Columbia, the person so charged shall, at his own request but not other-
wise, be a competent witness. And his failure to make such request
shall not create any presumption against him.

Approved, March 16, 1878.

CHAP. 38.—An act in aid of a Polar expedition designed by James Gordon Bennett.

Whereas James Gordon Bennett, a citizen of the United States, has
purchased in Great Britain a vessel supposed to be specially adapted to
Arctic expeditions, and proposes, at his own cost, to fit out and man
said vessel, and to devote her to efforts to solve the Polar problem; and
Whereas it is deemed desirable that said vessel, while so engaged,
shall carry the American flag and be officered by American naval offi-
cers: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treas-
ury be authorized to issue an American register to said vessel by the
name of Jeannette, and that the President of the United States be au-
thorized to detail, with their own consent, commissioned, warrant, and
petty officers of the Navy, not to exceed ten in number, to act as officers
of said vessel during her first voyage to the Arctic seas: Provided, how-
ever, That such detail shall be made of such officers only as the Presi-
dent is satisfied can be absent from their regular duties without detri-
ment to the public service.

Approved, March 18, 1878.

CHAP. 42.—An act to authorize the granting of an American register to a foreign
built ship, for the purpose of the Woodruff Scientific Expedition around the world.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treas-
ury be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to grant, for the
purposes of the “Woodruff Scientific Expedition around the World” a
register for a foreign built steamship: Provided, That the said steam-
ship be approved by the Secretary of the Navy as suitable in all respects
for the purposes of said expedition and there shall be maintained there-
on without expense to the United States a school with capacity for at
least two hundred students together with a competent faculty for the
promotion of scientific and nautical knowledge. And it is further pro-
vided, That in no case shall mercantile or commercial ventures form any
part of said expedition or the government of the United States be now
or hereafter subjected to any expense on account thereof.

Approved, March 23, 1878.

CHAP. 43.—An act making appropriations for fortifications and for other works of
defence, and for the armament thereof, for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth,
eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of one hundred
thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any
money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the protection,
preservation, and repair of fortifications and other works of defense, for
the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-
ine, the same to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of
War; also, the following for armament of fortifications, namely:

For the armament of sea-coast fortifications, including heavy guns
and howitzers for flank defense, carriages, projectiles, fuses, powder,
and implements, their trial and proof, and all necessary expenses inci-
dent thereto, and for Gatling or other machine guns, one hundred and
twenty-five thousand dollars.