

Jackson, Aug 24th 1868

New Bedford, Mass.

My dear Sir

I was very far in chasing copies
of correspondence with Genl. Sherman. I then hoped that
in a few days, I should have the pleasure of seeing you, in
person at Richmond, by way of one of the companies accepted
by the Govt. to aid in your defence. Being compelled to be in
Spartanburg, C. at Court on the very day appointed for your trial,
I was unable to have with me my Anderson & Walker -
the other two associated on the commission. I went to Sec-
-gonia - had my copy sent on the first day - hurried home -
in order to start for Richmond. On reaching home learned
that you had been postponed. I then wrote to you, at length
& then abundant caution, sent the letter by express to
Hon. Saml. Lyon, Richmond. By an inadvertence, I addressed
the letter to Richmond, Miss. There is an out of the way Post Office
in Hanover Co. of that name. The P.M. here asked me the next
day after the letter was mailed (he recognized my hand writing)
if I had not written as it for Richmond. I was amazed at
the misdirection - & got him immediately to order the letter to
be returned here. Many weeks have elapsed, & I have heard no-
thing of it. I will repeat the circumstances of it. I stand thus
on mutual ground. Hon. E. B. Washburn - had a copy of a com-

communication addressed by you to Congress, in answer to
a resolution of that body requesting you to restore Genl
Johnston to the command of the Army in Ga. You refused the
war, why you could not agree to the request. This pro-
-position was sent to me by Major Banks & Co. When the seal of con-
-ference, I read it to Judge Rains & others, of the Supreme
Court to the Governor & Col. Norton, & printed it to a few
other discreet friends. I supposed it was understood by
all of them that it was submitted under seal of confi-
-dence. I regarded it as a most triumphant defence of your
conduct in the removal of Genl Johnston, & only regretted
that consideration of policy was not important to pub-
-lish it from the house top. The Genl. private Secy, Col.
Kearney, was present at a conversation between the Genl.
Myself, after the Genl. had read the paper in which I spoke
of it in my autobiography. He begged of me the pri-
-vilege of reading it, which I acceded to. My recollection
was, & is that I expressed upon him that it should not go
out of his hands, nor be further exposed to, in any way.
My recollection is different from mine, on that point, &
I am willing to believe, as he is an honorable man - not
unfriendly to you, (but I think, a warm partizan of Genl.
I in most matters) that he deeply regrets that he should
have caused the error, & is now with you & Genl. S.

Indeed, he has expressed to me the deepest concern about it.
Shortly after Col. K read the paper, Gen. I was here. A few
days after he left, I was called on by Judge W. W. Wagon, who said that
I had been informed that I was in possession of a paper written
by Mr. Benjamin, White Chief of State, criticizing severely his
Military Character, & that the General was about to write a history of his
Campaigns, he was very anxious to get a copy. I told him Gen. I
was mistaken - explained the character of the paper & by whom
written (yourself) that I had some months before returned it to
the friend from whom I received it, and that it was no longer
under my control. I heard nothing more on the subject, until
I recd. your letter. I confess I was both surprised & annoyed,
& I did not conceal the fact from Col. K. who expressed the
deepest regret that either you or I should be annoyed -
or that he had ever ^{been mentioned} referred to the paper to Gen. I. although
he did not consider that it was improper for him to do
so by the way upon which I allowed him to read it.

As one who, personally and politically, through
all the vicissitudes of party politics, has ever ad-
hered to you, and more so devotedly as in the road
through which you have passed since the hour of your
magnanimous Protest of the Confederate States -
I was humiliated to every apartment upon you,
whether made openly or secretly. I had interposed, with
burning indignation, during the heat of the terrible
conflict of arms - when our crushing warning
in the balance, the efforts of those whom I knew to be true
- friendly to you, not heart, but were afraid to avow it.

to make a for trip of Genl I suppose paper-
-lant with the army & the people, for which
to hunt their prisoners among at you. I should
then, & I should say, that I am sure I should be
by hostile to you than friendship for him.

I had so often heard his most grateful testimony
which I generally found to be your enemy, caring
at his moral, & demanding his restoration, or the
only hope of an escape in a mill night but could not
& half hinting that in moving him you were
actually aided by feelings of personal resentment
than construction of patriotism, that I could
not restrain my feelings.

I yet trust that the time will come, when there
will be no consideration of further punishment,
which will be the publication of the paper
in judging. When that time comes, you will stand
vindicating in that, as in every part of your
life, about which you have been assailed, in the
judgment of all impartial men. That conviction
is as firmly fixed in my mind as that Almighty God
will conduct you safely through the fiery ordeal
which awaits you in your approaching trial.

Wm. Barker has declined to furnish a copy
(and he has the only one in the country) and I so wrote
to Genl I.

I am rejoiced to hear that you are once more
on the soil of Miss. I shall be happy to be the friend
of any you in backing your reform in
the State. Alas, may I lose the honor of having you &
your family as my guests? I am only, Your friend

J. H. P. Allen