New York 3 October 1861

George Gibbs Esqr.
Washington D.C.

My dear George,

I have been offered the Command of a Regiment which is now raising here, and though I may not accept the immediate post, I am beginning to think very seriously of a military Career — as a preliminary to which, I want you to write me freely and frankly your honest opinion by which I shall be greatly guided — How long do you think it would take me to fit myself to handle a regiment with Credit to myself in the field? Would you advise me to take Command of a Regiment or to prepare myself for a Staff appointment? I know that it is a very serious step to take but I am more and more inclined to it the more I think on the subject — I appeal to you because I know you will give me an honest straightforward and good opinion. I have talked the matter over with father and he seems very willing that I should at once fit myself but he hesitates about my taking the Command proposed me and I must say I hesitate myself —