

Copy -
U. S. Steam Sloop Oneida
off Mobile Oct. 8. 1862

Sir -

I have just read in a newspaper a "General order" issued by yourself by direction of the President, dismissing me from the Navy for neglect of duty, in permitting the armed Steamer "Oreto" to run the blockade of Mobile. Said order stating that I failed to do my utmost to overtake, capture or destroy said vessel which it was my duty to encounter and "omitted the plain and ordinary duty of committed to an officer". Such is not the opinion of the officers of this Squadron who are knowing to see the circumstances, and I am ready and able to prove I did my duty and my whole duty fairly, energetically and zealously and demand the privilege of a Court of Inquiry, anticipating a revocation of your order, as public, as this has been made and a restoration to this command.

I have not written for the receipt of the official announcement of my dismissal as this disgrace inflicted upon my honored name is more than I can bear.

Though unwilling to boast my own services I refer you to the records of the Navy Dept for my twenty seven years of honorable service - including active service in the Florida, Mexican & present war, as also ^{on the} ~~against~~ Coast of China against pirates. Is it likely with such a record, and where my Com'dg Officer the Admiral of the Squadron says

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

MMN # 74388

Date: October 8, 1862

Description: George Henry Preble wrote to Gideon Welles with a plea that he be reinstated.

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"there was ~~no~~ want of vigilance." I would
fail to exert myself to the utmost in chase
of a flying enemy.

I do not know, or understand, what
"Plain and ordinary duty" I omitted.

I do not think that either yourself or the
President would do mean intentional
injustice, and believe action has been
taken hastily under erroneous impressions.

I therefore ask for free & fair inves-
tigation before a court of inquiry or
Court Martial, and that the decision
or sentence, may be made as freely
public as your order.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Srvt
Geo. Henry Preble
Commander

Hon.
Gideon Welles -
Secretary of the Navy
Washington
D.C.

Commander Preble
appears in the
of the Navy
"B"

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Hon.
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Secretary of the Navy
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[written sideways] Commander Prebles
appeal to the Secy
of the Navy

"B"