New York 6 December 1861

George Gibbs Esq
Washington —

Dear George, I believe you owe me a letter but hearing from my sisters that you made your appearance at the Meeting a few evenings since in the attitude of injured friendship I will humor you once more —

I see Benham has been ordered under arrest I suppose for assault and Battery on Floyd. It does seem as though every man who dares ruffle the calm and peaceful surface of this merciful war brings quick punishment upon himself.

The American people appear in a very creditable manner in the reports of the Secretaries — a vast army without conscription, an orderly army without active employment — a judicious army who decline to get sick as other armies do for fear of being troublesome — a patriotic people who lend their money without stint and ask no day of payment; a free people who submit without murmur to the most unnecessary tampering with their rights and liberties to gratify the dramatic and studied effects of a drunken or over nervous Secretary — a people patient and long suffering.

It is certainly very grand on paper — 600.000 men a magnificent array of figures — Now please to tell me