Office of Ordnance & Ord.
March 25th 1862.

Sir:

Your letters of the 16th inst. enclosing copies of Mr. Murrells of the 16th & 18th ult. have been received.

The Secretary of the Navy sent a telegram to Mr. Murrell & another to Pugh & Bros. of New Orleans authorizing them to send cargoes of Cotton out to purchase Nitre, I presume this is all the authority they will need in the premises.

I am pleased to hear that Mr. Murrell promptly accepted the Contract, and that he brought his energies & influence to bear to execute it. You can say to him that the surplus amount of nitre he may have on hand over the amount called for by the contract will be taken on the same terms.

I am also pleased to hear that you have gone to work with your usual zeal in establishing a foundry near Selma for the fabrication of guns, boiler plate & the plates now so much needed for covering ships. In putting up the rolls for this latter class of iron, I would suggest to you to have

there made of sufficient capacity to roll the iron at least 3 inches thick, 6 to 8 inches wide and 20 feet long. The "Virginia" has inaugerated a new era in naval warfare wooden ships are no longer to be feared, & I believe it will be our policy, to plate every vessel that will carry a gun. The consequence will be that all the iron works of the Confederate States will be taxed to their utmost capacity to supply our demands. I would earnestly urge you to make all possible exertions to have the iron plates rolled as speedily as possible and in as large quantities as will supply our necessities in the Gulf ports.

In view of the superior quality of gun metal, made from the ore of Shelby Co. I would also urge upon the manufacture of large cannon. As soon as you notify me, workmens drawings of all the guns we require will be sent to you. Some of these guns will have to be rifled & banded. Both are simple operations, drawings of which will also be sent to facilitate the work.

Both Departments are now ready to execute the contract drawn up by Col. Gorgas & myself. I believe you have the only copy of it that exists. Please send it either to him, or to me, in order

that it may modified to suit the enlarged quantities & properly drawn up.

Mr. Gay has been informed of your decision regarding his services. If you should need him hereafter, you can so inform him through this office.

I am, respectfully
Your obt. Servant
George Minor Comdr.
Chf. of Ord. & Hdy.

P. S. In rolling 2 inch iron, we will require some plates, 12 inches wide and from 12 to 14 feet long.

G. M.

Genl. C. G. McRae
Mobile
Ala.

Camp Miner
Mar 25th/62
and April 7th

acceptance of
Contract