March 3d

My dear Alfred

I have written since I recd yours of the latest date via the
I now reply to the previous missing one of Jany 13th which has rather
made me sad as it seems to partake of a feeling of disappointment
and chagrin not called failed by the position which you have obtained
[illegible] family and civil funds but with
your [illegible] particularly with the returns officers
who all speak of you in the highest terms Capt. L Tuel Kearny
Mason and in fact all who have served there. not forgetting Graham
whose affection and gratitude is constantly expressed. I have seen
a good deal of Kearny and something of his pretty wife. he is a fine
fellow good hearted refined and hearty in his good-will. the Genl. is
a gem of the old mine of gentlemen and in fact it is quite
refreshing to see such sometimes. in fact the army officers contrast
well with the men about Town who think most of themselves.
you will have heard that Elvira has another boy and a nice little bold
eyed fellow. Well, living as we do in the small two story house that
the Gracies had No 632 Broadway we ~~[illegible]~~
as we cannot receive in the evening as having no room and too expensive
I bethought myself of giving candle and cake in the morning. an old
fashion revived. and invited all our friends to call between 1 and 5 ch
two days — among others all the army and navy officers we know.
the first morning last Monday we had about 140 calls. the room
quite full of young and old coming and going — among the men Kearny
Radford. Betsy Baker. Graham — Griffin of the navy. — Miss Scott
Miss Schmidt. — Miss Gaudon — McEvoy — Bells — and Hamilton of
the whole family — all our old friends. Stevens de L — Alcocks. Chauncey
they were very merry. the candle strong and good the cake fresh. and
the absent not forgotten. Elvira came down from her house with
the two babies. who were shown once or twice as curiosities and the
morning passed of finely. Knowlton L Van Wagenen. I forgot little Griffin
who takes the Army at a gulf was very facetious. dresses in an overcoat
of army blue with buttons and wears a military cap. it is amusing
the way her Mother lets her run on. but there is no harm in her.