New York
Dec. 5, 1870

Dear President,

I have read the letter of Admiral Porter to the late Secretary of the Navy (W. M. Welles). I have also read the explanation of offence of Admiral Porter. And I most earnestly recommend you to send to the Senate the name of some other person for Admiral. I have no ill feeling against Porter, and before this, had no prejudice. But he is not the right man for so great destruction, and he is already filling a higher grade in the Navy. Now his merit must be seen to.

Faithfully your friend,

U. S. Grant
President.