

Navy Department,
28th March, 1862.

Edwin Walker - Secretary
March 28th 1862
About Washington &
Bartlett's Case

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 26th Inst., and do not propose to argue, nor indeed to express an opinion in the case of W. A. Bartlett.

Your remark however that:

"Early in
the present session I called on you and
told you that I was satisfied that great
injustice had been done to Mr Bartlett,
and requested you to send his name to
the Senate that it might be fully examined
and passed upon, first by the Senate
Committee on Naval Affairs, and then
by the whole Senate. This you declined
to do and added that if the Committee
would take the responsibility of examining
the case and would recommend such a
course, Mr Bartlett's name should be sent
into the Senate. Having this assurance,
I retired from the Navy Department and
communicated

"communicated the same to the Com-
mittee of the Senate and also to Mr.
Bartlett."

I recollect in one of the conversations that we had on this subject you expressed your conviction that if Mr. Bartlett's case could come before the Senate, his restoration would be ordered. In the course of that conversation, while I declined to send in his name, it was suggested that the Senate might institute an investigation without action by the Department, and I would in that event send to that body any and all testimony relating to him in our possession.

It certainly was not my intention at any time to intimate that I would commit the Department or the administration in this matter, by a nomination on the action of the committee, or a majority of it, and I exceedingly regret that I should have been misunderstood.

I am, respectfully,
Yours Obedt. Servt.
Gideon Welles

Hon. John P. Hale,
Chairman Naval Committee,
U.S. Senate.