Newport 12 October 1861

George Gibbs Esq.
Washington

Dear George — After I wrote you yesterday Genl Burnside dropped in at the Bank — the part of the expedition which was to sail and which I presume did sail yesterday was commanded by Genl Sherman — what Genl Sherman I do not ascertain — Burnside himself does not sail for 10 or 12 days — The opinion is strong here that a serious blow will be struck at Beaufort and thence on Charleston or Savannah or both —

Burnside took quite a hopeful view of matters and appeared to consider that we were increasing our stock of pins and arms at a rate with which the rebels could not at all keep up — This is no doubt true but it is equally true that six years of auctions of arms in Washington had so thoroughly denuded the Northern armories that it will take all our force a long time to pick up the lee way — Our Kentucky friends write that they hear Sherman is an abolitionist, that they hope he will do up his business and clear out: they are more nice than