are in his confidence & able & trustworthy men. The President now leans the subject of military organization to Gen. Scott. He has seen the folly of personal interference. He almost ~~begin~~ himself to be induced to order two batteries of field artillery to Fort Pickens, where they are useless, when they were all essential to the safety of this place (Washington). He afterwards saw his error & has declared that he will not again interfere."

This is all very well as far as it goes, but I happened to hear the other day that the President had signed a requisition for provisions, in the Commissary line, in favor of some regiment, a matter of every day detail, the absurdity of which I dont well know how to parallel. Mr Lincoln is, I believe sincerely, an honest and well meaning man, but he is so utterly ignorant of his proper position, that he does not distinguish the duties of a Chief Magistrate from those of a table waiter. He cannot understand that a General is not to be also a drill sergeant, or a commissary's clerk.

To resume. The person I spoke of, added, "We shall doubtless experience reverses at the outset. I dont think they will be irreparable, but we must expect reverses. The people are expecting to do with an undisciplined multitude what regular armies alone can do." He added something about the thorough manner in which the rebels were officered & subordinated. I could not get him, neither could I get any army officer of rank a judgment to express an opinion directly about the command in chief in case of Gen. Scotts death. Of course