Col Shepherd is extremely anxious for the position of Inspector General, he is of the 18th U.S. If he is the man you think right a word from you to Mr Clellan may be of service to him — I see one of the appointments has just fallen to Sackett —

Your mother has shown me Alfred's letter — I hope he will lose no opportunity of reaching home — We must make a strong effort to have him set right and advanced — It is a melancholy story he tells of Lynde's cowardice & treachery; I only wonder the officers did not resist on the spot — but Alfred's letter is not very coherent on this point —

His position at Leavenworth when he reaches there may not be very secure — the Secessionists may again arrest him which I presume would entirely relieve him from his parole —

I expect to hear from you on Monday in reply to my letter as to my own military views —

Seward has never slept a quiet night I am sure since the dirty trick he played Clear in my case and every misstep now he finds the hounds at his heels exposing his tortuous track —

Very faithfully Yours John Austin Stevens Jr