

**DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE
INVESTIGATION, BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, OF THE OFFICIAL
CONDUCT OF
AMOS BINNEY, UNITED STATES NAVY AGENT
AT BOSTON: UPON THE CHARGES MADE BY
LIEUTENANT JOEL ABBOT AND OTHERS**

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Documents relative to the investigation, by order of the Secretary of the Navy, of the official conduct of Amos Binney, United States Navy agent at Boston: upon the charges made by Lieutenant Joel Abbot and others by Amos Binney

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AMOS BINNEY

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Hon. John Adams

fr. A Binney
by Am Parmenter

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or scribble, located in the center of the page.

DOCUMENTS

RELATIVE TO

THE INVESTIGATION,

By Order of the Secretary of the Navy,

OF THE

OFFICIAL CONDUCT

OF

AMOS BINNEY,

UNITED STATES NAVY AGENT AT BOSTON.

UPON THE CHARGES MADE BY

LIEUTENANT JOEL ABBOT

AND OTHERS.

Published by the Accused.

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY PHELPS AND FARNHAM, NO. 5, COURT STREET.

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1822.

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Adams
146.23

ADVERTISEMENT.

MR. BINNEY, the Navy Agent for the Port of Boston, having, some time since, promised to lay before his fellow citizens all the documents relative to the late inquiry into his official conduct, so soon as he could obtain authentic copies thereof,—is at length enabled to fulfil that promise.

In ordinary cases, an acquittal by a competent tribunal, appointed by the laws to try and decide the case, is considered a sufficient proof of innocence: and it is unusual for a person thus acquitted to feel a necessity of publishing to the world the evidence on which that acquittal was founded. Such, however, are the circumstances in which the Navy Agent has been placed, in consequence of unfair and improper excitements, that he now, in justice to himself and to the Government, submits to the examination of the public all the testimony against him, the result of *three months'* investigation, during which time the Court of Commissioners were in session nearly sixty days.

Together with this mass of testimony on the part of the accusation, he offers such *documentary* evidence as he has been able to adduce in his own behalf, and his own unaided and unvarnished explanations and statements of facts. Much of the testimony against him, and all that has been deemed material, was taken *ex parte*; and thus he had not the privilege of meeting his accusers face to face, and by cross examinations eliciting the *whole truth*, and in some degree the feelings and intentions, the prejudices and partialities of the witnesses. Nevertheless, under this important disadvantage, and amidst the most unreasonable and unfounded

clamours against him, he has received from all the Commissioners—what his conscience always assured him he was entitled to—an unqualified judgment of acquittal.

He offers the reader no laboured introduction to this publication; but spreads before him facts; and by these facts he is willing that his motives and conduct should be tested. All he claims from the public is an attentive, dispassionate and candid consideration of the evidence in the case, according to those wise and just rules, by which evidence should always be weighed. With this he confidently trusts that the result will be the same in the public mind, as it has been in the minds of all the Commissioners, who conducted the investigation—a full and sincere belief of his innocence of all the accusations which have been so zealously preferred, and so ardently pressed against him.

Boston, September 7, 1822.

☞ A reference to the date of the last official document will shew, that there has been no unnecessary delay in the publication of these papers.

DOCUMENTS, &c.

Letter from Lieut. Abbot to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Schooner Alligator, Oct. 4, 1821.

SIR,

FROM various circumstances, the inference is so apparent to my mind, that the copper deposited at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, if carefully examined and surveyed, might so fall short of the proper quantity, that I feel it a duty to make this communication.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

JOEL ABBOT.

Hon. SMITH THOMPSON, }
Secretary of the Navy. }

The Secretary's Answer.

Navy Department, Nov. 12, 1821.

SIR,

Your letter, dated the 4th ultimo, stating your apprehensions "that the copper deposited at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, if carefully examined and surveyed, would fall short of the proper quantity," was duly received, and the subject considered.

Be pleased to communicate to me, more explicitly, the circumstances which excited your suspicion, stating in detail whatever information may be in your possession on this subject, in order that I may be the better enabled to direct my inquiries in relation to the matter.

I am, respectfully, &c.

(Signed)

SMITH THOMPSON.

Lieut. JOEL ABBOT, U. S. }
Schooner Alligator. }