New York Dec 20th 1847

My Dear Alfred

I mailed you a letter from Laura a day or two ago which I presume will give you the news of the gay world up to that time. Mrs J. A. Stevens gave a very handsome party last night at which Miss Perry, Miss Laura Schmidt & Miss Agnes Murray figured & shone with other of your friends. The holidays are gay as usual this year but there is desperate disappointment among the makers of presents about the loss of the Louis Philippe packet & the non arrival of the French Steamer which had all the tempery on board. The latter has now been out 36 days and every one is alarmed about her safety. I wish we had you with us for a week if it were only to let you know what a distinguished person you are. All the officers here speak of you with the greatest praise. Wayne who has got back from Washington says that you love fighting better than any one he ever saw. You will have seen the general orders of December 4th probably before you get this. I am deeply disappointed that you are not promoted as you should have been, but I know you will bear it well in the consciousness that you have better earned it than most who have got it and that the army and your brother officers all feel it. Whitmore tells me that the promotions take place in accordance with the recommendations of the respective commanders. Is it possible that you have escaped men