Newyork September 10. 1861

George Gibbs Esqr
Washington —

My dear George,

Your note of the 8th arrived this morning — You must not draw the conclusion from my letter that I censured Alfred for giving his parole — for two reasons — in the first place because I do not believe he did so any parole which would interfere with future duty, and in the second because we know but little as yet of the circumstances of the case. I saw by yesterday's Tribune 9th mst that the mail was in from Santa Fe and that after the affair Major Lynde was arrested by Capts Gibbs & Potter (perhaps Porter) and they were on their way to that post where the cowardly traitor would be constructed —

With regard to paroles — the War Department should put an end to the idea that an officer can waive his duty to his Government or plead a parole as an excuse from actual service — by ordering one and all to their duty — they then are relieved from responsibility or if they choose to draw the fine point of honor may resign —

The idea of paroling southern officers does not suit me; the moral obliquity of the latitude is so great to ensure safety in most cases but Fort Lafayette would ensure it in quite another fashion —