Philadelphia, March 29. 1862

His excellence, the Secretary of the U. S. Navy.

Excellence!

Full of confidence in the loyalty of the government and in your personal justice, the undersigned have thought proper to address you previously expecting a demand that may be very trifling for the state; but very important for them. The following are the facts.

By order of the Secretary of the navy, Mr. de Villeroy has been nominated superintendant of the constructions of a submarine propeller and chief engineer to command the same with the authorizations to engage the crew. Regulations were made for 17 men up to the first of January; three more were engaged on that day.

A letter from the Secretary, dated Febru. ary 1st, orders to have the propeller and crew ready to go to fortress Monroe on the 10th of February at the very latest. Thus it was very well understood, that the crew was to be kept in readyness up to that time. Every thing was ready for the projected expedition for some time, but the contractors Mr. Martin Thomas for reasons, that we do not wish to detail, persisted in refusing certain articles, needed in the mashine, which the inventors considered indispensable. This refusal stopped every thing and caused, that the expedition was missed. Messrs. Scaly & Levy, the constructors of the propellor, confident of the success

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of

of that new invention offered the contracto
to furnish the complement on conditions, th
were not accepted.

If the crew were in readiness to depa
at a moment's notice, they were necessarily
in the service of the state. How is it possible
without being guilty of the greatest injustice
to refuse nourishment and pay for three mont
to those 20 Frenchmen, who devoted themselves
to this new and extraordinary service for the
cause of the Union. Are they to be the victims
of either the avarice or want of credit of a bad
contractor? Surely not. That would be con-
trary to the noted humanity and dignity of
the American people. The contractor cannot
be excused for the delay caused by him alone
in the execution of the contract.

The Government had granted a sum
of 11,000 dollars to complete the propeller.
The expenses including every thing do not
amount to 10,000 dollars.

The following are the positive orders of
the Navy Department in that respect:

"The contractor should furnish
"you with all you require, or giv
"up the enterprize at once."

The above is the object, little but very just,
of our demand. 3 months pay and board for
twenty men, as it has been granted till the
1st of January.

Nothing has changed our determination
to serve the cause of the Unions. We are rea-
dy for any expedition, that shall be ordered,
but necessity has forced us to this step, for

whilst

whilst we are doing our duty, we must live.
As we have been engaged in good faith for the
government, we can only ask for the fullfillment
of our rights either you or as Frenchmen our
ambassador.

Most respectfully

Louis A Bennet
J. Paguin
Louis Allegaert
Secretaire
Jean François
Louis Boyer
Jacques Laurent
Jean Paul
A. Guillet

Denis Poulin
Antoine Poté
Delamare Alfred
Chris Delamare
J B Mounier
Alexandre Rhodes
John Lamber
Henri Lamber
Emile Coblentz

Jean Frank
Chas Bitteau

I certifie that the foregoing statements are just
and exact.

The superintendent and commander
of the submarine vessel.

Du Pilleroc

Pine Street 1325 Philadelphie

M. De Villeroi
Philadelphia

Navy Department
April 8 1862

The petition of Louis Hennek and others, signed by yourself as being correct, states "A letter from the Secretary "dated February 1st orders to have the "propeller and crew ready to go to Fortress "Monroe on the 10th of February at the "very latest".

You are requested to send this Department a copy of the letter in which is that order.

Very Respectfully
Gideon Welles

Philadelphia April 11th 1862.

Honorable Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles,

Sir,

I have the honor to send you a copy of the letter you desire, a passage of which is cited in the petition of my crew. That letter is dated February 27th instead of Febr. 1st. The mistake in the date was made in copying. The one dated Febr. 1st says only: The contractor should furnish you with all you require, or give up the enterprise at once.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully

Your obedient servant.

Dr Gillespy

Bureau of Yards & Docks.
14 April 1862

Lt. Killner U.S.
1325 Pine St.
Philadelphia

Your letter of the 12th instant has been received.

You were employed to superintend the construction of the sub-marine vessel to be built on your plan by Chr. Martin Thomas. You came with him to the Department and was urgent to have your invention tested.

A contract was made to which you were privy, because it provides that you were to submit the secret to a third party, which you have done - I understood also that by your agreement with the Contractor you were to receive a portion of the proceeds of the enterprise, in case it fulfilled the stipulations of the Contract.

The Contractor declined to furnish you with certain articles, considering them unreasonable and useless, which other competent to judge, & also thought, and the work stopped.

In consequence of the failure of the Contractor to furnish the boat, you were notified that your pay and that of your crew would cease. This was in accordance with the Contract, as you were to be employed as superintendent during the pleasure of the Government and no longer.

The disagreement and rupture between the Contractor and yourself have caused the failure of the enterprise, and the Government has been compelled to terminate your employment.

You could not expect to receive pay for superintending a work which the Contractor could not or would not complete, in consequence as I am in-

Hon

informed of unreasonable exactions on your part.

I learn moreover that you have been too ill to execute the work of superintending and working the vessel after she was to have been completed.

Captain Davis of the Navy will shortly see the parties and endeavour to make some arrangement for testing the vessel.

Your appointment as Superintendent was made by the Secretary of the Navy through me, and payment for the services of yourself and crew was withheld by the same authority.

I do not conceive that you have any just cause of complaint against the Government.

Respectfully
Your Obd't Sv't
Jos. Smith

C. N. W. R.

Navy Department
18 April 1862.

Hirst, Wm. L.
Counsellor at Law
South 6th St. Philada

Telegrams

The Department will assume contract with Martin Thomas if the boat will be ready to operate at Hampton Roads in ten days.

Jos. Smith

Chief of Bureau Yds & Docks.

United States Military Telegraph.

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Received Apl 1st 1862.

From Philadelphia 1st

To Com Jno Smith

Chf Bureau

Boat ready for
launching Delivery &
transportation. Hope
Captain Davis's
returning prepared to
make payment and
forward boat to destination
and give necessary orders
as explained.

Wm L. Hirst

1614

C. N. W. R.

Capt. Wm L.
Philada

Telegram

Bureau of Yards & Docks.
19 April 1862.

Has Villeroi certified to completion of Boat, and is he ready to serve in her; if not, how can the contract be executed?

Joseph Smith

C. N. W. R.

Bureau of Yards & Docks.
19 April 1862.

Capt. Wm L.
Philadelphia Pa

Telegram

Capt Davis will see you Monday morning.

Joseph Smith

United States Military Telegraph.

21

Received Apl 17th 1862.

From Philadelphia Pa

To Comm Jos Smith

The Certificate of Completion was intended to satisfy the Government which Capt Davis personal Inspection has demonstrated Mr Villeroi is readiness to serve may be assumed. I cannot doubt he will obey your Order considering the Consequences of Dereliction Stipulated by the Contract Send the Six Thousand Dollars on account to obtain the Boat. Mr Thomas is prepared with proper assistants to complete the Contract in

United States Military Telegraph.

Received Apl 1862.

From (2)

To

Every respect & manage the Boat if necessary I fully explained everything to Capt Davis. I am waiting in my office for answer

Jno L Hirst

C. N. W. R.

Bureau of Yards & Docks.
19. April 1862.

Mr Villeroi. C.M.
1325 Pine St.
Philadelphia

You will please re-
sume your duties under the Contract
for the Subs marine propeller, and your pay
will be allowed from the last payment, with
that of such of your crew as you choose
to employ in the service of the Boat.
If you decline to comply with these
instructions, the Navy Department may feel
authorized to open the sealed paper you
deposited with Mr. Hirst according to
Contract, and use the secret contained
therein. I trust you will comply.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
Jos. Smith

C.N.W.R.

Bureau of Yards & Docks
28 April 1862

Kirat. Wm L. /
Philadelphia – Pa

Your letter of the 26th inst. has been received.

The Propeller being now the property of the U States must be delivered to the Commandant of the Navy Yard at Philadelphia.

I do not feel authorized to direct the secret under the circumstances unless De Villeroi will engage in the service after having been discharged, and should again prove derelict.

Please inform the Bureau if De Villeroi is ready with the boat when a Steamer will be ordered to transport her forthwith.

Respectfully
Yr. obt. Svt
Jos. Smith

It was hoped that the Boat would be launched and removed without public comment; but the inevitable Reporters got to know of it. Lieut[y] on their items. I have many doubts, however, whether it is good policy to conceal. The fact of such an engine of destruction being in existence and in service would would contravene, and injure, the operations of the Enemy.

I propose that you give a name to this Iron Fish — or instruct Mr. de Villeneuve to do so

I also suggest that an extra, have, young officer of the Navy be detached to command her, and that he report to you the results of the tests and adjustment.

The Bill of Neafie & Levy was £5.8.16 — but they agreed to reduce it to £5.5.00, Cash — They objected to take the Pay Bill: It had to be discounted. The necessary article to supply will more than absorb the balance, say £20.0.0 without the silver —

Respectfully

W. Smith

P.S. I begin to feel proud of this thing —

Rec'd 3 March

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Phila May 1. 1862

Commodore Joseph Smith

Chief of Bureau &c &c

Dear Sir

The Propeller has been launched, and this afternoon, towed down to the Navy Yard and deposited there. Your telegraphic order removed all difficulty in that quarter.

The Boat proved remarkably buoyant, and requires four or six tons of lead for ballast. The propelling fans were found to work with ease. The only fear Mr Thomas entertained was on that point, and it is now removed. Still, the Boat will be severely tested at the Yard, and if any thing more is needed, will be added to it. The Boat will also be adjusted there, with ballast, so as to float as required.

Mr. de Kleinè has not yet been seen by me, tho' I have written to him more than once. I send him a letter today fully explaining matters & hope he will attend to it without delay.

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Respectfully

W. Smith

P.S. I begin to feel proud of this thing —

Inquirer

THE GOVERNMENT SUBMARINE VESSEL.—The little submarine hand-propeller, built at the works of Messrs. NEAFIE & LEVY, Kensington, will be launched this morning at eight o'clock. She is 45 feet in length, about 6 feet deep, and 4 feet 6 inches in breadth. In shape and appearance she is very much like a large iron boiler, flattened, with a tapering or conical end, and a rounded stern. A sheet iron horizontal guard runs around the outside of the vessel, under which the hand paddles, 8 on a side, are attached. These are two-leaved, and the leaves close on a hinge on the upward or back stroke, to avoid the resistance of the water. Their handles, to which the paddles are at right angles, pass through the iron sides of the vessel, and are moved by the rower, the iron rod or handle acting as a hinge.

Inside she looks somewhat like a bomb-proof man-of-war barge, with white painted iron thwarts, crossing at regular intervals, and her arched iron roof perforated with small glazed apertures.

On her conical bow is a water tight compartment, connected by a small door with the main interior space, and having in the bottom a little round door, called a "man hole," through which a diver, in submarine armor, may descend to the bottom of the water and carry on his destructive work at leisure and unobserved. There is a fan-like rudder, of a crescent shape, hinged on the stern, fastened at its horns to the top and bottom of the end. The vessel contains pumps, an air-condenser, anchors, &c., and is entered by a "man hole" on the top near the bow. Mr. MARTIN THOMAS, of this city, placed the work, which is intended for the Government, in the hands of Messrs. NEAFIE & LEVY, for construction. Mr. VILLEROY, a French gentleman, is the inventor or projector.

LAUNCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SUBMARINE VESSEL.—The launch of the little submarine vessel at Messrs. NEAFIE & LEVY'S Works, Kensington, took place, contrary to first arrangements, on Wednesday afternoon, between four and five o'clock. Ropes were fastened round her as she lay on the wharf, and she was then raised by means of shears, and lowered easily into the water. No one was within her, but Mr. LEVY, one of the firm which constructed her, stood upon the top during the launch.

When fairly in the water she lay half submerged, her iron guards being almost level with the surface. Two men went into the interior, and tried the effect of the oars or paddles. Although but two or three were moved at once, the vessel obeyed them readily, and when the whole sixteen or eighteen are put in motion, it is believed that she can be propelled with considerable velocity. She will be entirely submerged, when necessary, by means of lead or other ballasting; and it is believed that, when this is accomplished, a very slight variation in weight will suffice to lower her to the bottom, or raise her to the surface. When entirely submerged, the glazed aperture in her roof will keep her lighted.

She was yesterday afternoon to be towed to the Navy Yard. The present position in which she lies will be her natural one; she will only be sunk when necessary to conceal her operations. With her gothic arched back, and conical bow, she looks not unlike a big sturgeon.

Ledger

projecter.

anlike a big sturgeon.

Ledger

The Sub-Marine Iron Propeller, built at Neame & Levy's, for the Government, from plans furnished by the inventor, Mr. Villeroy, was launched yesterday, and removed to the Navy Yard during the afternoon The propeller is built of boiler iron, and is 65 feet long, 6 feet deep, and 5 feet wide, and is sharp at each end, and perfectly round. She is somewhat larger at one end, where there is a single opening for the entrance of the crew that are to work her. When in, the door is closed, and fastened upon the inside. She is then sunk by means of water, and moved in any direction, by means of small paddles or propellers, twelve of which are placed on each side. There is a man-hole in the bottom of this craft, intended for the egress of a man in submarine armor, whenever such a step is necessary to carry out the designs of any contemplated expedition.

rec'd 3 Inst.

Philadelphia Mar 2nd 1862

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Commodore Joseph Smith.

Sir,

In your letter of April 14th you announce to me the visit of Captain Davis, who is to examine the state of affairs respecting the propeller. I have not seen that officer, nor have I received a word from him, not even his card. But however it would have been proper that we should have seen each other.

I have received several letters from Mr. Hirst respecting some arrangements; but his position not being official for me, I could give no direct answer.

In his last (May 1st) he tells me that you gave him orders to send the boat to the Navy-Yard and that you desire I should act without delay.

Am I in the service of the Government or not? If I am I must receive my instructions direct; also must I receive my regular salary for myself and my men, who were left in humanity at my charge these last four months, notwithstanding my repeated demands.

From the Navy-Yard (according to your orders) a vessel is to take the propeller and

the engineer de Villeroi to Fortress Monroe.
How am I considered in this important affair? I will do nothing without official orders and before everything is settled. Consequently I expect your orders. I have just learned from the papers (the Inquirer) that the propeller has been put in the water and taken to the Navy-Yard, without that I received any information about it.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

De Villeroi

Pine Street 1325

Bureau of Yards & Docks
3d May. 1862

Villeroi. Mc
1325 Pine St.
Philadelphia

Your letter of the 2d inst is at hand.

In my letter to you of the 19th ultimo, you were directed to resume your duties under the Contract for the Propeller; that your pay, and that of such of your Crew, as you chose to employ, would be allowed from the date of the last payment. You will therefore take Charge of the boat and proceed with her in such Conveyance as shall be provided by the Government to Fortress Monroe, and report to Flag Officer Goldsborough for duty with the boat. — You will forthwith report any deficiency in the boat per telegram (to be paid here) and it will be supplied. — On your reporting the Propeller ready in all respects for service, and your willingness to take Charge of and go in her, your pay and that of your Crew will be allowed. — If you do not so Comply, the Secret deposited with me will be used by the Government, and the Boat sent off without you. — An early decision and answer is requested. —

Captain Davis reported that he sought you in vain for the purpose of an interview and understanding in the matter referred to.

You are of Course in the service of the Government, if you Comply with its orders; not only so, but by the terms of the Contract, you were also Concerned with the Contractor in the success of the Boat. — The Contractor having failed to Comply with his engagements, your services could not be Continued until other arrangements were made. — Now, you have to decide quickly what you will or will not do. —

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith

Bureau of Yards & Docks
5th May 1862

De Villeroi. Mc
1325 Pine St
Phila

Sir

In my letter of the 19th ultimo and 2d inst. instructing you to complete the Propeller and go in her to Fortress Monroe, you were informed that the Government was ready to pay you and your crew according to agreement. I have now to inform you that Mr Hirst, who is your friend, has by order of the Secretary of the Navy been requested to arrange with you to go on immediately with the enterprise, paying you your Salary in full and the amount due as wages to your Crew according to your Certificate. —

As no time is to be lost, you will proceed forthwith to execute the orders of the Department. —

Respectfully
Yr. Obt Servt
Jos. Smith

Recd 5 May
1862

Phila May 3. 1862

Commodore Joseph Smith
Chief of Bureau &c &c
Dear Sir,

When honored by Capt Davis with your instructions for settling the Submarine Propeller matter, having been authorized by the Contractor to give M. de Villeroi all he could properly demand I apprehended no difficulty with the latter.

From the accompanying correspondence you will discover that all efforts to bring him to a meeting with Capt Davis, and with me, have failed, and I was obliged to stay to send your despatch, restoring him to his position &c, to his boarding house, after some half dozen of my messenger efforts to deliver it in person

The tenor of his notes is that he requires something more official, and cash in hand for his back pay and crew; If the latter part of his demands were complied with, I feel a doubt as to his inclination to proceed; but in that event he would be entirely under your direction, and the Contract would fully protect you

Of that there is no doubt at all. Neither
do I apprehend that, as the matter stands
ith the Government, there is any doubt whatever
that the Contract may be fully executed.
The question of time, and the contingent of
M. de Villeneuve may be waived by the
Department. It is upon the rare principle
that a Contractor who binds himself to
furnish goods, to the Government within
a certain time, to be inspected, may
demand payment, tho' the goods were not
furnished in time, nor inspected, if
the Government has received them and
used them. Time and Inspection may
both be waived, this happens daily.
I know not what the
motives of M. de Villeneuve may be. His
conduct is most extraordinary. He is
very obstinate, and like all inventors
full of whims, and without any business
capacity - I feel it my duty to protect
him against himself. His only object
are fame, and the compensation due to
him by the Contractor in case of success
These can be secured for him, by an
energetic proceeding under the Contract.
The object of the Government is to possess
an arm of great value, if successful

demonstrated. This can also be effected by the same means.

The Government has waived the point of time, and I recommend that an Officer shall be appointed to take command of the Boat, as I suggested. This would be necessary I presume, at all events, the Certificate of that Officer ought to rest by the Government.

I also suggest that you should write directly to Mr Dallerac to the effect that I am authorised to act for the Department in the matter. I think that such a despatch from you would bring him immediately to me. He has, as yet, had nothing but my word to assure him that I had any such authority; and he is naturally suspicious.

Mr Thomas will commence on Monday morning to ballast and adjust the Boat, and test its performance. He has seen the Crew who are enthusiastic to go with the Boat, & Mr Thomas is ready to assist personally in the expedition.

I am respectfully
Yr mo ob. servt
W Hoisted

P. S. I have received the enclosed note from Mr. Wm Michael Esq — Please read it.

Mr de Billeroi Philad^a April 16th 1862

Sir

I called this morning to ask to present you to an officer of the U.S. N. now in town through whom we hope to arrange the matter of the boat, but was informed you were out in. If you return for time please wait for me until one o'clock, when I will return to take you to see him

Yr ob^t Serv^t. G. Bryan Schott.

No reply -

(Note in French. Translation) April 16th. 1862.

My friend

Have the goodness to come to my house this evening at eight o'clock - Mr Davis an Officer of the U.S. Navy will be here - This affair must be finished This evening - Do not fail I beg of you.

Your friend

To

Mr de billeroi (signed) W. L. Hurst

No reply

Philad^a April 19th 1862

Captain Davis

My Dear Sir

I regret exceedingly that I am compelled to be absent at Schl^t County Court on Monday, but the case there is so important, involving three millions of property, & the arrangements for the Trial so peremptory, that I cannot help going. I make this explanation as any engagement not of importance would be gotten to meet you

I would advise as follows; to pay the $6000. & remove the boat to the Navy Yard, to deliver the necessary order to Mr de Billeroi to report at Fortress Monroe on a given day. The other matters are more detail which Mr Thomas can arrange with you. The ballance of $8000 can be settled with Mr Thomas who needs it for the further disbursements of the boat

M. de Villeris has not yet appeared. I see by his receipt to the Navy Agent that on the 1 May 1861 he received $ 682.12 on pay bill approved by you 22 Sept. —

The men who signed the Articles understood that the hiring was monthly, terminable by either party on the 1st day of any month. I presume this was correct. The bounty, tho' it appears for all, does not apply to Rhodes & Lambert, for whom M. de Villeris received it. I see by the receipt that he received $ 200 for Rhodes, the 2 Lamberts, & Frank, viz $ 40 wages & $ 10 for each on bill approved by you Dec. 1st 1861 —

I will complete the crew, & boat, and she will remain subject to your further orders as you direct in your communication of yesterday

Respectfully
W. L. Hunt

P S. The crew understood all of them, that the bounty depended on your consent — I copied the old articles as they stood.

I would beg to urge on you emphatically the policy of prompt action in the matter. I regard every day's delay in the appearance of the Boat at Hampton Roads a serious injury to the Government. I trust you will not hesitate to exercise your fullest discretion & power to compel Mr de Bellerai for his own sake to do his whole duty.

Very Respectfully Yr Obt Servt
(signed) W L Hirst

Telegraph to W. L. Hirst. Penn Hall Pottsville
Phila Apl 22nd 1862

Captain H. is authorized to employ you as counsel. Services much needed here. (Signed) Wm Schott

---

Reply. Pottsville April 23d 1862. To Wm Schott
Not finished speaking. Home to morrow. Let Mrs H. know
My advice to Capt H. was clear & explicit & home would be
Unchanged. (Signed) W. L. Hirst

(Translation of note in French G.B.B.) Phila April 22nd 1862
Mr de Bellerai. Sir.

I am requested to ask you if we should
succeed in arranging for the sub-marine-boat, - & if for example
we should obtain for you a complete re-establishment in your
position the government giving you your back pay for the past.,
Will you launch immediately the machine & make your prep-
-arations without delay to obey the orders of the Department?

It will be expected that letting bygones be bygones on both sides
we should work harmoniously & energetically together to ensure a pro
success at the earliest moment. Please address reply to 410 Market St.
Yr Obt Servt
G. Bryan Schott

(Translation of Mr Billeroi's Reply G B S)

Mr Schott. Sir:

I am an officer of the government or nothing. If nothing I cannot give orders to launch the boat. If I am in the service of the government I can give orders. but, in pursuance of the instructions of the Secretary. This I have done to the present moment in every respect, both with regard to contractor & crew in spite of bad proposals I am perfectly en regle (correct). Then since there is no longer any contract or contractor of the Government makes new arrangements it ought to make me a party to them officially and carry out towards me & my crew the engagements already contracted, especially the regular payments without which it is impossible for me to rely on my men. To avoid all personal responsability. of I am any thing under the government I must have formal orders. As to the objects to be placed at my disposition I have given my list. I require neither more nor less. The man who has undertaken to destroy your most formidable enemy the Merrimack, merits I think some consideration on the part of the Government & Crew of the nation. It is unfortunate that this has not been yet appreciated

(Received afternoon April 24th) Yr obt Sert de Billeroi

On April 28th Mr Hirst wrote Mr de Billeroi a friendly note to the effect that he was authorized to arrange the matter had an official paper for him & and requesting Mr de Billeroi to call and see him. which elicited the following.

(Translation of reply G. B. S.) 30th April 1862.

My Dear Hirst.

If you have any thing to communicate to me write me. I will answer in writing. I have replied in this sense

to Mr Schoff. ask for my letter; it answers every thing. I am weary of injustice & trifling. If I have not been appreciated I must appreciate myself. The relations of such matters ought to be made officially to avoid new deceptions.

I salute you cordially

——— (signed) de billeroi-

Reply of Mr Hunt in French. (Translation G.B.S.)

Philad[a] 1 May 1862

My Dear Friend

I received your letter of yesterday. I have been much occupied during these distressing complications to arrange this matter. I think it approaches its termination. Capt Davis U.S.N. He was here the other day, with necessary authority to receive the boat, & to replace you in your position under the Government, & instructed to consult me in regard to it. I was not in town & Capt Davis was obliged to go to New York. On my return I met him in New York, & he gave me instructions, & the necessary authority to terminate this affair; to pay Mr Levy, & an official order to be placed in your hands to re-establish you in your position under the Govern[t] & to pay you & crew your back pay. Imagine with what pleasure I have regarded this happy result; & this is why I have expected you, to communicate to you the instructions of the Captain.

I have also received an order from Com[r] Smith to send the boat to the Navy Yard. He desires that you will act without delay. A national vessel will transport it Fort Monroe the Propeller with Mr the Engineer de Villeroi. Have the goodness to see me to day; I am too much occupied or I would go to you.

Your friend

(Signed) W. L. Hunt.

To Mr de Villeroi.

Translation of Reply of Mr de Villeroi C.B.S.

1 May 1862

My Dear Hurst

I thank you for the explanations you have given me in your last; but in all that I see nothing official. How is it that Mr Davis has not given me personally any advice of his mission? I am then a cipher which placed by the side of figures gives value without possessing any? I dont count that way

If the government has given you any powers make use of them at once; make them give me in hand the back pay of myself & crew; furnish the complement of the Propeller; the rest will goon of itself; but no promises. they dont pay board. When I receive from the Govermt. my regular commission as well as all my back pay, and the complement of the boat I will obey the instructions of the Navy Department. Without that all combinations are superfluous. If there is lost time it will not be my fault. Cordially yours

(Signed) de Villeroi.

(Translation C.B.S.) Philad^a 1 May 1862

Mr de Villeroi.

Sir. I have been a number of times to your house to speak to you on the part of Mr Hurst & also to post you with regard to the "attachment" of the old boat - but it appears that you are never at home. As Mr Hurst is authorised by the Govermt. & the other parties, he will doubtless find some means of communicating with you to arrange the affair of the Boat

* * * (the remainder relating to an attachment for wharfage of the old boat, & another attachment of the same for one hundred & some dollars for board due by Mr de Belleroi to Hotel Keeper at Delaware is unimportant in this connection. G B S)

G. Boyan Schultz

Translation of note in French from Mr Hurst to de Belleroi

May 2d 1862

My Friend.

I received your letter; my explanations perhaps were not full enough. I have had for several days, in your hands, an official order of Com Smith to re-instate you in your position with arrearages for yourself & crew. I had hoped you would come & see me, taking into consideration how occupied I am & that I have interested myself in this affair simply as a friend. But if you will not I must send it to you. When you will have the goodness to honour me with a visit, I have much to tell you. Endeavour I pray you to conform to the orders of the Govern[t]. Your invention is on the point of being illustrated & successful. I have worked hard to bring it up to the present moment.

It was on account of my friendship for you that my friends by my advice have spent their money freely to conduct the enterprise to success.

The boat is at the Navy Yard. Go there I beg you for the necessary supervision. Do not loose a day. In a few days the Opportunity may pass never to return.

Cordially Your Friend

(Signed) W L Hurst

To Mr de Belleroi

Translation

Philad^a 3 May 1862
20 minutes past 10 A.M.

Mr de Bellerod

Sir -

I have called I dont know how many times on the part of Mr Flirt. Always the same reply. "Not in." Yesterday I saw your wife & explained to her that I had some papers, one of them Washington to place in your own hands. She told me if I would return at eight I would find you. I went back - always the same reply, but the servant said you left word to return at ten to morrow & you would see me. I have just come from your House after another useless visit. What explanation can be given of such conduct?

It is on a par with your conduct when Capt Davis was here. When he arrived in town the first time, I immediately called upon you to inform you, & to ask you whether I should bring him to see you or take you to call upon him. "Not at home." I wrote you immediately with regard to it, & the messenger brought back word that you would answer by five o'clock. At 5 o'clock no reply. I then returned to your house uselessly as ever. Mr Flirt then wrote you begging you to meet at his house an officer of the U.S. to at eight o'clock. You did not come. did not even reply. You were sought for the next day with the same success.

And when Capt Davis returned from Washington, I went again to your house, & the land-lady told me that you & Madame had left the house; that She did not know where you had gone as you left no address, & that She did not expect you back for a fortnight. (Yet the next day we learned you were in the house from a person who saw you there)

Capt Davis had to go to New York the same afternoon, & how could
you be found? Mr Hirst was at Pottsville. When he returned
three days afterwards, he had to go to New York to meet Mr Davis
without seeing you. There Mr Davis received orders to go
at once to the Mississippi & committed papers & instructions to
Mr Hirst as counsel of the Department, in fact as agent of the
government to settle the affair the Propeller. Since his return
he has tried every means to see you, to give you an official
order dismissing you in your peculiar ale. For this I have
called so often lately to see you & to give in your own hand
this paper. But if you will not go to see him, & if no one
can see you at home, what can be done?

Yr obt Servt.

G Boyer Schultz

Bureau of Yards & Docks
8th May 1862

Kirsh, Wm L.
Atty at Law
Phila

C. N. W. R.

I have received your letter of the 3d inst with its enclosures, and have submitted them to the Secretary of the Navy. The Secretary decides to pay M. De Villeroi his salary and what he certifies is due to his crew, to the 1st inst. —

His pay is $2000. per annum and that of his crew $40. per month each, including every thing, according to agreement. The Secretary agrees to this only on condition that M. De Villeroi will assume the direction of and work the Propeller as per Contract. — I enclose an order from the Secretary to the Navy Agents to pay the amounts accordingly when you shall present bills duly certified. You will however see that M. DeVilleroi first enters into an agreement to fulfil all his obligations to the Government. —

I enclose a note addressed to him stating that you are employed to carry out the directions of the Department.

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Serv.
Jos. Smith

Private

Phila: May 5. 1862

Commodore Dr: Smith

My dear Sir,

I regret that you have any doubt as to the success of the Propeller – It is a sure thing – I am not sanguine, generally; but in this matter I have had the slightest doubt of success. But we must force Mr Dr. on, for his own sake, as well as the Government. If he will not act; without delay, do not hesitate to strike the blow. It is a thousand times more sure & safe than the Monitor was. That depended on a fight – this, on no such danger. The young gentleman I saw last night is willing to go without Dr. It is his company they say would do better without him, under the order of an energetic young officer. There is no risk in the experiment, at all – I hope you will not allow an hour to be lost, I can't understand Dr. He has been chattering with other parties – but they won't touch him, nor will any honorable man collude with him to supplant the parties now interested, who have advanced so much money, time & exertions to befriend Dr. I would like you to meet him the strongest kind of order, even stronger than the last, tho' that had the real grit in it – The Gov't must have this invention – Dr. is old & if this fails, & he dies, it is gone –

You might safely write Dr.

that I have all the power to settle the matter
I shall not abuse your confidence – nor will
it in any way except finish approved by you
But it will bring him to me – & enable me to
advise with effect. He always used to trust
to my advice, implicitly; & I can easily
restore his confidence if there is a chance.

Ever truly Yours

W. E. Gladstone

Rec? 7 May

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Portsmouth N. H. 1862

Commodore Joseph Smith

Chief of Bureau &c &c

Dear Sir

Your communication of
27th ult was duly received, with the official
order to Mr de Villeneuf enclosed, which
I sent to his address, but he has not
as yet (7th Inst,) called.

My opinion is, that the
Government having waived the question of
time and removed the Propeller, the Contract
is in all force and effect as if the vessel
had been delivered within the forty days
specified in the Contract. I am further
of the opinion that the Government
may, in like manner, waive the Certificate
mentioned in the Contract, either by the
report of one of its own officers, or of the
Contractor, or dispensing with any Certi-
-ficate or report. These provisions were in-
-tended to protect the Government, and may
be insisted upon, or waived, at its pleasure.

I apprehend that it is not
only lawful, but usual with all the Depart-
-ments, to waive questions of time, in cases

of Contracts for the construction of vessels, or delivery of supplies. If the Contractor has acted in good faith such a course is proper. It is not usual, perhaps, to waive inspection, but it is, undoubtedly, at the option of the Government to do so.

In cases of emergency, as in war, or rebellion, it may be for the advantage of the Government to waive such questions, and remove all such difficulties in the way of a public necessity, or to secure a great public advantage. The present is such a case.— I commend you and my with two of the old crew. One of them an intelligent and brave fellow expressed the deepest regret that the Propeller is not ready to act. He says that at any time while the Monitor has been lying at anchor, as reported in the papers, it would have been more short to destroy her, and without the least difficulty or danger.

In your despatch to Mr de Villeroi you inform him that you will furnish any deficient articles needed for the Boat on his request. Mr Thomas desires me to say that he consents to your doing so, and charging the outlay to

the balance of $1 0000 due on delivery of the Boat.

Respectfully
H. L. Stuart

M. De Villeroi
Philadelphia

Navy Department
May 12 1862

I have received your communication of the 7th inst relative to your discharge from the position of Engineer and Superintendent of the Submarine boat built at Philadelphia. When the Contractor and you disagreed, and the boat was not forthcoming as contracted for, the pay of yourself and crew was suspended. Since then the Government has paid the bills of the Constructor and taken the boat.

You were notified to go on and complete the boat and work ch, and money sent you to pay you for your services from the date they were suspended.

This communication and others on this subject were forwarded through M. L. Hirsh Esq. your counsellor. You having refused to receive or notice the letters of the Bureau of Yards and Docks acting under the Department, no further action can be taken in the matter until you shall reply to the letters referred to and make some acknowledgment for your dereliction of duty. The Officer referred to as being sent to Philadelphia reported that he could not find you and conferred with your counsellor Mr. Hirsh.

Very respectfully
Gideon Welles

United States Military Telegraph.

Received May 6 1862.

From Phila

To Asst Adj Genl Smith

I have just ascertained that Ne Villeroi has absented himself from his house for some time without leaving address and my packages enclosing your orders remain there unopened. Mrs de V has been there occasionally and has seen them but declines taking them because, so much is written on them I will use

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United States Military Telegraph.

Received May 1862.

From

To 2

every effort to search him out

H. L. Dimick

15

rec'd 7 may

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Phila May 6 1862

Commodore Joseph Smith

Chief of Bureau &c &c

Dear Sir

I telegraphed you this morning that M. de Villeroi has absented himself from his boarding house, and that both your despatches (of the 1st inst. & 3d inst.) still remained there unopened.

I sent your despatch of the 5th inst to the Post Office this morning, with a note enclosed, stating that two of your despatches are waiting for him at his boarding house. And I also sent a note to his boarding house stating that your despatch of yesterday is at the Post Office - I could do no more. His wife has called at the Boarding House since his absence, but would not take my letter, which enclosed the despatches, because they were not marked mailed at Washington. I cannot understand all this: and am more than ever satisfied that (what to M. de Villeroi

interests should be protected as they will be) the Government ought to act with decision. The Department is now executing the Contract; not making a new one, and its terms are sufficient to comprehend any difficulty.

The crew have to be collected. Four of them are now in my office. The rest will be at the Boat tomorrow, and will prepare every thing for a test trial on Thursday, at noon, if possible. I shall ask the Department to request an officer to be present to report the result.—

It appears, that the Air Pump and some other articles, necessary for the Boat, are detained by the Keeper of the Saxon where she is boarded, for a bill of board. These belong to the U. S. & are in the bill of Sale & Lease. The Comt. of the Navy Yard ought to be requested to send and take them. The crew think that the townspeople will deliver them without difficulty if demanded by the Government; but it ought not to be left in any doubt.

Respectfully W. L. Hunt

De Villeroi. Me.
1325 Pine St.
Phila

Bureau of Yards & Docks
7th May 1862

I wrote to you on the 19th of April last, and on the 3d and 5th inst, which letters I learn tho' left at your Boarding house, you have refused to open. They are explanatory of the wishes of the Department in regard to the employment of the Propeller, which you are bound to take charge of and work. —

In the letters referred to, provision is made for the Payment of your salary and that of the crew of the boat, as well as for the Completion of the boat by the Government, under your direction.

I have now to say that the Secretary of the Navy directs that you proceed forthwith to complete the boat, and then to work her. — If you decline to do so, he directs that the secret for supplying the boat with air, which has been sworn to, and deposited in this Department, be opened and the boat employed by other parties. —

Wm L. Merick Esq. has been empowered and requested by the Department to see you if possible, and if you still absent yourself from an audience with him, and refuse to perform your duty, he is instructed at once to carry out the orders of the Navy Department, and to prepare, man, and report the Boat ready for service. —

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith

C. N. W. R.

Philadelphia May 7th 1862.

Honorable Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

Sir,

After having terminated a work, highly important for the cause of the Union, after having fulfilled punctually the instructions of the Department as Superintendant against a contractor, convinced of ill will, it is not this contractor who is dismissed, but it is I, as soon as the work is finished, moreover the crew is left at my charge since December last, without nourishment or pay, causing me all kinds of unpleasantness, although the order had been given to keep them ready to depart with the Propeller in the month of March.

How am I to explain such contradictions, for if I am discharged and my crew dismissed after December, how can I receive and execute the order given for the month of March?

But there is something more. According to the letter from the Department dated March 10th, there is neither contract, nor contractor, nor engineer, nor crew any longer. Yet in April I am informed, that a Navy Officer is to be sent to examine the state of affairs. The first visit of this officer ought to have been, not to the engineer, since I am considered discharged, but to the <u>inventor</u> or <u>Superintendant</u>

of the work. But that was not so at all. I received not a line, not even the card of that officer. Strangers interposed in the affair to make propositions to me. I answered that I wish to receive propositions direct from the Government only.

In the meanwhile some of my men were perverted into spies and traitors. Finally on the 1st of May <u>without my consent, without even being informed of it</u>, I learned from the papers that my work has been put in the water and taken to the Navy-Yard. Is it thus, that a worthy and liberal Government can act? Surely not. There must be some mystery in it, that I cannot find out. Therefore I submit to you these facts. Such Men of my character and rank can become dupes or victimes of an intrigue, but one does not play with them, like with puppets. If my dismissal has been pronounced, I have nothing more to do with the Government until <u>new personnel and direct conditions</u> will be made. The first condition is to settle for the months in arrears and a regular commission.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully

your obedient servant.

Post office

Da Gloria

Kirkf. Wm L.
Attorney at Law
Philadelphia

Bureau of Yards & Docks
7th May 1862

Your letter of the 6th inst. has been received.

I have written a letter to Mr De Villeroi, of which the enclosed is a Copy.

If you cannot see him and make a satisfactory arrangement with him, the Department authorizes you to use the Secret confided to you, and prepare the boat with a crew to go to Fortress Monroe as soon as possible, notifying the Department when the boat is ready to be shipped. —

I enclose an order to Comm. Pendergrast to reclaim the apparatus which has been paid for and is the property U. States, now deposited at De Villeroi's Boarding house. —

Comm: Pendergrast has been directed to order a Board of Competent officers to witness the experimental trial of the boat tomorrow. —

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Serv.
Js. Smith

C. N. W. R.

rec'd 9 may

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Phil: May 8 1862

Commodore Joseph Smith

Chief of Bureau &c &c

Dear Sir,

Your communication of the 7th. with copy of letter to Mr de Villeroi duly received, and I will endeavour to execute your commands as to effect the object in view. I have written to Mr. de Villeroi upon the subject and shall wait all tomorrow to see, or hear from, him, before I act.

One of the crew who visited Mr de Villeroi's boarding house this afternoon reports to me as follows: Mr. de Villeroi has not appeared there since last Friday: the lady who keeps it said that she did not know where he is: and that Madame de Villeroi was there yesterday afternoon: that a letter marked "Washington" which came there by post yesterday (the one you sent me which I mailed) was handed to her, she took it, looked at it & threw it on the ground unopened - that another letter came by post this morning - that these two, and the

two former official letters of yours, all remain there unopened

How to account for this I am totally at a loss.

The crew are actively at work. Every thing is being put in order She worked well to day with four fires, but ad submerged. The crew apprehend no difficulty. The pumps leak and some other details need attention which occupied to day and may take tomorrow. It is bad policy to send her away imperfect. I went to the Navy Yard today & shall go daily & attend personally to the matter.

I delivered your dispatch to Com. Pendergrast, & told him that the Pump &c had been delivered without difficulty

Respectfully
W L Hunt

Private

Phil^a May 8/62

Dear Sir

I am glad to find that you believe you have Mr^r's Secret. If I could undeceive you, I should feel bound to say that I should have hesitated very long to sign a Certificate (on which I knew you would rely) to such a ground. The mode you state is that which a party who sent me in a boat, a year ago up the Mississippi, & they are still down — to Mr Dell, told me sometime ago when he was in the habit of coming here. The mode of living under waters must be one, to succeed, that takes into view all the details and exigencies of the case, and provides for them — Nothing less, or else, ever could succeed — If I believe M. Dell, is entitled to real credit for having succeeded in accomplishing what has been tried in every country in Europe & here, without success — Truly Yours

Wm Hunt

Wm. Jr. Smith