

To the Publisher of the Buffalo Express:

Sir:

An article in your issue of the 19th instant is calculated and was no doubt ^{intended} designed to do me very great injury. Though I have the misfortune to be ^{an humble minister} of the Gospel I do not count it any part of my duty to sit still and allow others to ^{assail} destroy my good name ^{with impunity}. I have been twenty-one years ^{resident} in the county of Chautauque, living honestly and simply among my neighbors and hardly ever possessing as many hundreds of dollars as I am charged with misappropriating. My ~~entire property would not amount to one fourth~~ of the amount. Instead of the Chautauque Point Association having lost anything by me, it is today many hundreds of dollars better off than it would have been but for my services. From 1875 until 1879 I did its work without salary or reward. I have never

preferred any charge even for travelling expenses.
I am not an expert book-keeper and without refer-
ence and explanation, it may well be that
another would not be able to make up a
statement of account that should be technically
correct - whatever errors there may be in my book-keeping, however,
I am sure that are to my advantage or to the damage of the
concern. The examination that has been made has
been entirely ex parte. Instead of requiring the
concern to be examined and decided, before al-
lowing the books to leave my hands, I perhaps foolishly allowed
and others, ^{to} have had entire control of them and
I have been allowed no opportunity for ex-
planation or verification of my entries. I have
fear because I had nothing to conceal, I never dreamed that
~~such as most of this world's goods that I am afraid~~
~~any one would assail my good name as I knew that I~~
~~to lose my good name which I intend to pro-~~
~~duce nothing to justify such an assault. As it has been made~~
~~to be and audacious by every means as any former~~
I shall meet it at once and vindicate myself to the uttermost.
As the first step in that direction I desire to make
I do not court investigation only but I shall compel it if the law
offers any remedy, as I am advised that it does, as the first step in my
you prefer to hold yourself responsible for the same.

Very respectfully,
In anticipation I request that you will furnish me the name
of your informant, unless you desire to assume the entire
responsibility for the publication referred to. Sincerely,
Sincerely,

I only desire exact justice in this matter. I do not desire ask for any charity or forbearance from any one. I want ^{the world to know} the truth and the whole truth and that I mean that they shall know if it takes the rest of my life to get it before them. I have very little to leave ~~a life that has been more hard work than~~
my children but I shall leave them the satisfaction of knowing that their father was not only an honest man but an exact one. He may not have known all the mysticisms of fancy book-keeping but he knew the duties of a trustee and never made any mistakes that took money out of another's pocket and put it into his own. He may not have correctly exhibited what he had done according to the nicest rules of double entry but he did what was right, can show what he did and will see to it that there are no mistakes about the name that is to be given to his acts.
Very respectfully.

Letter to Buffalo Exp-
(Mr. Miller)

CHAMPLAIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019