I have copied all the papers that I think of importance with regard to this claim. My statement to Mr Ballinger is as full as I could make again, and you may regard the same statement as made to yourself.

I am satisfied the draft never was in the hands of Mellier after I received it. I think so, because I never saw him after that date, and I am convinced I did not send it to him by mail having no authority to make that disposition of it, and considering also the extreme uncertainty of our mail communication at that time. Again, I am in the habit of retaining copies, or the original draft of all important letters, &c, and was more in the habit then than now, having fewer of them to write, and in searching for papers in relation to this Mellier claim, I have not seen any copy of a letter, or memorandum indicating that such a disposition has been made of it.

Respectfully
Your obt Servt
Geo. W. Smyth

Messrs C. C. & R. H. Hartley
Gainesville