I read him your letter on the subject but found him well informed and he suggested the names of one or two scamps with him beyond those you name —

I can not agree with McLellans idea that Missouri must be left to work out her own salvation. Our cause looks badly enough at the West and we need a great army and a great commander to grasp the extent of territory and wide field of operations and harmonize the various movements to a successful central result — I wish McLellan were at the Westward he should be unless we intend to take the offensive at Washington — Old Abe seems to be amusing himself appointing Brigadier Generals; it positively looks as though he thought that this was the grade for beginners — One of our Newport gentlemen also applied to Cameron for a 2d lieutenancy for his son was referred by him to the President informed that there were sundry vacancies among the Brigadiers — Chase told me that the condition of our troops was very fine, but that the officers had not mended much — This is too bad, when so many intelligent men are ready and anxious to fit themselves for active command —