above the grade of First Lieutenants for
the regular service; and insisting that
even they shall pass an examination by a
Competent board before they are
permitted to command in the field.

We were appalled here, and
I could have cried with shame and vexation.
I believe nothing of what the lying papers say
but will wait for details — perhaps to be
relieved by them —

I have yet to learn that the true way to
conquer an enemy is to attack him when and
where he requests an attack — and in
spite of Genl Scott's Column and all the
humbug about climate believe that 10 ~~the~~ men
in 30 days could retake Charleston, Savannah
Mobile New Orleans, burn the cities or
compel the surrender of the forts which
again (surrendered) would relieve the fleet
at each and every place and save a vast
deal of money to the Government —

I wish you would enquire at Willard.