

Greensboro N. C.

October 6<sup>th</sup> 1875.

Editor "Southern Home:"

Charlotte N. C. -

Sir:

I see in your issue of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult. a reproduction of the charge that I have at some time been an inmate of a penitentiary. I had supposed this slander to have been <sup>so</sup> utterly exploded - ~~so much so~~ that even the bitterness of my enemies would consider themselves thoroughly disarmed by its re-iteration. I ~~am not aware that I~~ <sup>have no acquaintance</sup> with you personally, and of course know nothing as to your <sup>information or intention in</sup> ~~knowledge~~ <sup>republican</sup> such publication ~~of the subject~~. As an editor, I must suppose that you have some knowledge of the contents of the public prints, and as this matter has been fully <sup>ventilated</sup> ~~considered~~ in the public prints and the most <sup>reputable</sup> ~~reputable~~ journals of the most unmistakable Democratic tone, I must

If this is not the case, or you are unwilling  
to take the course indicated, your silence will  
sufficiently inform me. If I do not hear from  
you within three days <sup>after receipt of this</sup>, I shall conclude, either  
that you did not believe the statement you  
published or are unwilling to correct  
it <sup>when known to be</sup> false and shall take <sup>other</sup> steps to vindicate  
myself from your aspersions.

I am, sir,

Very obt. servt -

A. W. Touge

conclude that your <sup>re-assertion of</sup> ~~assertion~~ <sup>from inadvertence to this fact</sup> ~~assertion~~ is either ~~inadvertent~~ or a wilful design to perpetrate a scandalous and infamous lie.

If the former, then ordinary justice and fairness requires that you should make a retraction ~~co-~~ extension with the circulation of the imputation. If this is not the case, in justice to a name which reaches back into the heroic times of France without spot, - or family, neither high nor low but like their old Keep on the Breton coast (St. Jacques) rugged and true, as well as <sup>to</sup> myself and my children, I must take other means to rebuke the false-  
hood.

If you made the imputation in good faith, from a belief in its verity, I desire to lay before you the most ample proof as to its utter and absurd falsity ~~and~~ <sup>to the end</sup> that you may make an explicit and candid denial of the same. In that case, I request that you will write me stating that fact and I will at once transmit to you the proofs ~~above~~ alluded to.