

(Private and Confidential)

Boston, Sept. 26, 1863.

To His Excellency

Gov. Andrew

Dear Sir:

I long since addressed you upon the subject of a proper preparation of defence of our harbor. Recent occurrences demonstrate the great importance of such preparation.

Commander Maffitt of the Confederate Steamer Florida was formerly engaged in the service of the Coast Survey and is as familiar with our Coast and harbor as any Pilot.

I am told that he had recently said while in Paris that it had been his intention to run into Boston and New York and shell those cities but that he was prevented by the "attempt of Reed at Portland" as he

feared that occurrence had alarmed our Govt.
and that we were now prepared to prevent his
entrance.

During the present week I have endeavored
to inform myself how well we are prepared.
I learn with astonishment that at this late
day there is nothing to prevent the "Florida"
and "Alabama" or any other vessel from com-
ing directly up to our City.

All they have to do is to fly the American
or English Flag and they can come directly by
our Forts. There is no order at either of the Forts
to stop any vessel. Besides this from my
personal observations I am convinced that
Colonel Simmicks is entirely unfit for the
place he occupies.

The recent escape of rebel prisoners at
Fort Warren arose from great laxity in their reg-
ulations —

This subject is now before you and if any
disaster arise the public will naturally look
to you for explanation

With considerations of great respect, I
remain, respectfully,

Your most-obe. servant

