be Consecrated and set apart to this sacred purpose, by appropriate Ceremonies, on Thursday, the 19th instant, -

Hon Edward Everett will deliver the Oration.

I am authorized by the Governors of the different States to invite you to be present, and participate in these Ceremonies, which will doubtless be very imposing and solemnly impressive.

It is the desire that, after the Oration, you, as Chief Executive of the Nation, formally set apart these Grounds

to their sacred use by a
few appropriate remarks.

It will be a source of great
gratification to the many widows
and orphans ~~that~~ have been
made almost friends by the
Great Battle here, to have you
here personally; and it will
kindle anew in the breasts of the
Comrades of these brave dead, who
are now in the tented field or
nobly meeting the foe in the front,
a confidence that they who
sleep in death on the Battle
Field are not forgotten by those
highest in Authority; and they
will feel that, should their fate

be the same, their remains
will not be uncovered for.

We hope you will be able
to be present to perform this
lost solemn act to the Soldiers
dead on this Battle Field.

I am with great
Respect, Your Excellency's
Obedient Servant,
David Wills
Agent for
A. G. Curtin Gov. of Penna.,
and acting for all the States.