Navy Department
8th February, 1838

Sir,

It is with extreme regret and mortification that circumstances, entirely unexpected, but beyond my control, should have occurred, to prevent my ~~completing~~ completing the contract on the part of the Government for the purchase of the Brig Potomac.

At the time of her purchase we were destitute of a vessel, and daily expecting a visit from the Enemy when it was considered, after consultation, that the Purchase of the Potomac, fitting out her and the Correo, would under the then existing state of affairs be the most eligible step that could be taken. To this the Executive consented, and had a full and perfect knowledge of the purpose of my visit to Galveston.

After my departure, it seems, that upon further reflections, he considered that he was not authorized by law to sanction any appropriation either for her purchase Provisioning, or Fitting out. Placed in this Situation although he respectfully differing from the Executive in opinion, I have been put to the painful necessity of stopping all further repairs and have been reduced to the equally painful di[illegible] of disappointing you, by not being able to [illegible] with the contract which I had every reason [illegible] would have instantly been fulfilled when I entered into it. However I have this consolation to rest upon; the certainty of the contract being sanctioned by Congress for I feel full confidence in their Honor, liberality and patriotism, and have no doubt, that upon my laying before them a full statement of the transaction they will approve all that I have done, and make the necessary appropriations to enable this Department to pay for the Brig and complete the design of