

Private & Confidential

Executive Mansion,

Washington, January 14, 1863.

Major General Dix

My dear Sir:

The proclamation has been issued. We were not succeeding — at best, were progressing too slowly — with-
out it. Now, that we have it, and bear all the disad-
vantages of it, (as we do bear some in certain quarters) we
must also take some benefit from it, if practicable. I
therefore will thank you for your well consid-
ered opinion whether Forts Mifflin, Mifflin, and Yorktown,
one or both, could not, in whole or in part, be gar-
risoned by colored troops, leaving the white forces now
necessary at those places, to be employed elsewhere.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln