37TH CONGRESS,
2D SESSION.

# S. 82.

1st Print

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 9, 1861.

Agreeably to notice, Mr. GRIMES asked and obtained leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

# A BILL

To further promote the efficiency of the navy.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That whenever the name of any naval officer now in the service, or who may hereafter be in the service of the United States, shall have been borne on the Naval Register forty years, he shall be retired from active service, and his name entered on the retired list of officers of the grade to which he belonged at the time of such retirement.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to assign any officer who may be retired under the preceding section of this act to shore duty, and such officer thus assigned shall receive the full shore pay of his grade while so employed.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the President

of the United States shall have the authority to detail from the retired list of the navy for the command of squadrons and single ships such officers as he may believe that the good of the service requires to be thus placed in command; and such officers may, if upon the recommendation of the President of the United States, they shall receive a vote of thanks of Congress for their services and gallantry in action against an enemy, be restored to the active list, and not otherwise.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the President of the United States shall have the authority to select any officer for the grades of captain or commander in the navy, and assign him to the command of a squadron with the rank and title of a "flag officer;" and any officer thus assigned shall have the same authority and receive the same obedience from the commanders of ships in his squadron holding commissions of an older date than his that he would be entitled to receive were his commission the oldest.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That all officers retired under the provisions of this act shall receive the retired pay of this grade as now fixed by law.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That promotions shall be made in place of the officers retired under the provisions of this bill, as is now provided by law.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary

of the Navy be, and is hereby, authorized to cause two hundred "medals of honor" to be prepared, with suitable emblematic devices, which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and marines, as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war, and that the sum of one thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the treasury, for the purpose of carrying this section into effect.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the hours of labor in the navy yards of the United States shall be the same as in the private ship yards at the post where such navy yard is established, and the wages to be paid to employees in such yards shall be the average price paid to employees in private ship yards in the same vicinity.