but as I have a rather bad cold I have concluded to stay at the piano and roast my feet for a merry Christmas. I went to church last night and intend to go again tonight to hear a sermon by General Fish so you see I am not so utterly demoralized even if I do not study profession Barnes's Commend. Instead of that I am studying MacSeland's cavalry tactics and am trying to make myself more perfect in the art of killing my fellow man in a scientific manner. Not very pleasant to contemplate in that light is it? but I do think that if this should continue five years longer the whole country will travel fifty years back toward barbarism. And we owe all this to the great and noble State of South Carolina if John C. Calhoun and his later day followers get to hear I do not know where I shall look for my peace in the other world. Think I should ask some questions before