Charge and specification of a charge preferred by the Secretary of the Navy against Raphael Semmes late commander of the rebel steamer "Alabama."

Charge. Violating the usages of war.

Specification. In this, that on or about the nineteenth day of June in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, off the entrance of the port of Cherbourg in France, the said Raphael Semmes being then in command of the rebel steamer known as the "Alabama," and an engagement having taken place between the said steamer and the United States steamer "Kearsarge," ordered or permitted a white flag to be hoisted on board the said rebel steamer, and took the opportunity of the cessation thereby caused in the engagement, and of the trust reposed in him, to make his escape from the said rebel steamer for the purpose of avoiding the actual surrender of his person as a prisoner of war and the responsibilities thereby incurred; and did subsequently, without having been exchanged as a prisoner, engage in hostilities against the United States.

Gideon Welles

Secretary of the Navy.

Navy Department,

November 25, 1865.