Dear George — am very much obliged to you for your two political letters which interested me very much though they made me rather melancholy about the state of affairs at home and the prospects of our country. Still I think you look too much at the dark side of things and all may yet go well. Doe were I believe quite as near a war on the north east boundary question a few years ago and this cloud may blow over as did that. I hope that every possible effort will be made to preserve peace but if we must have war and upon these grounds, then I hope we shall fight it out like one fool of North America belongs to England or recognises the right of English interference in the affairs of our continent. Your taxation plan is a good one, still I should like to see some symptoms of energetic preparation for emergency. Our city is help efficiently protected perhaps than any harbour in England, though no port in the world is more safe. of safe — When things do begin to look as if immediate war was threatened I wish you would direct public attention in the city at least to the plan of defence (of harbours) proposed by Rumsell during the revolution and to his submarine vessel and method of blowing up ships by torpedos attached to their keels by means of such vessels. You may perhaps have already attended to this, if you will read the account of Rumsell's vessel & operation as given in one of the early

numbers of Silliman's Journal you will find that he only failed in his attempt in consequence of inability to drive the machine attached to the Magazin through the copper of the vessels bottom. This defect in his apparatus is easily remedied by means of a cut and calamanting syringe or by a hook with a steam blade, which could be forced between two sheets of copper. The vessel might be propelled under water by friction screw and might be constructed of almost any size. I believe this the simplest, cheapest and most effective mode of harbour defence ever yet proposed and I believe you would really be doing a great public service by republishing in some of our papers the original account (from Silliman) and to lend directing attention to the matter. two mechanics would make immediately improvements in the form of the original. So as for the specimens and models I have my analyses as soon as I can make them but we do not do these things by very rapidly and I hope he will give me time to do them well. Rose desires me to express to Prof Silliman his most sincere thanks for the Tantalit. You ask me what packages I have rec'd. In all I have rec'd 3. Viz. a package of books in bet. 2. the microscope & 3d a small package of books & cakes. There from you besides them 2 copies of Dr Channings works for Low for Longe & Egerley. The minerals I shall look for soon. things come slowly but surely by way of Hamburg since it is probably the cheapest way of sending. So not if possible neglect the minerals mentioned in my last letter. Success & terminations the letter for Rommelsberg. Let me know of any changes or improvements going on in the city, whether the burnt district is rebuilt & whether much building is going on up town. Tell me also of Trinity church & Grace church (Renwick). Send me your book when published. I am right glad to hear that it is about to be at last. It ought to be a very seaworthy vessel after being so long upon the stocks. Remember me to the Chaplain. I judge from Olivia's letter that he has come round at last. His letter is very well written indeed. I shall hear from me some of these days. His plan of becoming a naval surgeon is not a bad one but he would have to pass examination. I hope he attends the hospital regularly. My best regards to all the I will endeavour next month to write to Dr Torrey. He owes me a letter in return for my military yarn in 'Eliza is also in my debt. Laura shall have from me next month and Francis may consider himself I wish he can prevail upon you to frank him, this would be better. Now I must finish. It is one and past I must be up early tomorrow. Yours ever Wolcott

000146