to maintain one position. Personally I should rather live in Washington, like under my present circumstances, I should be very glad to accept the position I now hold with the prospect of a permanent residence there. I do not expect to get it now, but I shall be allowed to remain in the Army some time, before I can make a living out of it, and if I could get a paying staff appointment in Washington, I should be very glad to accept it. Whether I stay in the Army or not it will not do for me or children to come here with the help of a little writing. I advise you to cultivate it as much as you can by inviting your friends frequently to dinner and showing them that you consider yourself one of them. I have improved myself by my lazy indifference to society, and do not mean to do so again, and I do not wish you to ask us to visit.
as I conceived. He would be very glad to have me beak out of the field now that he is in it, so that he could have command of the regiment, but I do not think he is likely to be gratified. In your last letter you have some remarks about going into society, with which I do not entirely agree. If we had no children I do not know but that I should rather agree with you than otherwise, but because I think you are right but because they agree with my own inclinations. It is necessary for us to remember that we have children and to try to secure for them the benefits of the best society and community we live in offers. This we can not do if we decline our luck altogether. If there be sickness now coming, wholly we may find in a few years, there going into society from which we are excluded, or excluded from core into which we should like to see them, we are not likely to be rich and therefore invite into the circle of society, nor but we can easily manage to keep ourselves in the circle, Dayton being a city. If I remain in the army, my position will introduce me into the best circle, wherever I go, and my family with me, if we know by the culture that we are fitted to move in there. Could I get the position in Washington which I am striving for, we should be able to move in a very good circle without having great wealth to back us, or that any agent expend itself being required...