New York October 25th 1847

My Dear Alfred

Your letter giving an account of the taking of Mexico arrived on Saturday afternoon and although the reception of the accounts of the killed and wounded had previously relieved us of our worst anxiety, still it was no little gratification to receive your own certificate that you were alive and kicking. Your letter giving an account of the battles at Contreras & Chumbusco had previously arrived and I wrote by Macalester acknowledging it and explaining the reasons for violating your injunction & publishing some extracts. The letter has been copied by the National Intelligencer & the Union & Capt Kenny says it is the best account that has been given of any battle. Wetmore was delighted with it. Now to make you growl still more I have extracted and published part of your last. It was important in the highest degree. In the first place to show the actual force of Scott. Second to show what your division did, for Kendall is chiefly Worth's historian, third to let the country feel how murderous the policy of a small army fed only by driblets is, and lastly to let the friends of the officers you mentioned know of their safety or fate. I called immediately on Mrs Hamilton who had no letter from Schuyler & who with the family were greatly relieved by hearing of his convalescence. I also sent a note to Col Thom who called this morning to thank me & say that he had a letter from his son which was very gratifying. The Morrises had of course heard of poor Charley's death. Their distress was terrible. Mrs Morris bears it with more strength than her husband who is dreadfully broken. Mother took the letter up and went with Wolcott. They had desired to see him but were very much overcome at the recollections he revived. Mrs Vandand not inform her father of the particulars which are