regular course and today I have your gloomy story of yesterday — the details of the disaster were easily gathered from the papers reporting the various incidents of the Edwards' Ferry fight — It is a shame that gallant fellows should be so handled but it is the fortune of war — how it could happen under Baker who had seen service and Coggswell also I understand is a West pointer I can not conceive — the theories of Cullom and the Scottites that the rebel army had been taken in and were now resting their right on Acquia dropping down from Occoquan and their left on Manassas was apparently exploded on Monday and I looked fully for a demonstration on their centre by McLellan this week but he is waiting perhaps for the expedition which I see returned to Hampton Roads on a/c of bad weather — Have you heard whether McClellan is really satisfied with the behaviour of the troops? I should like to know — It looks very much as though the Rebels were in large and much increased force for otherwise they would