



Rangoon April 28th 1849.

Having learned with regret that Mr. Charles H. Cushman of this City, recently appointed a Midshipman in the Navy, has been dismissed from the service on charges of conduct unbecoming a gentleman, I take the liberty respectfully to request that the charges against him may be reconsidered, and if unfounded in fact, that he may be restored, and for the following considerations,

That young Cushman has from infancy resided in this City in the family of Judge Cushman, his father, and has uniformly sustained a good character,

That he is a young gentleman of more than ordinary capacity, and that a dismissal for the causes alleged, if unfounded in fact, is the infliction of a great wrong on himself and friends,

That from the fact that the alleged offence was committed within the first few days of his admission in the service, the presumption is very strong that the offence was the act of youthful indiscretion. To those among us who have impartially reviewed the whole case, the presumption seems strong that

a highly colored, if not false statement of facts, has been presented to the late Secretary of the Navy, causing the dismissal of Mr. Bushman, and that it is by no means probable that a youth of the age of seventeen years, who has ever resided under the paternal roof, and has uniformly sustained a good character, can will at once become so degraded as to be unworthy of a place in the service of his country -

Having the strong conviction that great injustice, however unintentional, has been done to Mr. Bushman, I earnestly and respectfully ask a reconsideration of the facts in his case, confident that he will thereby be restored to the service, in which request I am merely doing an act of justice to him and to his friends, and expressing the sentiment of this entire community,

With great respect I am
very truly Yours Obedt Servt
Charles Stetson

Hon. W. Ballance Preston
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington City