

St Petersburg: Rus.

June 23. 1865.

My dear Sir,

Your favor of the
16th inst. inviting me to
assist you and others, Americans,
in celebrating the Coming 4th of
July, in the Bois de Boulogne,
is received.

It would give me great
pleasure to be with you
and my Countrymen, on
the interesting occasion; but
we are instructed not to leave
our post of duty without
the permission of the home-
government.

It will be a proud day for you
and our friends then present.

As we have borne the "proud
man's Contumely" of all the aristo-
cracies of Europe for the last four
years, we may justly pride our-
selves that Republicanism is not
a "bubble burst," but the highest
state of Human Society; which
none can enjoy but those who
deserve it.

And well may we now
Celebrate the Day of the immortal
Declaration, of "Man's equality
before the Law"; for never for the
first time has that noble theory
been by the Nation put into
practice.

And as our gratitude
is justly due to the heroes and

Statesmen, who first enunciated
the great truths of self government,
and set us in the true direction
of its attainment; Do now done
one equal honor to those noble
patriots, who in the civil and
military service, gave at great
sacrifices of blood and treasure,
eliminated the despotic elements
of slavery and aristocracy from
our system, and made the
Republic forever one in name,
and common interest of
equal rights, without distinction
of caste or color.

Such as Washington was
entitled to the first place in the
first revolution, so will Abraham
Lincoln hold the first in this
holy war for the "rights of
Human Nature" - if people more

lowest and more honored, because
by his death, so untimely for him,
but yet so sacred for the Country,
he suffered more in its Cause.

Accept my thanks for the
words of personal kindness
in which you were pleased
to word your invitation: and
believe me truly, your

friend,

Hon. John

Bigelow

Ministre de Paris,

France.

Orléans.