

benefit of it, and that, if he wished, I would send him a gentleman whom he could not possibly ignore as such, and who would take the responsibility of whatever it was possible and desirable to do.

If Major MacDougall had taken what appeared to me the very obvious course of saying that he was Mr. Baxter's friend, there could not possibly—with any person who entertains the same feelings with respect to duelling as he and I have expressed—be any difficulty in withdrawing two angry letters; and in Mr. Baxter's saying what he had said to Major MacDougall, that he had been misunderstood by you.

With respect to Major MacDougall, you have nothing more to say to him. All you have to do is to send the correspondence to the Horse Guards, and to ask the Commander-in-Chief if his conduct to you has been that of an officer and a gentleman.

In respect of Mr. Baxter, if he will either say that he consulted Major MacDougall as his commanding officer—in which case, Major MacDougall's action being merely ministerial or judicial, all idea of explanation or personal responsibility is at an end—or will apologise to you for sending an offensive note from a person who refuses you and makes himself irresponsible to me, the matter may be arranged as easily as it might when Major MacDougall unhappily meddled with it.

Had we been otherwise civilly treated, and fair attention paid to our statements, I should have advised you to take any apology which could enable you to settle amicably with Mr. Baxter, with whom you had no deliberate intention to quarrel, as the tone of your second letter to him has sufficiently shown. But you have been arrogantly condemned, in the strongest words that language can afford and anger suggest the use of, and my letter, on your part twice returned unopened. This is what we must not submit to. Nor can I conceive on what principles either of equity or of etiquette, Major MacDougall, having referred the matter to the Horse Guards, and refused to receive our explanation, puts in a supplementary apology for himself. I cannot do Major MacDougall the injustice to believe that this reference was merely a threat.

And, now that the matter is at an end, and I hope it is, I cannot help expressing my amusement at the very original notion of

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