Rec'd 12 May

Philadelphia May 10th 1862.

112

Commodore Joseph Smith

Dear Sir,

How do things go in your bureau respecting my poor propeller: Officially there is neither contract, nor contractor, nor engineer, nor crew any longer. Nevertheless the contractor or contractors reappear suddenly and pervert some of my men into spies and traitors. The boat is launched and taken to the Navy-Yard without my certificate, even without informing me of it. Since then you have addressed three letters to me, but instead of receiving them direct, two of them came to me through the hands of Mr. Schott. I have refused them. The third that was likewise taken from the lettercarrier or post-office and taken back again, came to me with a Philadelphia stamp. I refused it likewise, supposing that it had been in the hands of faithless persons. Consequently I do not know, what they contained. I have sufficiently explained my intentions, if they wish to make new conditions with me direct; having been brutally dismissed for fulfilling punctually the orders of authority. And that to give right ~~to~~ a bad contractor whose contract was broken.

Rec^d 12 May

Philadelphia May 10th 1862.

112

Commodore Joseph Smith

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How do things go in your bureau respecting my poor propeller: Officially there is neither contract, nor contractor, nor engineer, nor crew any longer. Nevertheless the contractor or contractors reappear suddenly and pervert some of my men into spies and traitors. The boat is launched and taken to the Navy-Yard without my certificate, even without informing me of it. Since then you have addressed three letters to me, but instead of receiving them direct, two of them came to me through the hands of Mr. Schott. I have refused them. The third that was likewise taken from the lettercarrier or post-office and taken back again, came to me with a Philadelphia stamp. I refused it likewise, supposing that it had been in the hands of faithless persons. Consequently I do not know, what they contained. I have sufficiently explained my intentions, if they wish to make new conditions with me direct; having been brutally dismissed for fulfilling punctually the orders of authority. And that to give right to a bad contractor whose contract was broken, I am perfectly free, and if the Government is free from the contract, I do not see any impediment to treat with it _direct_.

This episode will furnish a fine chapter for my work on the United States.

Thinking that you are ignorant of these bad details, I thought it my duty to inform you of them confidentially.

To avoid in future _my letters_ from getting into the hands of strangers, I have taken a box at the Post Office.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully

your obedient servant.

D. Villoroy

Post office

Bureau of Yards & Docks
12th May 1862

DeVilleroi, Mr.
Philadelphia

C. N. W. R.

Your letter of the 10th inst has been received.—

My communications of recent date, except the last, were forwarded to you through your Counseller Wm L. Hirst Esq.— If you did not choose to read them it was not the fault of the Department.

The Propeller was purchased of Messrs. Neafy & Levy, and sent to the Navy Yard.— You were directed to prepare the boat for service, which you have declined to do, and were informed that Mr Hirst was authorized to confer with you in the matter.

Your pay was suspended when the work on the boat was stopped because of a disagreement between you and the Contractor, who declined to accede to your demands.— For this the Department is certainly not to blame.—

The term "brutally dismissed" is calculated to give offence, and such approbrious language could justly be retorted, were I disposed to do so.—

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith

recd 12th May

113

Phila May 11th 1862.

Commodore Joseph Smith,
Chief of Bureau &c &c

Dear Sir,

The great news which has roused our city into a wild state of excitement, of the capture of Norfolk and the destruction of the Merrimac, induces me to write, tho' it is Sunday, to enquire whether I am to regard your instructions in regard to the Propeller, as still in force.

I have had a full complement of men at work at her: & yesterday, 7000 pounds of lead was put in her. It was thought that that amount would be sufficient to adjust her, but it will take It will take 2000 lbs more: & she will be perfectly ready. The machinist is to have made every thing right. The pumps leaked badly — the seams were to be paid. All that has been done & I proposed to attach the crew tomorrow.

I think this vessel is so useful to the Government that I should learn with regret of your intention to disuse her. The small expense of con-

-struction and of her crew are considerations too trifling, [illegible] in comparison with the national importance of such an monitor in war as well as in peace.

Mr Thomas has been indefatigable in working to get her ready; He has been on board with his coat off, from morning till night.

I have not seen Mr de Villeroi. He has sent to his Boarding House for his baggage: his letters remain there yet unopened as I learn.

Respectfully

W L Avery

P. S. Please telegraph if any change is desired.

Hirst. Wm. L.
Phil^a.

Bureau of Yards & Docks
12th May 1862

Your letter of the 11th inst. has been received.—

The Propeller may be completed and remain at the Yard, with crew attached, until further orders.—

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith

C. N. W. R.

recd. 13 May
114

Phil: May 12. 1862

Commodore Joseph Smith
Chief of Bureau &c &c.

Dear Sir

I wrote yesterday to you, on hearing the glorious Norfolk news, asking whether your instructions are still in force, and desiring a telegram if you had otherwise determined (tho' I trusted not) as I proposed to article the crew today — I postponed that until tomorrow when I will do so, at $40 per month, during your pleasure, every thing included, unless I receive your telegram. It is necessary to do so, or they will scatter. One has already shipped on board a merchantman.

I would recommend the payment of the back wages of the first four who signed the original articles, as they have been constantly faithful to the boat & are indispensable. Their names are Alex Rhode, Henri & Jean Lambert & Jean Frank —

It is necessary to have a head, in place of M. de Villeroi, on the boat. Mr. Wilkinshaw who was on the

Expedition to Sebastopol to raise the sunken ships warmly recommends Mr. Samuel Eakins who was 18 months at that submarine work, & exhibited the greatest courage, skill & activity there. From his fitness, he would be a valuable acquisition if you can rely on the testimony of Mr. Wickenham. Mr Eakins was on board the boat today, & expresses the most perfect confidence in its success. Mr E. is a practical electrician, & perfectly experienced in submarine explosions. If you approve, I will ascertain his terms.

M. de Villeroi is not yet heard from, & I consider that he has, for some inexplicable reasons, abandoned the matter. I have acted accordingly, pursuant to your instructions –

Mr. Thomas is pushing on the Boat. It was tried today, while Mr. Eakins was on board, & propelled, nearly submerged, with 12 fins, faster than was expected of her.

The Commander has appointed the Board & I am daily in expectation of being ready for the test trial.

Respectfully W L Avis

Bureau of Yards & Docks
13th May 1862

b.inst. Wm L.
Phila

Your letter of the 12th inst. has been received.—

You will pay the four men who were first engaged and took the oath of allegiance their back wages, as you recommend.—

You will engage Mr. Eakin, provided De Villeroi still declines to comply with the request of the Department, and such of the crew as you may deem necessary, to be continued during the pleasure of the Government, upon their taking the oath of allegiance.— The pay of Mr Eakin is to be the same as that allowed to Mr. De Villeroi, and the wages of the crew at the rate of $40. per month. The Propeller will remain at the Yard for the present, there being nothing now for her to do.—

I regret the trouble which arose between De Villeroi and the Contractor, and was in hopes that you would effect a reconciliation and secure his services.—

He has however only himself to reproach for his contumacy.—

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith

This Agreement in two parts entered into this thirteenth day of May A D 1862 between Alexander Rhodes, John Lambert, Joseph N Bates, Amos W. Austin, Howard Bates, William Ross, Philip C McCanen, Benjamin B Claypoole, and Casper Wardington of the first part and Commodore Joseph Smith Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks acting under the Navy Department of the United States of the other part, Witnesseth,

The parties of the first part agree to serve the United States as operatives in the Sub Marine Propeller under contract with Martin Thomas for and during the time they shall be employed by the United States at the rate of Twenty four dollars per month each for their full services and sixteen dollars per month each for their full subsistence and necessary clothing for the work: and they further agree to sign the oath of allegiance to the United States as prescribed and submit to the laws of the United States enacted for the government of the Navy of the United States

And the party of the second part agrees to pay them the said wages monthly with ten dollars bounty each on signing this agreement as bounty for engaging in the perilous services of this Propeller under orders of the Government placed over them.

It is further agreed that the pay of the said Parties of the first part shall commence from the 12th day of May instant, —

In Witness whereof the said parties have hereto set their hands and

Names of the old crew of the Submarine Propeller, with the time each served, &c as given to me by Alexandre Rhode & Jean Lambert. May 13. 1862

Alexr Rhode, engaged Nov 4. '61 – Still in service – has recd $15.
John Lambert, " " " " " " " " " nothing
Henri Lambert " " " " – left 1 May " " $24
John Frank " " " " Apl 20. " " $50
kept boarding house – for board of men
Packan " Dec 15 " " Apl 20.
Pallan " " " " " " "
Delion " Feb. 1. " " March 25.
Carpentier " " " " " " "
Porte " " " " " " "
Poste " " " " " " "
Royer " " " " " " "
Bastian " " " " " " "
2 or 3 others names not recollected } " " " " " " "
Ennette " Dec 1. " " May 1
Joseph " " " " " " "
Emile " Feb 1. " " March 25.

They did not know how much these men had recd – If any thing. They are away – some enlisted – some at work in this city – some fishing &c –

Reported by
Wm L Hart

Commodore Joseph Smith.

Seals the day and year aforesaid

Signed Sealed & Delivered
in presence of
W L Hirst
as to parties of the
first part

Alexander Rhodes

John Lambert

Joseph M Bates

Amos W. Austin

Howard Bates

J William Ross

Philip C McCarron

Benjamin B Claypool

Casper Waddington

Recd 14 May

Phila May 13. 1862.

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

I herewith enclose Shipping Articles of the Crew of the Propeller. Three of the men hesitated to sign, and I rejected them, as none but unflinching men will answer. There is no difficulty in filling up the list with the right kind of men.

The old crew had scattered - one of the best has shipped on the Lancaster, a merchantman - and another is on a fishing smack. Alexander Rhode and Jean Lambert are first rate hands and handle the boat with skill. The former deserves a grade higher than one of the Crew.

I spent this morning at the Navy Yard, and saw the boat move with 12 fins, and was satisfied that her speed will answer.

Mr Eakins was also there, at work. He is an excellent mechanician thoroughly versed in the business, and I feel that he would be an invaluable aid. Mr Thomas concurs in that opinion, and thinks he would take the boat at $1000 per yr. — If you engage him, I would advise that he should have exclusive command, and that no naval officer be attached to her.

I send you herewith a list of the old crew, with their times of service, and as to some, what they have received as wages. It may surprise you, but I feel it my duty to give you the information.

In order to secure accuracy in disbursements for the crew and boat, I am willing to undertake the task of certifying the bills and paying the men. You may thus be assured of their being strictly correct. I think that course is advisable, not only as to the crew, but, to secure justice not only to the Government but to the Contractor, as to the boat. For instance; the Silver sheets should be limited to what is necessary, and so as to other matters. In other words, strict honesty and judicious economy should be observed.

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Porte " " " " " " "
Poste " " " " " " "
Royer " " " " " " "
Bastian " " " " " " "
2 or 3 others names not recollected } " " " " " " "
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Joseph " " " " " " "
Emile " Feb 1. " " March 25.

They did not know how much these men had rec'd. If any thing. They are away – some enlisted – some at work in this city – some fishing &c –

Reported by
W L Hail

Commodore Joseph Smith.

Having been appointed an operative on the Sub Marin
Propeller now at the Navy Yard at Philadelph

I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and, further, that I do this with a full determination, pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and, further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

Amos W. Austin

State of Pennsylvania }
and City of Philadelphia } ss.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 14th day of May 1862

James T. Warnard J. P.
Alderman

Having been appointed an operator on the Sub Marine Propeller now at the Navy Yard at Philadelphi

I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and, further, that I do this with a full determination, pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and, further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

William Ross

State of Pennsylvania } ss.
nd city of Philadelphia }

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 14th day of May 1862

James L Warner J. P.
Alderman

Having been appointed an operative on the Sch. Marcia Propeller now at the Navy Yard Philadelphia

I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and, further, that I do this with a full determination, pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and, further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

Joseph Bates

State of Pennsylvania } ss.
City of Philadelphia }

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 14th day of May 1862

James E. Harmer J. P.
Alderman

Having been appointed an operative on the Fort Marion Propeller now at the Navy Yard Philadelphia I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and, further, that I do this with a full determination, pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and, further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

Philip C McCarron

State of Pennsylvania
and City of Philadelphia } ss.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 14th day of May 1862

James L Warnad J.
Alderman

Having been appointed an operative on the Sub Marine Propeller now at the Navy Yard Philadelphia

I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and, further, that I do this with a full determination, pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and, further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

George Washington

State of Pennsylvania }
and city of Philadelphia } ss.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 14th day of May 1862

Jams S Harned J. P.
Alderman

Having been appointed an operative on the Pat. Marine Propeller at the Navy Yard Philad^a

I do solemnly Oath that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and, further, that I do this with a full determination, pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and, further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

Benjamin B Claypoole

State of Pennsylvania }
And city of Philadelphia } ss.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 14th day of May 1862

James K. Harmer J. P.
Alderman

Rec. 15 May

112

Phila May 14. 1862

Commodore Joseph Smith

Head of Bureau Y & D

Dear Sir

Your communication of 13th is recd. Two of the four men Alexr Rhodes & Jno Lambert will be paid as directed & also Jno Frank when he returns to the Boat from his fishing boat. Henri Lambert sails today for Liverpool; he had shipped and could not leave, & his pay can be suspended till his return.

Mr Eaton is willing to engage at $1500. I have a very high opinion of him. I will send the oaths of allegiance of the crew.

I saw two of the old crew today — Pullin & Emile. They give a different statement as to the men, which I send below, and I think their information is correct. I can account for the discrepancy, as the crew have been scattered, & these two men have been more among them than Alexandre Rhodes.

Rhodes, the 2 Lamberts & Frank, they concur.

Pachan, commenced Dec. 10 & has been waiting unemployed –

Pullin – commenced Dec 10. – still waiting, unemployed
had recd nothing for wages, but has
recd on a/c of board of six men

Delavou (or Delson) commenced Dec. 10. waiting
until 6 weeks ago, then enlisted in Carter
Light Guards –

Francis Frion, commenced Dec 15. waiting until 6
weeks ago, then enlisted in Carter Light Guards.

Carpentier. commenced Dec 10 – waited until a month
ago, then went to Bethlehem

Pate – commenced Dec 10 – still waiting.

Poose " " " – waited until 5 weeks
ago, then went to tinning business –

Roger – commenced Dec. 10 – waited until now
except that he works 2 days in the week –

Bastian – commenced Dec 25 – waited until one
week ago,

Joseph – commenced Dec 25 } both supposed to be
Ennette – " " 10 } with M deVilliers

Emile " " " – still waiting –
has recd no wages –

Francois – commenced Dec 15, waiting yet –

Pierre Allagard – " " " waited until a
month ago, then went to Bethlehem

Jn Baptiste Monier – commenced Dec 15, left
2 months ago to work at straw hats

These two men explain that they began (those marked Dec 10) on the 3d Decr but that M. deVilleroi said he wanted make it an even date & return the pay roll to Washington as of Dec. 10th, which accords with his receipt for 21 days in Decr

They say they have sought M deVilleroi every where for their wages, — and are told he is in Washington; tho' they doubt it, for his unopened letters still remain at 1325 Penn St. where they daily enquire for him.

Respectfully
Wm L Hirst

P. S. These men said that they & others of the crew had ascertained from the Navy Agent that their wages had been paid to 1st Jany —

Henri Lambert is now at my office — he will try to leave the ship & join the Propeller.—

Howard V. Bates oath of allegiance will be made tomorrow; he was absent on leave today, sick.

I enclose a copy of appointment of Mr. Eakins. It is useless to seek after M deVilleroi —

Philada May 14. 1862

Saml Eakins Esq
Philadelphia

Sir,

I am authorized by Commodore Joseph Smith Chief of Bureau of Yards & Docks to engage your services as Superintendent of the Sub Marine Propeller now at the Navy Yard Phila, at a salary of $1500 per year payable monthly during the pleasure of the government, on your taking the oath of allegiance prescribed by law.

You will signify to Commodore Smith your acceptance, and report to him for instructions without delay.

Respectfully
W L Hirst

Hirst. Wm L.
Philª.

Bureau of Yards & Docks
15th May 1862

Your letters of the 13th and 14th inst. with enclosures, have been received.— Your appointment of Mr Eakin to superintend the Propeller at the rate of $1500. per annum during the pleasure of the Department, is approved.— Let him take charge of the boat and orders will be given to him when you have fixed upon the men to be employed on her.— It is not necessary to engage a full crew, since the occasion for using the boat has gone by, and she may never be employed as an instrument of war.— I would not advise that Lambert be urged to give up his voyage, as his employment on the Propeller may not be of long duration.— Under existing laws the bounty to the men cannot be allowed, and I so informed M. De Villeroi after the first four of his crew had received it.— I am willing that the men who remained may be paid for the time they were employed since the 1st of January last, up to which time De Villeroi was paid $712.26 for his crew, and also his own salary in full to that date.— In his letter to the Bureau M. DeVilleroi intimates that since he was "brutally dismissed", and the pay of his crew stopped, they have been subsisted at his expense.—

The whole affair has been a source of much annoyance, and I regret ever to have had any connection with it.—

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith

recd. 15 May

Philadelphia 14th May

113

Commodore Joseph Smith
Chief of Bureau of Yards & Docks

Sir

I have received a communication from Mr Hirst: to the effect that he is authorized to engage my services as Superintendent of the Sub-marine propeller now at the Navy Yard Philada at a salary of $1500 per year payable monthly during the pleasure of the Government. on my taking the oath of allegiance prescribed by law.

I have the pleasure of accepting herewith said appointment, & of enclosing to you the oaths of allegiance duly signed & sworn.
Awaiting your instructions

I remain
Very Respectfully
Yr Obt Servt
Saml Eakins
754 Nth 3d St
Philada

Having been appointed by the Navy Department Superintendent of the Sub Marine Propeller now at the Navy Yard Philadelphia

I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention or Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and, further, that I do this with a full determination, pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and, further, that I will well and faithfully perform all the duties which may be required of me by law. So help me God.

State of Pennsylvania }
City of Philadelphia } ss.

Saml Eakins

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 14 day of May 1862

Chas. F. Helffricht, J. P.

rec^d. 17th May

Philad^a. May 16. 1862

Commander Joseph Smith
Chief of Bureau &c &c

Dear Sir

Your letter of 15th is duly received & contents well noted.

I send a list of wages and board due the crew. I required their personal attendance — all attended to day except those in the Army and in Bethlehem and Joseph Gattener & Hennette, who are entitled to 4 months wages at (I suppose) the same rate $16 per mo, & board @ $2.50 per week except as to Joseph Gattener whose board for a part of the time $17.90 is included in Paulin's bill herewith sent — These, with the four months wages of the first four men whose contract was $40 per month are, I believe, all, —

All the men who are present concur in stating that their engagement was $16 per mo & $2.50 per week board, until the boat should leave this City on duty.

The following wish to serve in the Boat, Pauze — Paulin — Thery — Monier — Porte — Paquin & Emile — They have experience & are good men, & I should have engaged them at once, but for your instruction not to employ a full crew. I will await your orde as to how many to employ. Should there not be a complete crew (18 and a Steersman) until she is tested, at least, & fairly worked? It takes 18 men at the fins—

I regret that you have been "annoyed" with this enterprise — but I feel that the result will reward you for it. If the enterprise is a success, of which I have no doubt, permit me to hope that your adoption of it will, hereafter, be a source of satisfaction, and, I trust, pride. The boat has required more fixing up than was expected, but it is now in the right hands and there will be no time lost. I have done, and will do, my best to relieve you from annoyance; and it was to prevent any overpayments that I required the crew to attend before me

Please state in approving the Bill either that the Navy agent, or myself, to pay the men. Henri Lambert & Mr Frank desire to join the boat. Lambert can get a ship at any time, and I have explained to all that their services may not be required long. They waive the bounty —

Respectfully

Wm. L. Hunt

Sub Marine Propeller –

For wages of crew & subsistence.

Pierre Allegard	, wages ———	$ 48.–
Charles De Carpentier	, " ———	48.–
Francis Laurent	" ———	48.–
Alfred Delaivau	" ———	48.–
Jnt Baptiste Monier	, " and board	101.50
Roux	" ———	48.–
Emile Coblentz	" and board ——	79–
Antoine Porte	" " "	84.
Sebastian Thery	" " "	84.30
Royet	" " "	96.90
Jean Pauze	" " "	94–
Jacques Paquin	" " "	149–
R. Paulin ———	" " "	164.40
		$ 1093.10
Charles Houseman, board ——		35
		$ 1138.10
Alexandre Rhodes	wages subsistence &c	160–
John Lambert ———	" "	160–
Henri Lambert	" "	160–
John Frank	" "	160–
		$ 1778.10

ilada. May 16. 1862.

Kirsh Wm. L.
Phila.

C. N. W. R.

Bureau of Yards & Docks
17th May 1862

Your letter of the 16th inst. with its enclosures, has been received.—

The Bureau paid De Villeroi in full, for the seventeen men he had engaged, to the 31st of December at the rate of $40. per month for pay and subsistence of each man.— If there is any thing due prior to that date the parties must look to De Villeroi for it.— Under the authority given to you, you will pay the men who have been waiting on the boat the amount that may be due from the 1st of January to the 1st of May at the rate they were engaged according to their own statement, viz: $16. per month for wages and $2.50 per week for board.— To this end you will make out a bill in your own name, stating the amount due to each man services without mentioning for board, and the bill will be approved by the Bureau, to be paid by the Navy Agent at Philadelphia.—

Any bargain you may make for the employment of the crew since the 1st of May must be at a stated sum per month including pay and subsistence— this will simplify the matter.—

I return the several bills as they may facilitate you in making up the account.—

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith

P.S.—

As regards the number of men to be employed at present, that is left to your descretion, having reference to the views of the Bureau previously expressed on this point.—

Rec'd. 19th May

Philadelphia May 17th 1862.

120

Commodore Joseph Smith.

Sir,

Thus far our correspondence has been direct, if I had received the letters in question direct, I should certainly have read and answered them. That would have been my duty. But the contractor intermeddled there, and I, not wishing to have anything to do with him any longer, refused all indirect communication. I have given to no third person the right to treat for me, not more to Mr. Hirst than to any other.

In respect to my discharge, if the word used by me has offended, allow me to explain, ~~that~~ it was not intended to be personel. The French express their discontent in stronger terms than you do, and for them a dismissal is always a humilization, which they cannot well digest, when there are no grave motives.

Without any further recrimination on the past, as I have the honor to tell to the Secretary himself, I am alway devoted to the Government. If the Navy-Department thinks my services of some use, I am ready to receive propositions, which I think will be just enough to be accepted by me.

It must not be forgotten that 20 men of the crew were at my expense during four months, and having received but 21 days pay for 17 men (from Dec. 10th till 31st) I have spent a great deal of my own money.

I have the honor to be
Respectfully
your obedient servant

Poste office

Bureau of Yards and Docks.

M. de Villeroi - Phila.,
19th May 1862.

I have received your letter of the 17th inst., and in reply would state that all my communications have been addressed to you direct, passing only in one or two instances through the hands of Mr Hirst.

I called upon you to complete the boat on Government account, agreeing to pay you and your crew from the date of the suspension of your pay on the 1st of January last, but you declined to receive or take any notice of the Bureau's communications.

The Government therefore was compelled to make other arrangements for completing the boat, and to engage a Commander to take charge of and operate her.

I had always considered you as a party to the Contract, although you did not sign it. Your quarrel with the contractor should not have interfered with your duty to the Government.

I can only regret the course you have seen proper to pursue. Some of the men whom you had engaged will be paid by the Government.

The Department has no farther propositions to offer.

Respectfully,
Your obt. Servt.
Jos: Smith.

Philadelphia May 17th 1862.

Honorable Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

Sir,

I do not wish to make any recrimination on the past, nor on the tribulations that I have experienced. I am devoted to the Government as much as ever; but my correspondence with your Department having always been *direct*, I have given the right to no one to make arrangements for me, not more to Mr. Hirst than to any other.

On account of difficulties that arose between the contractor and myself, I have been *discharged* (for the French character this is a humiliation). The contract was broken as has been announced to me. Accordingly there is no more engineer nor contractor. But the rights of the inventor are still in question, and in respect to that I depend entirely on the equity of the Government. But things must pass direct with me. If you think my services of use for the Government, please make your conditions. I think they will be just enough to be accepted by me. Allow me only to recall to you, that 20 men have been at my expense from January 1st till April 15th, and as I have received only 21 days pay (from Dec. 10th till 31st) for 17 men, I have spent a great deal of my own money. In this affair I have worked more for glory than for money. My nature is not that of contractors.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully

your obedient servant

De Villeroi

Post office

De Villeroi. M.
Phil^a.

Bureau of Yards & Docks
21th May 1862

C. N. W. R.

Your letter of the 17th inst to the Secretary of the Navy has been referred to this Bureau.—

Mr. Wm L. Hirst was appointed by the Department to act in its behalf in the matter of the Sub-Marine Propeller under the belief that he was your confidential adviser and Counsellor.— I presume you do not claim to dictate to the Government whom it shall appoint as its agent.— Mr Hirst has full power to act in the matter at issue and if you will call on him immediately, he will doubtless make such explanations and arrangements as will be satisfactory to you.—

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt
Jos. Smith

you that there will be no excuse
to use the boat as an instrument of
war. I have noticed this question of
[illegible] and [illegible] it.
[illegible] the [illegible] & [illegible]
-vernment [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible]; there was no danger of it:
but now, that the boat is [illegible]
at [illegible], [illegible]
of [illegible], there is, in my judgment
a [illegible] for that. There go-
-vernment will not let slip the
chance of [illegible] the [illegible]; they
have been [illegible] of war. I [illegible]
the [illegible] that there is [illegible] of
[illegible] (a [illegible]
[illegible]) [illegible] to [illegible] their
[illegible] and [illegible]: and [illegible]
[illegible], at [illegible]
[illegible] will [illegible] the
Respectfully [illegible]

Phil^a May 19. 1862

Com. Joseph Smith, Chief of Bureau

Dear Sir

I enclose, as directed, a bill for the crew of the Propeller; the following are the items —

Rhodes, 2 Lamberts & Frank and John	//	1420
C. Hausman	board	35.
F. Allegard	wages	48
C. de Carpentier,	"	48
Francis Lamech,	"	48
A. Delacour	"	48
J. B. Monier	" & board	101.50
J. Irving	"	48
Emile Coblenz	" & board	79.
Antoine Porte	" & board	84.
Sebastian Thery	" & board	84.30
Royet	" & board	91.90
Jean Pauzé	" & board	94.
Jacques Paquin	" & board	149
B. Paulin	" & board	164.40
		$1768.10

These include all the crew but Joseph Hennette, Mr. Gettner, so far as I have heard their names; but this morning a bill was presented by Chr Dottman, & it was said that his name was sent to you by M. deVilleroi – His bill for wages & board is $81.25 – Gettner's is $77.50 Hennette's (who was engaged at $20 per month) is $125 – These, and a bill of Mrs Ellen Knox for boarding of about $80 are all the claims that I know, or have heard of –

I have engaged one more hand, Chr P Miller, who has been under, in the boat, at $40 – he is a machinist, & would not engage for less – If I had known that DeVilleroi had engaged at $60 & board, I should not have engaged at $40; but I will make the best terms I can & only engage what is absolutely necessary.

I wish I could assure both you that there will be no occasion to use this boat as an instrument of war. I have watched this question of foreign intervention and dread it. As long as the English & French governments thought the South could succeed, there was no danger of it: but now, that the North is dealing its tremendous blows, and certain of triumph, there is, in my judgment, a reasonable fear that those governments will not let slip the chance of dividing the Union; They have been jealous of us – & dread us. A country that has a million of men in arms (as both nations now have) is very likely to excite their jealousy and fear: and believe me, any slight reverse, at Corinth or Richmond, ~~will~~ may precipitate their action.

Respectfully W L [illegible]

C. N. W. R.

Hirst. Wm L.
Phila.

Bureau of Yards & Docks
20th May 1862

I have received your letter of the 19th inst. with bills enclosed.—

The ~~services~~ services of the men can only be recognized and paid for under the appropriation for "Pay of the Navy".— The Government does not pay board and cannot admit bills therefor.— The allowance of $16. per month and $2½. per week for subsistence, should be stated at so much per month, say $27. for pay per month of each person employed, they being presumed to find their own subsistence.— In your letter of the 14th inst. you state that some of the men had left six weeks before— Of course they should be paid only for the time they were actually in service under their engagement with DeVilleroi.— I know of no way to ascertain how long each served except by DeVilleroi's certificate.— If he declines to certify you must require the written affidavit of the men and embrace the amount due to each on your bill according to the form enclosed.— This mode of employing and paying men is irregular, because of the peculiar nature of the enterprise, and it is difficult to state the account so as to pass the accounting officers of the Treasury.—

Mr. DeVilleroi has written to the Secretary stating that he is ready to serve the Government.— The letter has been referred to me, and I enclose a Copy of my reply.— Now, if he is ready to take charge of the boat and act under the orders of the Government he can do so, and be paid his salary from the 1st of January last. He states he has advanced money on his own account to pay board for the crew since 1st Jany.— You will reconcile him if you can to serve under the orders of the Government, but he must decide forthwith.—

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith

rec.d 22 May

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Phil.a May 21. 1862

Commodore Joseph Smith
Chief of Bureau &c.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 20th with enclosures duly received.

It is useless to seek M de Villeroi. His most confidential man Jos. Huttener was at my office this afternoon. He told me that he did not know — and wished he did, where to find him — & that a letter from Washington which came this morning (no doubt yours) is lying at No 1325 Pine Street.

I made every effort to reach him but in vain. Having understood some days since that he had called on Judge Hare & Saml Powel Esq and enlisted their feelings in his behalf, I determined to make an effort through them to find access to him, & I supposed, from the high social position of these gentlemen that they could influence him, — I saw Judge Hare and showed him your despatches. He referred me to Mr Powel. I saw him, & exhibited to him also your despatches.

He wrote me a day or two afterwards that he thought that he could have a letter delivered into his hands. I wrote to him, (Del Mero) & enclosed it to Mr Powel. Yesterday I received from Mr Powel my own letter, his letter to Mr Del Mero's enclosing mine, & Mr Powel's reply to me — You will see from the letters, which I enclose, the anxiety & trouble taken to see Mr. Del Mero's. Further efforts are idle.

You perceive that on the 5th May, four days after he had received the pay of his crew (who, of course, have not been paid for they have been seeking him in vain) that he applied for a loan of money to assist his crew.

I regret deeply that he has conducted himself as he has — but, it is my deliberate judgment that, if the Government wishes to be properly served, they should require guarantees from him, if he should appear, & act without him, if he does not.

I recommend that the crew be required to appear before the District Attorney, for examination, & that he report on the case, before any payment is made. Altho' I believe the crew, Mon ami,

Mr Powel, who has manifested very kind feelings for you, informs me that he thinks he can cause this note to be placed in your hands. I hope he can. It has been a source of deep regret and pain that you have kept secluded — I have written you over and over again — the Commodore has also done so, but in vain. — I now propose that you would be kind enough to consent to see me at Mr Powel's house, in his presence, any time you appoint, — the interview shall be confidential and will not affect your desire to keep your residence unknown — Mr Powel has read this note, & his sending it to you is his approval of the interview —

Your friend
W L Avioh
May 15/72

M de Villiers

yet Mr de Villeneuve's assertion requires that for your sake, as well as mine, that that course be taken

Respectfully

1005 Arch St. May 15th 1862

To Mr De Villeroi -

My dear Sir

On Monday May 5. Madame De Villeroi called upon me to explain that you had very great difficulties with your crew; who were demanding from you the pay and expenses due them by the Government. I promised her that I would do all in my power to urge the Government to act justly & that I believed you ought to be paid.

Soon after I met Judge Hare who had united with me in feeling great interest in your succeſs. Through him I learned that the Government had become very anxious to have your boat completed as soon as poſsible - He had referred me to Mr Hirst. And from him I learned that the difficulties which had so long interfered with you, could easily be entirely removed, *if you could be found*, but that you had unfortunately gone out of town, just when all your difficulties would be removed, if you could be prevailed upon to see Mr Hirst. He aſsured me the neceſsary orders were already iſsued, and that the whole matter rested only with yourself - and he much desired to get the boat finished *at once*.

I will add to the above, that I was shown by Mr Hirst orders from the Government, now in his hands, *which in my judgment and opinion* *authorized the aſsurance he gave me*. I based this opinion of mine, upon all the knowledge I had been able to gain, from you and elsewhere, of the whole difficulty which troubled you.

I have no right to give you advice; but leaving you to judge what is your best course, I will simply state that judging by the official order Mr Hirst holds, I am persuaded that you and he can immediately settle the arrangement by which your veſsel will be finished and the amount due by the Government justly paid to you & the crew *immediately*. I shall be very glad if you choose to meet Mr Hirst at my house, as he invites you by the enclosed note -

Yours very respectfully Saml Powel

1005 Arch St. Phila. May 19. 1862

To W. L. Hovit Esq.

Dear Sir

I hasten to inform you of the result of my effort in Mr. De Villeroi's affair; to my surprise and great regret it has been entirely unsuccessful.

Your note dated May 14, enclosing one for me to transmit to Mr De Villeroi, reached my hands late in the afternoon of the fifteenth. I at once sought my friend through whom I hoped to get the note delivered, and he expressed readiness to do all in his power. I then returned home and wrote a note enclosing your communication. It was impossible to transmit the note till the 16th. when my friend took charge of it. He remained expectant till last evening, when he told me he had been desired to call for my answer. This afternoon I went to see him, and he then returned to me my packet precisely as I had sent it. He told me that it had been offered to Madame De Villeroi for her husband – that she had declined to receive it – that she had declined to receive any communication from you on the subject – that she would only receive a communication from the Government – that the contract had been terminated or suspended by the government, and that her husband was ready to make a new contract with the government – at least the above is what my friend *was informed* Madame De Villeroi had said; for he did not see her, and her words may not have been either reported to him nor remembered by me with perfect precision –. Still I am disposed to think that I have written above a pretty correct report, for it seems consistent with what you had explained to me. It does not however diminish my surprise at my failure, for you will perceive that I wrote a very full note which

covered

Hirst, Wm L.
Phila

C. N. W P

Bureau of Yards & Docks
22d May 1862

I have received your letter of the 21st inst, with its enclosures.—

I approve of your suggestions and request you will call on the District Attorney and cite the crew to appear before him and qualify as to the understanding each of them had with DeVilleroi in regard to their pay — how long and on what duty they were employed by him; and what amount of compensation each received from him & when.—

You will then make out bills & certify to them, which I will have paid through the regular channel.—

If all means to meet Mr DeVilleroi and arrange with him fail, as seems to have been the case, you will enter into a written agreement with Mr Eakin to take charge of the boat, with instructions how to use her, to serve during the pleasure of the Department, and report to Commo: Goldsborough at Hampton Roads for duty on that station.—

You will make any changes which you may deem necessary for the success of the enterprize.—

Commodore Pendergrast has been directed to afford you every facility in equipping and despatching the boat.— When she is ready to depart I will issue the necessary order for that purpose.—

Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jos. Smith