Newport October 11 1861

George Gibbs Esq
Washington

Dear George, I duly received and was very grateful for your kind letter of the 7 - which has given me a better idea of the needs of the service than I had before and what states the requisites of a good officer so strongly that I have made up my mind to abandon all idea of an immediate command and endeavor to gain the preparatory education before taking so great a responsibility on my shoulders. I have no idea of risking a fair fame and good name by assuming a post I may not fill with credit. I wish however to gain an idea of military duties - if this war is not well over by spring I shall take arms as a career perhaps even as a support. Please therefore to obtain from Col Lacey the outline of studies & the names of the elementary books he would advise me to take up to acquire the theory, and I will endeavor to acquire some practical instruction in some of our battalion schools here - I am told that with figures one may acquire a very thorough idea of Battalion movement and shall set to work together with my son who has quite a fancy for Louave Costume and Modern Soldiers