54TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } SENATE. { REPORT No. 1088.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 29, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DUBOIS, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1350.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (S. 1350) to make Commodore William P. McCann, of the Navy, a rear-admiral on the retired list, beg leave to report the same to the Senate, with a recommendation that the bill do pass.

The same bill was introduced during the first session of the Fifty-second Congress, and in connection with that measure Senator Chandler submitted the following memorandum of the record of Commodore McCann as an officer:

A sketch of Commodore William P. McCann's record would extend over a period of forty-three and a half years. He has been intrusted with important commands, and the records of the Navy Department show that his career as a naval officer has been successful and meritorious.

As lieutenant he assisted at the two reenforcements of Fort Pickens, at the commencement of the civil war, and in blockading the coast of South Carolina. He was in the *Sabine* when that vessel rescued a battalion of marines with the officers and crew of the steamer *Governor* that foundered in a gale off Cape Romain, saving 400 men of Admiral Dupont's Port Royal expedition. He was in frequent engagements with the forts and batteries of Yorktown and Gloucester Point while temporarily in command of the *Maratanza*, and, as executive officer of that vessel, in numerous actions during the Peninsular campaign on the York and Pamunky rivers, and also on the James and Appomattox rivers; at the capture of the gunboat *Teazer*, the actions of Point of Rocks and West Point, and was with the Army at Malvern Hill and Harrisons Landing, and until its withdrawal from the Peninsula. Later he cooperated with the Army of the Potomac, covering the evacuation of Aquia Creek and coming to the defense of Washington.

He assisted in blockading Wilmington, N. C., and in action with batteries near Fort Caswell had one officer and one petty officer killed and several men wounded. He was promoted to lieutenant-commander and placed in command of the *Hunchback* in the sounds of North Carolina. Admiral Murray, in his report of the repulse of the enemy at the battle at Newbern, March 14, 1863, commended his successful action in the strongest language. Subsequently, in command of five gunboats, he had frequent engagements with batteries at Hills and Swains points on the Pamlico, during the siege of Little Washington.

Commanding the *Kennebec*, blockading Mobile in 1863 and 1864, he captured three valuable prizes, with 45 rebel officers and blockade runners. He was mentioned in Admiral Farragut's congratulatory order to the fleet on the attack and destruction of the *Ivanhoe* under the guns of Fort Morgan; was fifth in the column of vessels, lashed to the *Monongahela*, which, after engaging and passing the forts, batteries, and ships, were the first vessels to ram and engage the ironclad *Tennessee* in Mobile Bay, having seven officers and men wounded, one of the latter mortally. He had the thanks of the Navy Department in a letter from Secretary Welles commendatory of his conduct at New Orleans during the riots of July, 1866, and was advanced sixteen numbers on the list of commanders for war services.

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

Appended is a copy of Secretary Tracy's commendatory letter for his services while in command of the South Pacific Station during the civil war in Chile (returning the Chilean steamer *Itata* and arms to San Diego, Cal.), and also copies of complimentary reports of his efforts to establish an armistice between the contending factions in Chile. The author of the complimentary notice published in La Patria, of Iquique, was Señor Isodoro Errazuriz, minister of exterior affairs of the Junta de Gobierno—the same from whom he had demanded and received the surrender of the *Itata* with arms and munitions.

Since his last cruise he has been president of the examining board for line officers and the retiring board, from which duties he was relieved and transferred to the retired list in consequence of age, May 4, 1892. His retirement was strictly in accordance with law, and he comes with no complaint or grievance to be redressed by Congress, but simply as a petitioner for the higher rank for which he fought and worked for many years, and which he believes he has earned and hopes Congress may bestow.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 29, 1891.

SIR: The Department having instructed you by cable to-day to turn over the command of the South Pacific Station to Rear-Admiral Brown, and to proceed to New York by steamer, preparatory to resuming the command of the South Atlantic Station, desires to express to you its high appreciation of the efficient manner in which you have performed the responsible and delicate duties which have devolved upon you as commander in chief of the South Pacific Station, in consequence of the civil war now existing in the Republic of Chile.

Very respectfully,

B. F. TRACY,
Secretary of the Navy.

Rear-Admiral WM. P. MCCANN, U. S. Navy,
Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Force on South Atlantic and South Pacific Stations.

NOTE.—He was relieved from command of the South Atlantic and South Pacific stations on August 15, and ordered as president of the naval examining and retiring boards, August 17, 1891.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, September 25, 1891.

SIR: The Department is gratified to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the State Department, dated September 22, together with a copy of extracts from the letter therein mentioned, dated August 1, written to the State Department by the United States consul at Iquique, Chile.

Respectfully,

F. M. RAMSAY,
Acting Secretary of the Navy.

Commodore WM. P. MCCANN, U. S. Navy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 22, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to send you herewith, inclosed for your information, a copy of dispatch No. 542 from the consul at Iquique, Chile, in which he speaks in the highest terms of the manner in which Rear-Admiral McCann conducted important negotiations with the Congressional party, and of the cordial relations which existed between them, brought about by the good judgment and friendly spirit shown by the rear-admiral and the other officers in command of the United States vessels.

With the dispatch is transmitted a translation of an editorial from the Patria, the official organ of the Junta, in regard to the efforts of Rear-Admiral McCann to bring about an armistice.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM F. WHARTON,
Acting Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Iquique, Chile, August 1, 1891.

SIR: Although it is not expected that consuls should pass upon the merits or acts of naval officers to whom are confided important negotiations, still I am inclined to believe that the Department will overlook what may seem, at first sight, an officious intrusion upon ground that it may not become me to tread, for the reason that were

I to remain silent the Department would probably remain in ignorance of the merits of Rear-Admiral McCann, as shown in his treatment of important questions at issue between our Government and the provisional government at Iquique, and by his attempt to bring about an armistice between the contending parties in the civil war now existing in Chile has done much toward smoothing off the asperities of a vexed question and has brought credit upon our Navy. The modesty of Admiral McCann would, I am sure, prevent his alluding to the exquisite tact displayed by him in his intercourse with the members of this Government, and particularly with Mr. Errazuriz, the minister of foreign affairs.

It is due to him that the real value of his important services be made known, for although in less skillful hands the same result would perhaps been attained, yet it is extremely satisfactory to know that from the beginning to the end of the negotiations Admiral McCann succeeded by his urbane manners, his skillful avoidance of everything which could wound the delicate sensibilities of these people, who could not conceal their keen sense of humiliation in being obliged to send back the *Itata*, he succeeded, I repeat, in obtaining everything asked for by our Government without the occurrence of a single disagreeable incident or the utterance of a word which would have aggravated their discomfort.

It is only just to add that Admiral McCann was ably seconded by Rear-Admiral Brown, and by Capt. Schley of the *Baltimore*. The excellent knowledge of the Spanish language possessed by Capt. Schley facilitated his useful cooperation with Admiral McCann.

The presence at one time in the Bay of Iquique of three United States ships of war was generally looked upon as an imposing show of the strength of a strong power, which was interpreted as an attempt to intimidate a weak power, and which greatly embittered the minds of the people against our Government. No hostile demonstration of any kind has been made directly by word or act against any of the officers of the fleet, against me, nor against other Americans resident here.

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Returning to the matter of the impression produced upon this people by the presence of our war ships, I still believe that it contributed to the successful issue of the negotiations then pending. I think, moreover, that the exhibition on this coast of one or more of our battle ships would greatly increase their respect for us.

The Patria of Iquique is owned by Mr. Errazuriz, the minister of foreign affairs, and may be considered to be the organ of the Junta. I inclose the leading article of that paper of the 11th of July, together with my translation of the same:

It alludes in very complimentary terms to Rear-Admiral McCann, and reproduces an extract from a letter of the Admiral to Mr. Errazuriz, which produced a very happy effect, not only on the members of the Junta, but also upon the public mind.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. W. MERRIAM, *U. S. Consul.*

Hon. WILLIAM F. WHARTON,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

[Inclosure 2 in dispatch No. 542, August 1, 1891.]

Translation of the leading article of the Patria of Iquique, of July 11, 1891.

The documented history of the negotiations initiated by Rear-Admiral McCann, of the United States Navy, with our Junta de Gobierno, with the object of putting an end to the civil war, or at least of bringing about an armistice, is already in possession of the public. Although this is only one of various negotiations having the same object in view and attended with the same results, still it has an important political interest, inasmuch as it exhibits the tendency, the aspirations, and the conduct of the Government in Iquique by incontrovertible public documents.

It was no friendly mission that brought to our shores the honorable Rear-Admiral McCann, and yet his relations with us were never marked by harshness, but, on the contrary, they were distinguished by a tone of cordiality which is quite uncommon under similar circumstances.

Official relations had hardly been established between us when Admiral McCann expressed to the provisional government his earnest desire to contribute in some way toward terminating or mitigating the severity of the struggle in which we were involved, and prudently insinuated the possibility of effecting an armistice which would remove from the contest its bitter character, and produce a state of calmness and tranquility of mind which would permit, with a prospect of a favorable result, the discussion of final negotiations of peace.

The idea of the armistice was unhesitatingly accepted by the minister of foreign affairs, who at once, in the name of the Junta de Gobierno, so declared to Admiral McCann.

On this, as on all former occasions, no obstacle was placed on our part toward coming to an understanding.

The only object of the armed resistance made by the Congress of Chile against the dictator was to return to the country the rule of a constitutional form of government, and this resistance has never been subservient to personal aspirations, to the predominance of a faction, nor to the vain and low wish for glory and the effusion of blood.

Consequently every insinuation of peace, every proposition of an amicable arrangement has found us favorably disposed, and we have even prepared the road and facilitated the work, as became our generous object and our earnest wish to avoid greater evils and the effusion of blood.

Knowing as we do the subversive, autocratic, and fatuous character of the dictator, and knowing that the only object which he pursues is the miserable one of personal predominance and lucre, we have never formed illusions as to the result of friendly interventions, and we have always believed that it would be the rock against which the generous insinuations of neutrals would have to strike, as also the noble aspirations of the country and the concessions of the representatives of the constitutional party.

This, in fact, has taken place on every occasion, and it was particularly proved by the diplomatic incident which now comes to light for the study of belligerents and neutrals.

Admiral McCann having proposed the armistice for a period of four months, which was accepted by the Junta of Iquique, he left nothing undone to have the project presented to the dictator and to give it his most enthusiastic support, for Admiral McCann sincerely believed that it would not fail to meet with the hearty approval of the dictator.

Unfortunately our prediction was again realized. The dictator positively refused to entertain the idea of an armistice, without giving any reason whatever for his rude and peremptory refusal, as appears from the note passed by Mr. Egan, United States minister, to Admiral McCann, who furnished a copy of it to our minister of foreign affairs.

The American admiral felt mortified, without doubt, by this strange refusal, which was far from discreet, and which lacked the usual forms of culture.

Nevertheless he favorably received the suggestion of the American minister that he should ask of us our conditions of an agreement, and that we should state the limits of our demands, in order that he might convey them to the American minister at Santiago.

In view of former failures, and of the absolutely bad faith which the dictator had always exhibited, we could only lament the unfavorable result of Admiral McCann's project without making new attempts, which would have had the same barren results as the former ones.

And yet, as a last homage to a neutral, friendly offer, our minister of foreign affairs declared that all of the conditions proposed by the *Junta de Gobierno* of Iquique, and all of its aspirations, were limited to the integrity of the constitutional system of Chile and the repudiation of every act and every condition based upon the violation of the laws, a declaration which Admiral McCann offered to convey to his Government.

The grandeur of our cause and the nobility of our procedures stood out again in prominent relief, and formed a remarkably striking contrast with the acts and pretentions of the dictator. It was not possible to move moderate in our demands. We asked for no compensation whatever for the sacrifices endured, for the blood spilled, for the attacks and insults and ruin caused by the dictator. We asked for nothing but that which is the most generous national aspiration, a return to a constitutional regimen, to the regimen of all of our life as a nation, to the foundation of our existence, of our progress, and of our liberty, political, civil, and social.

There you have the compendium of the revolution. It is its pride, its greatness, its justification, and it will be its triumphal badge or its funeral shroud.

Rear-Admiral McCann showed the highest appreciation of our sentiments, and, profoundly impressed, took leave of us with the following words, which reveal the true gentleman and are a tribute of honor to the leaders of our cause: "Accept my thanks," says he, "for the courtesy and attention shown by the Junta;" and adds, "in my intercourse with the gentlemen of the opposition I have, on every occasion, found a spirit of loyalty and good faith."

This beautiful testimony of a neutral is our highest praise, and renders unnecessary any further words on our part. Commentaries on this matter (which we consider superfluous) we leave to the serious consideration of impartial and upright men. Such has been the procedure of those in power in Iquique. Can the dictator bring forward such evidence as we offer or a sentiment which is not disloyalty and bad faith?