

Do whom it may Concern:

For the past two years it has been intimated in various forms that, though now occupying the position of Judge of the Superior Court for the Seventh Judicial District of North Carolina, I have at some time previous to my removal to this State been an inmate of a penitentiary. This statement I have been frequently urged to deny through the public prints, and have several times denounced it as false and calumnious, in public meetings, at which the editors of one or more journals who have since published unmistakable innuendoes of this character, were present. I have however, invariably refused to publish any denial of these reports in any journal for the following reasons:

1st I did not desire to trouble the public with a personal history or justification,

2nd I did not believe that the authors and promulgators of these infamous accusations believed them to be true themselves or cared whether they were true or not, I believed it to be their intention simply to set afloat a malicious rumor for the purpose of injuring me, and of embarrassing my political friends, and of casting odium upon the State judiciary, for party purposes, and that my denials would have no effect whatever in dispelling such rumors. This opinion has been strengthened by the fact that

that no attention whatever has been paid to the denial of this charge in the editorial columns of at least two papers in the state. Nor has it been affected by an editorial statement of the Sentinel that a gentleman who had known me in my native state had never heard of any such charge against me.

3rd I considered the charge, as heretofore made, to be of too vague and general a character, to permit me, consistently with my own self-respect to dignify it by publishing a denial. I could not conceive that any one could exist, so absolutely devoid of common reason as to believe such a charge, without a particle of evidence to support it, and without even a suggestion of the time and place of imprisonment or the crime for which it was imposed. Every person knows that any such charge is most easily capable of being made definite and tangible and of being substantiated by the most positive proof. Indictments, prosecutions, verdicts, are in every state matters of public record, and I believe that the statistics of all penal institutions are easily obtainable by any person desiring them. I thought that no one could be so dull as not to know that ~~citizens so indolent and unscrupulous~~ as my traders, would spare no effort to make good their charges and that a man of barely thirty years of age could not have outlined, covered up or hidden the means and proof of such an offence.

In short, that every person not an idiot or
fool, ^{imbecile,} must have known that this was
more false or it would have been more
distinct and proved true.

I did not publish a denial for the
same reason that I would not deny the
assertion that I was a cannibal, a godless
the wandering Jew, a Duklax or Anti-Christ.
Because I deemed it too plainly false to
demand denials.

Now, however, the charge is ^{distinctly} made
that I have "served four years and a
half years in the Ohio State Prison,
for Burglary"

I pronounce this charge, in
whole and in part, in letter and in spirit,
absolutely, intentionally, maliciously, and
infamously false! I denounce its
authors and instigators as wicked base
and cowardly calumniators, too mean and
despicable to be worthy of a decent man's
contempt, I brand its abettors and
promulgators as fit partners in its authors
vileness.

I thank God that my life has been
a brief one, easily secured and bearing
no taint of shame or crime.

Born and bred in the County of
Ashtabula in the State of Ohio, and
resident therein except at brief intervals
until my removal to this State, a member
of the Methodist Church from my
fifteenth year, made a member by
wedge whose members had known me
from infancy upon attaining
majority, and an officer in the same
until I left the State, and a member
of the United States Army, and an
officer from that service.

I refer with pride and pleasure to
the following ~~citizens~~ citizens
of the township of Kingsville and
the adjacent townships of that County
Rev. Palmer, Pastor Presb. Church Kingsville
C. D. Rockwell, Atty at Law " "
Nathan Parrish " "
Elihu F. Webster M. D. " "
Prof Amos Luce " "
Oliver Barrett " "
J. H. Kinnear Postmaster " "
Cyrus King " "
Rev. Jos Mathey Methodist " "
Walter Harrison " "
E. S. Kingsbury " "
M. Hillman " "
B. Wakefield " "
Truman Hart " "
P. Whelpley " "
Henry Parrish " "
Orlando Luce " "
J. P. Eastman " "
Obed Dibble " "

The above are the names of twenty
of the oldest and most respectable
citizens of that township, including
my nearest neighbors of both political
parties, not one of them a relative, being
my nothing of this reference to them
and thoroughly informed as to my life
and character from infancy until
my removal to this State.

I am perfectly willing to abide the result of any of them as to the same. In the adjoining township Commaut - I would also refer to the following

Rev. Russell Keyes Presb. - Commaut

" O. J. Hyman Christian "

Loren Gould "

Legits Smith "

C. A. Goddard. Atty at Law "

Capt H. B. Chapman " " "

D. P. Venable "

Dr E. D. Merriam M.D. "

Sam'l P. Tinton

Henry Grant

Elihu Grant

Barzilla Vets

Benson Barrett

Cyrus Cleveland

These are the names of prominent citizens and business men of this township in which I was married who have known me for many years many of them intimately

Educated at the University of Rochester. I refer to Rev. W. B. Anderson D.D. the President, and to the Faculty that institution

For a time Principal of Erie Acad. City and County of Erie Pa. I refer to Rev. John Burrows Erie

Rev. Dr. Lyon D.D. (Pres) Erie
" — Spalding (Epis) "
" E. J. L. Baker (Meth) "
J. Jones. Dept of Schools. "
A. H. Gaughey Prin. Erie Academy "

A member of the Ohio Bar. I refer
to Hon Norman L. Chaffee
Judge 9th Jud. Dist Ohio
Jefferson Ashtabula Co. Ohio

Hon. B. T. Cushing. Prob. Judge Ashtabula
Jefferson O.
H. B. ~~Wool~~ ^{Hogoland} Pros. Atty Ashtabula
Jefferson O.

Woodbury & Woodbury Atty's Jefferson O.
Hon. L. Cardwell Jefferson O.
Hon. Laban S. Sherman (my law partner)
Ashtabula O.

and other members of the bar of that
county

I would also refer to the following
gentleman of prominence and position
who are more or less intimately acquain-
ted with my life and character previous
to coming to this state.

Gen. J. J. Reynolds U. S. A.
" Isaac F. Quinby Rochester N. Y.
" James A. Farfield M. C.
" T. S. Hinshelwood Pickport O.
" Geo. S. Perkins Fremont O.

Capt. M. W. Wright. Cincinnati O.

" E. P. Gould Rochester N. Y.

Col. W. A. Barrett Akron. O.

" — Stevens Newport O.

Hon. Benj. F. Wade late Vice Pres. of the
United States.

Jefferson. O.

Hon. Geo. W. Julian North Bend Ind.

Prof. C. H. Heywood. Cleveland. O.

I am not so weak as to suppose that my denial will in any manner affect the course of those ~~degenerates~~ who eke out a precarious livelihood, by manufacturing and retailing such slanderous tittles for the gratification of inflated partisan palates, or of those who have professed belief in this calumny for the sake of repeating it. I once believed that all men had some regard for the good name of their fellows, and that an honest life was its own shield. I did not believe that in this age, political hostility swallowed up all regard for honor truth manhood and decency. I have learned better now and merely take this course to show what transparent falsehood, the tongue of malice has wagged against me.

Almost immediately upon coming to this state I found myself a mark of calumny. As soon as it became known that I entertained political opinions in common with our best citizens, I was

synonym of infamy. It can
be as indigenuous to the world as
mate as brass arms and red
old field -

Inquiry has frequently been
made as to why I have not
this libel by prosecution. I can only
say that of the various journals in which
which have published the same I do
not know of one against whose
a judgment for ten thousand dollars
would be worth the paper on which
it was written.

Of course I do not expect my
enemies as originated and created
this libel to have the manhood or
the trouble either to investigate the
truth of their report or retract their
slander. Every honest citizen who
desires to do ^{is} however respectfully
invited to investigate the truth of my
statements.

Neither ^{threatened} violence nor
persecution have succeeded in driving
me from the state. I have performed
my duty in defence of both the
best of my knowledge and
and shall continue to do so
until I see the cause of
myself removed from the

Cassius

Letter in regard
to Penitentiary
Matter

Book

Change of
Language

Part
Product

2

Letter denying
every in
penitentiary
1870

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is arranged in vertical columns.]