Navy Department
March 20th 1862.

Sir:

I transmit herewith a draft of an Act for the settlement of the accounts of the officers and crews of the United States Frigate "Congress" the Sloop "Cumberland" and other vessels, the books of which were lost or destroyed in the engagement at Hampton Roads on the 8th and 9th inst.

For the proper settlement of the accounts of the officers and crews of these vessels, it is necessary for Congress to pass such or similar act.

I am, very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Gideon Welles

Hon. John P. Hale
Chairman Naval Committee
U. S. Senate

Gideon Welles
Sec. of Navy