Hartford Sept. 6th, 1861

Hon. Gideon Welles,

Dear Sir,

Your friends and neighbors embrace the opportunity of this brief visit to your family, offering to you a cordial welcome.

We expected, when the President at the most critical period of our Country's history called you to the head of the Navy Department, because we knew that you possessed the ability, the integrity and the true love of our whole country, which the emergency required. And the events of the past six months have abundantly confirmed our confidence.

By your untiring, unostentatious labor, the Navy has been renovated, its material and personal strength wonderfully increased: Unworthy Officers superseded by true Patriots; and large additions have been made by judicious purchases of Ships, without yielding to corrupt influences of dishonest speculators. Under your wise and efficient guidance, our gallant Navy—its annals' pride and glory—promises to keep its laurels ever green; and the recent brilliant success at Hatteras, in which it bore so conspicuous a part, is an earnest of what we may expect for the future.
We should the hope that the administration of our
patriots' Pelosi and his cabinet will be the means
under Providence, of good enlightening the mountain of
which has been stirred up by ambitious and disappointed political
leaders, and which has returned to our patriotic country—no
more clearly united than ever before, by the utter extinction of
the dangerous opinions that are treacherously paramount to the
sovereignty of the United States.

We respectfully accept your acceptance of our
invitation to a public dinner to be given at your own grace
given on May 4th, at such time as may suit your
convenience, where your friends and the friends of the
Union, may have the opportunity of testifying their
influence and attachment, in a formal manner.

With every mark of friendship and esteem,

We are ever yours, cordially,

[Signatures]

[Names and Signatures]
Morris Collins
Albert J. Day
S F. Seymour
Charley Day
Ellery Hills
Henry Henry
Ezraing Smith
E W. Parker
Elisha Cole
J. P. Ballew
Franklin Trumbull
Mr. & Mrs. Sugden
G. R. B. R.
C. H. Wells Root
Lawrie Lipton