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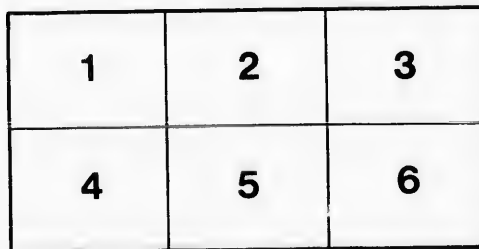
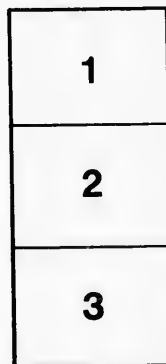
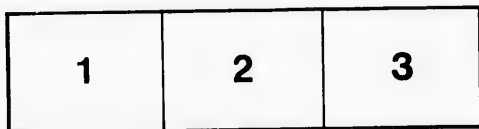
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W. J. Macdonough

ST. JOHNS, 1st November, 1849.

I THINK it right to publish the following statement, as a Key to a Pamphlet which has lately appeared, published by Mr. Vane, and to state here, that I never saw that Pamphlet, until the afternoon of Saturday, the 27th October, when a copy was sent to me at St. Johns; and further, that I never saw the three long letters, written by Mr. Abraham, (being No. 13, page 12, No. 17, page 19, and No. 21, page 25,) until I read them in the publication alluded to. I have also to remark, that the order in which the letters are given in that Pamphlet, renders it impossible for any unprejudiced person to form a fair judgment of the circumstances out of which the correspondence arose.

P. L. MACDOUGALL,

Major R. C. R.

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ST. JOHNS, *October 29th*, 1849.

On the morning of Monday, 15th October, as I was about to sit down to breakfast with Captain Claremont, in that gentleman's house, Quarter Master Baxter, of the Royal Canadian Rifles, called upon me, in company with his friend, Lieutenant Bolton, (late 13th Light Infantry). Mr. Baxter said he wished to show me a note he had just received. On opening it, I found it ran as follows:—

“MONTREAL, *October 15th*, 1849.

“SIR,—In consequence of your unmanly remarks last night, I now repeat in writing, that which I told you verbally, at the time—namely, that you are a *Liar* and a *Blackguard*; moreover, also, you are a *Slanderer* and a *Coward*. Should you calmly put up with these remarks, copies of this note shall be forwarded to the Royal Canadian Rifles, that you may be held up to the scorn and contempt of that gallant corps.

“ (Signed,) F. H. VANE.

“To Qr. Master Baxter,
“*R. C. Rifles.*”

Mr. Baxter told me, in explanation, that on the previous night he had been sitting in a room in Orr's Hotel, with Mr. Vane and Mr. Hayden, they having dined together very amicably;—that the conversation turned on female virtue, in the course of which, he (Mr. Baxter,) expressed an opinion on the morality of a certain class of English women—which he was very far indeed from meaning as a sweeping imputation on the women of England, (he himself being an Englishman,) and which he certainly did not think, as by any possible misconstruction, calculated to give offence to any one present. (The substance of that opinion, will be found in letters 7, page 5, and 11, page 10—of the Pamphlet alluded to, being statements made on two separate occasions by Mr. Hayden, who was present,—and in the annexed letter, marked A, being the statement made by Lieutenant Bolton, who was not present; and here I may remark, that, though Mr. Hayden's written statements vary slightly from that which Lieuten-

ant Bolton says he received from him on two separate occasions—they not only substantiate the fact of Mr. Baxter's having limited his remarks to a certain clearly defined class ; but also, Lieut. Bolton's statement as to Mr. Baxter's manner not being offensive.) Mr. Baxter went on to say, that in consequence of the expression of that opinion, Mr. Vane called him a *liar* and a *blackguard*, and immediately left the room. Mr. Baxter further said, it had been his intention to request Lieutenant Bolton to call on Mr. Vane, to demand an ample apology for the insult of the night before, previous to the receipt of Mr. Vane's extraordinary note, given above ; but after the receipt of that note, he thought it right to ask my advice as his brother officer. I then turned to Lieutenant Bolton, who informed me, that he had that moment come from Mr. Hayden—having thought it necessary, before coming to me, to obtain from him, the only witness, an account of the circumstances, out of which such gross insults arose—and that Mr. Hayden's account exonerated Mr. Baxter from all blame. (See Postscript to Lieutenant Bolton's statement, and compare it with the last paragraph of letter 11, page 10 of Pamphlet). The substance of what Lieutenant Bolton told me on that occasion, will be found in his annexed letter, marked A.

After having heard the statements of Mr. Baxter and Lieut. Bolton, I gave the former the advice contained in the annexed letter marked B. (or No. 3., page 1. of Pamphlet) ; and told him, (certainly under the influence of strong indignation,) to enclose that letter to Mr. Vane, with the view to show him that Mr. Baxter would be supported by at least one brother officer, in refusing to consider as worthy of a gentleman's notice, one who had been guilty of such conduct. Fortunately, during the above interview with Mr. Baxter and Lieut. Bolton, Capt. Claremont was present, and can vouch for the correctness of what I have written concerning it.

I am sensible, that in telling Mr. Baxter to send my note to Mr. Vane, I committed a mistake ; it could be productive of no good ; it only tended to aggravate the violence of Mr. Vane's feelings, and might have prevented him from endeavouring to make reparation for his insulting conduct. I freely acknowledge the error and regret it, but at the same time it must be distinctly understood, that I do not regret the advice contained in that let-

ter, as I consider it the only counsel which a gentleman of sound intellect could give. I may be accused of judging too hastily from the statement of Mr. Baxter, and the second-hand testimony of Lieut. Bolton. If I did so I was borne out by Mr. Hayden's written statements, given subsequently, which indeed, to save argument I was willing to adopt as the facts of the case.

In the course of the evening of same day I received the slightly bombastic letter, No. 5., page 4 of pamphlet, which is subsequently called by Mr. Abraham, "a calm reasoning letter." Regarding its contents I will only remark, that I think most gentlemen of delicacy of mind would have felt an instinctive repugnance, to mention Her Majesty the Queen, or indeed any other lady, in connection with such a subject. The name of "Robt. Abraham," was written in pencil on the back of that letter, from which I inferred that he placed himself in the position of "friend" to Mr. Vane. It was quite clear that I could have nothing to do with Mr. Vane after my advice to Mr. Baxter; I accordingly wrote to my friend Mr. MacDougall the annexed letter, marked C. (No. 9., page 7 of Pamphlet.)

It is here necessary to make a few remarks on that letter.

1. In saying that the transaction occurred in the public room of an hotel, I meant what I said, and not the Bar of a tavern, as is insinuated at page 13, paragraph 1 of Pamphlet. I meant the common sitting room of an hotel, but it seems it is a private room, which is still more satisfactory to me.

2. It is stated in the last paragraph but one of same letter, that Mr. Vane's conduct had been so bad that it would be reported to the Post Master General, through the Commander in Chief, unless he made an apology to Mr. Baxter.

The above merely signifies that Mr. Baxter did not consider Mr. Vane entitled to the usual consideration of a gentleman, and as his conduct deserved punishment unless he testified a proper sorrow for it, by making an apology, his behaviour would be represented to the Head of his Department. Such a course, instead of being an act of revenge on Mr. Baxter's part, would have been only the fulfilment of a duty towards society.

3. I need hardly explain that I wrote that letter with the view of making the matter entirely personal between Mr. Abraham and myself, and of giving him the opportunity either to agree

with me in my estimate of Mr. Vane's conduct, or, if he still supported him in that conduct, to demand satisfaction from me for refusing to allow the usual consideration of a gentleman, to the person for whom he was acting in the capacity of "friend."

4. The last paragraph in the same letter clearly states that it had been written "entirely for Mr. Abraham's consideration," and "without reference to Mr. Vane," that it had not been written with the view of its being read by Mr. Vane, "but solely to enable Mr. Abraham to judge of the propriety of countenancing such conduct as Mr. Vane has been guilty of by his support." It will hardly be believed that Mr. Abraham should, in the face of that paragraph, have not only shewn that letter to Mr. Vane, but should have pointed out to him, in the most offensive light, every expression concerning his behaviour. (See letter 17, page 19 of Pamphlet). I certainly did say that Mr. Abraham might make what use he pleased of my letter; I did not choose to say "I beg you will not show this to Mr. Vane," because no honorable man would give either verbally or in writing an opinion of another, and *request* that his opinion might not be made known to the person alluded to.

When I requested Mr. MacDougall to wait on Mr. Abraham, and to leave with him my letter, the directions I gave him were, that if Mr. Abraham should support his "friend" and feel aggrieved at my refusing to accord to him the consideration due to a gentleman, Mr. MacDougall was to arrange a meeting with Mr. Abraham at once, without any further reference to me. I annex Mr. MacDougall's statement of the instructions I gave him (marked D.) and no one who knows my friend will believe that those instructions were not fully carried out.

But Mr. Abraham has stated (page 20, paragraph 3,) that I put it out of his power to stand in his principal's place, (on the ground, I presume, that *Mr. Vane's* conduct to *Mr. Baxter* was to be reported to the Head of his Department.)

If Mr. Abraham had demanded satisfaction from me, as I expected he would have done, for refusing to recognize "his friend" as entitled to a gentleman's consideration; and if I had answered him that the reference of Mr. Vane's conduct to the Post Master General through the Commander-in-Chief took it out of my hands and his, and that I therefore declined to give him a meet-

ing, he would then have had good cause to say, that I had put it out of his power, to substitute himself for his principal. But Mr. Abraham owes allegiance neither to the Post Office nor the Horse Guards; *his* conduct was not referred to either of them.

Why should I have been at the trouble of writing a letter for "Mr. Abraham's consideration" at all; and what could have been the object of that letter, if not to put it *in* Mr. Abraham's power to substitute himself for his principal?

To cut the matter short, Mr. Abraham declined personal recourse on me for reasons, of which, as they satisfied him, it is not my part to complain.

It would appear from the Pamphlet, that after the receipt of my letter, Mr. Abraham did not feel quite satisfied with his *case*, and in order to strengthen it, he endeavoured to draw from Mr. Hayden a second statement differing from his first, by what lawyers term five "leading questions." (See letter 10, page 9.)

And of this proceeding, though not likely to be universally approved, I have also no reason to complain, as it only resulted in shewing that "a mild unopprobrious tone" was preserved by Mr. Vane *until* Mr. Baxter qualified his opinion by limiting it to a certain clearly defined class, (see letter 11, page 10,) besides the virtual admission in the last paragraph, that Mr. Baxter's manner was not calculated to give offence.

And now I will throw a little light on the mass of Mr. Abraham's writings, which are well calculated to mystify without a "Key."

My letter was placed in Mr. Abraham's hands at about 12 o'clock on Tuesday, 16th; on Wednesday, 17th, Mr. Abraham wrote two notes, only one of which, however, has been published, (*viz.*: letter 12, page 11 of Pamphlet.) The other, which does not appear in the Pamphlet, is annexed, and marked E. It was written on Wednesday, 17th, at half-past 3, P. M., stating that, "as the matter, so far as personal recourse," was positively ended, we must wait until next day for an answer, which he was preparing, to my letter of Tuesday morning. This note of Mr. Abraham's was written immediately after an interview with Mr. MacDougall, and Mr. Abraham appears to have forgotten, not only what took place in that interview, but also that he had written the letter at all.

Immediately on the receipt of this forgotten letter, I empowered Mr. MacDougall to write the letter, No. 15, page 18 of the Pamphlet; it was written just half an hour after Mr. Abraham's. In it I have recorded my regret that I should have advised Mr. Baxter to send my note to Mr. Vane, as "tending unnecessarily to aggravate the violence of Mr. Vane's feelings," and offered to withdraw that note. In making this concession I was actuated by two motives: first, I felt I had committed a mistake, and I considered it unmanly not to acknowledge it; secondly, I thought it possible, that the receipt of my first note by Mr. Vane, might have prevented him from taking a course, which would have saved Mr. Baxter the necessity of reporting him to the Postmaster General, and of thereby depriving him, probably, of his situation.

It is distinctly stated that this concession was made by me on the assumption that Mr. Abraham had waived personal recourse on me; at page 27, paragraph 2, Mr. A. denies having waived personal recourse, and yet he thought proper to receive the letter, making that concession, and *to represent it to Mr. Vane as an apology from me*, (page 25, paragraph 4 of Pamphlet), although he knew, according to his own account, that the concession was made by me on that mistaken assumption.

Now I will tell Mr. Abraham, for none but he can require the information, what he should have done in such a case—so that he may have the benefit of it, in the event of his being ever again selected to act in the capacity of "friend;" which, however, I do not anticipate.

Immediately on the first sentence being read by him (*viz.*—"As you have both verbally and in your note just received stated your intention of waiving all personal recourse") he should instantly, and without reading another word, have returned it to Mr. MacDougall, stating that he had never waived such recourse, (the error would soon have been remedied); but even if he had kept that letter, he should rather have cut off his right hand than have represented it to Mr. Vane as an apology, under the circumstances.

It is here necessary to state that although Mr. MacDougall's letter containing my concession was written at 4 P. M. on Wednesday 17th, it did not reach Mr. Abraham until about 5 o'clock on Thursday 18th, Mr. MacDougall having called upon him once on Wednesday evening, and *seven* times on Thursday,

unsuccessfully. On the last occasion it was left at Mr. Abraham's office. After having accomplished this Mr. MacDougall received from Mr. Abraham the two envelopes, Nos. 1 and 2 (see pages 11 and 12 of Pamphlet. The first of these Mr. MacDougall read; but the second, being a long reply to my letter of Tuesday morning, which Mr. Abraham had been preparing and finally matured on the afternoon of Thursday; was returned to him unopened, enclosed in a letter dated Thursday 18th, 5½ P. M. from Mr. MacDougall, in which his reasons for that course are stated. (See letter 16 page 19 of Pamphlet).

And as Mr. Abraham has indulged in a sneer at Mr. MacDougall's expense concerning those reasons, (page 28 last paragraph, of Pamphlet,) it is as well to state here that Mr. A. and my friend were judging admittedly from the same facts (viz: those set forth in Mr. Hayden's statement and Mr. Vane's subsequent behaviour,) and he was perfectly aware that Mr. Abraham's long letter would be, what it has proved, an elaborate exposition of Mr. Abraham's opinions, and his commentaries on those facts.

In that letter (Envelope 2 page 12 of Pamphlet) it appears incidentally that Mr. Abraham has been on intimate terms with descendants of the Ducal House of Raby; but beyond this it is merely the expression of his own opinions, upon facts which I acknowledge, but of which—I am happy to say I take rather a different view.

Mr. Abraham says (page 14, paragraph 1.) "When Mr. Vane rose in the morning and found Mr. Baxter at breakfast without any sign of inclination to remember what had been said, he conceived it to be his duty to put down his words in writing; this may have been an error, but it was the error of a gentleman"!—This opinion of Mr. Abraham's reconciles me perfectly to any he may form or express at any time regarding myself or any friend of mine.

Meanwhile Mr. Abraham had opened Mr. MacDougall's letter containing my concession, and having "only looked at it and barely read it," returned it in one from himself, in which his reasons are stated (letter 14 page 17), but without noticing the (according to him) false assumption with which it commences, and which must have been the first thing to catch his eye in "barely reading" it.

On the receipt of the last named letter from Mr. Abraham, dated 5 P. M., 18th, being desirous to leave no effort untried, to spare the necessity of reporting Mr. Vane to his superiors, Mr. MacDougall wrote, by my desire, a letter dated 6, P. M., same day, tendering again his former letter containing my concession, (see letter 18, page 22,) as Mr. Abraham had signified his readiness to receive it, if again offered.

To this Mr. Abraham had replied in a letter, dated Friday, Oct. 19, (letter 19, page 23,) in which he tenders a second time his long reply to me, which we had declined reading, and suggests, that it was not very respectful to Mr. Vane, or to himself, to refuse to read their "vindication from what is now clearly acknowledged to be an injustice."

This sentence is puzzling, for if I had clearly acknowledged the injustice of my course towards Mr. Vane and Mr. Abraham, why should a long vindication from that injustice be forced upon me? Where an injustice is acknowledged, no vindication is necessary.

In reply, Mr. MacDougall wrote, by my desire, a letter, dated Friday, 19th October, 5½ p.m., terminating the correspondence and returning Mr. Abraham's "vindication" a second time unopened.

And now I would beg any one who may be fortunate enough to possess a copy of the Pamphlet to turn to page 27, and peruse the 3rd, 4th, and 5th paragraphs, and with respect to the 3rd, to notice how Mr. Abraham takes advantage of Mr. MacDougall's *verbal allusion* only, at which such exception is taken, to bring in a pretty full statement of what he (Mr. A.) had said, (from which it would appear that Mr. Abraham was desirous to engage Mr. MacDougall in the capacity of his friend as well as mine, by asking Mr. MacDougall's advice, or opinion, or rather inferring that he would be guided by that gentleman's opinion), although Mr. Abraham's memory as to what took place at that interview, and immediately subsequent to it, has been proved not to have been very distinct.

The 4th paragraph is simply amusing, as implying that I should have called Mr. Abraham to account in the first instance, for being the bearer to me of what he terms (page 21 par. 1.) "a calm reasoning letter" from Mr. Vane.

The last paragraph is so good that it is a pity not to give it here :

“ But that there might be no mistake I stated in my letter that “ I had consulted a ‘ friend.’ Of the meaning of this I think no one can be ignorant. I meant that if there was a doubt in the mind of Major MacDougall, I hoped that he would give me the benefit of it, and that if he wished, I would send him a gentleman whom he could not possibly ignore as such, who would take the responsibility of whatever it was possible and desirable to do.”

From this it appears, that Mr. Abraham, like Lord Burleigh, though he said little, meant a great deal.

At page 28, paragraph 4, will be found an exposition of Mr. Abraham’s moderate views, as to what he would expect to be conceded. From this it appears, that if poor Mr. Baxter would only apologize to Mr. Vane (for having been called by four ugly names I suppose,) the matter would have been as easily arranged as “ when Major MacDougall unhappily meddled with it.” I am inclined to think, that the head and front of my offending, so far as Mr. Abraham is concerned, was my declining to read a letter which he had been at so much pains to draw up.

At page 28, par. 5, Mr. Abraham says that Mr. Vane had no deliberate intention to quarrel with Mr. Baxter, &c. I should have thought that the sleeping on the matter, and afterwards writing such a note to Mr. Baxter were sufficient evidence of deliberation. I may be mistaken.

Contrast also Mr. Abraham’s first reason for not writing to Captain Claremont, (page 21,) with what he says of my sending my opinion to Mr. Vane, (page 26, par. 1); there would appear to be a contradiction here. I may be mistaken.

In conclusion, Captain Claremont did not call on Mr. Vane to read a note of an *apologetic* character, as stated in the last paragraph of the Pamphlet.

I was really unaware from Mr. Abraham’s numerous letters whether Mr. Vane had ever seen my admission of regret at having told Mr. Baxter to enclose my note to him, and I was desirous to leave no effort untried to repair an error, which, as I have already stated, I thought might have prevented Mr. Vane from taking a course, which would have saved Mr. Baxter the necessity of reporting him to the Head of his Department.

Captain Claremont went to Mr. Vane at my request, to read to him my expression of that regret, and the Report was drawn up, ready to forward, at the time when Captain Claremont went to him.

I might have endeavoured to justify my sending that note to Mr. Vane in many ways; for instance, the fact of Mr. Vane having got up in the morning—after having used such language to Mr. Baxter the night before, and still more grossly insulting that gentleman, on finding him, as he said, apparently with no intention to resent that language; might lead any one to suppose—that Mr. Vane thought he might with safety go still farther, or, in other words, *bully* Mr. Baxter.

But I scorn such imputations, *I regard an inuendo on another, which the writer knows to have no foundation in fact, as the most cowardly and contemptible act of which a man can be guilty*; and I at once declare that from all I have since heard, I am convinced Mr. Vane is *not* the ruffian I had at first supposed from his conduct, and that his personal courage is above all suspicion. Towards him I have not the smallest feeling of animosity, though he has said some ugly things of me in the preface to his Pamphlet; I can afford to disregard them.

Respecting his friend, Mr. Abraham, I hazard the opinion, though with extreme hesitation, that he has, on this one occasion, written too much and remembered too little; and I am inclined to think that those who may take the trouble to read this statement, in connection with Mr. Vane's Pamphlet, will agree with me.

“Oh! that mine enemy would write a Book! (or Pamphlet?) was not such a bad saying!

P. L. MACDOUGALL,

Major R. C. Rifles.

Since writing the above I have seen Mr. Abraham's reply to a letter from Mr. MacDougall, both of which appeared in the Montreal Herald, on two consecutive days, viz.: The Herald of the 30th and 31st October. Respecting Mr. Abraham's reply, I must remark, that if the Pamphlet had been submitted to us before publication, as is usual in such cases, we should have insisted

on the insertion of the missing letter, and on the others being placed in their proper order.

Mr. MacDougall could not suppose that Mr. Abraham had kept copies of *none* of his letters; he requested copies of two of them, which Mr. MacDougall gave, concluding naturally, that Mr. Abraham had the rest. The inexpressible coolness of the whole affair is very amusing—Mr. Abraham having been resolved to have all the writing to himself, and that Mr. MacDougall should have all the copying for him.

P. L. MACDOUGALL.

St. Johns, November 1, 1849.

(Copy, A.)

MONTREAL, *Thursday Morning, Oct. 18, 1849.*

DEAR SIR,—As you have requested that I should state to you my impression of the conversation which occurred between Mr. Hayden and myself, in presence of, and concerning Mr. Baxter, on Monday the 15th instant, I shall detail, as correctly as my memory serves me, the statement made by Mr. Hayden.

On coming to the breakfast table at Orr's Hotel, on Monday morning, Mr. Baxter requested to speak with me, and handed me a letter to read, which he had just received from a Mr. Vane, in which the terms *liar*, *blackguard*, *slanderer*, and *coward*, were applied to Mr. Baxter. Mr. Baxter informed me, that on the previous evening, Mr. Vane had called him a *Liar* and a *Blackguard*, after a conversation which passed, during which Mr. Hayden was present. Mr. Baxter further informed me, that it had been his intention to have requested me to wait on Mr. Vane to demand an ample apology for the insults of the night before, previous to his receipt of Mr. Vane's extraordinary note; but after the receipt of that note, he determined to take further advice from his brother officer, Major MacDougall. Before applying to that gentleman, however, I thought it necessary to call on Mr. Hayden, to obtain from him an account of the circumstances out of which such gross insults arose.

Mr. Hayden informed me, that, on Sunday evening, soon after I had left the room, (for I had dined in company with the three persons in question,) they were sitting quietly and good humour-

edly together, when the conversation turned on female virtue, and that Mr. Baxter casually remarked, that the English servants or nursery maids, were as immoral as those of any other nation, France excepted; supporting his opinion by saying that the same women who walked out in the morning in charge of their mistress's children would, at night, be many of them in the barrack rooms of officers; and that among country servants, one out of three were on the average immoral in their conduct, (or words to that effect); Mr. Hayden further stated, that Mr. Vane then said to Mr. Baxter, "*Sir, you are a liar,*" and standing up from the table, proceeded towards the door, and turning round said further to Mr. Baxter. "I do not know to what country you belong, but this I will tell you that you are a d——d blackguard."

I particularly asked Mr. Hayden, if Mr. Baxter had been addressing his conversation to Mr. Vane; and he emphatically declared that he was not, as the conversation was general. Having after this called on Major MacDougall, and taken the advice which he gave after hearing the above circumstances, I deemed it advisable again to wait on Mr. Hayden, and accordingly saw him at the Post Office, when, in order that there might be no mistake as to my understanding Mr. Hayden's account, I repeated to him the conversation of the morning, as written above; after hearing which Mr. Hayden said "You are perfectly correct." I asked Mr. Hayden if he had seen Mr. Vane's letter to Mr. Baxter; he replied "Oh! yes, he came into my room with it this morning, and on his reading it asked my opinion of it, I replied, "you surely are not going to send that." "I am though," said Mr. Vane. Mr. Hayden further said that he advised Mr. Vane not to send the letter, as it was Mr. Vane who had insulted Mr. Baxter, and that it was Mr. Baxter's part to demand an apology from Mr. Vane.

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful servant,

ROBERT BOLTON,

(*Late 13th Lt. Infantry.*)

P.S. I omitted to state that on the occasion of my first conversation with Mr. Hayden, that gentleman told me, he was ex-



tremely sorry for the whole transaction, for that Mr. Baxter was a quiet unoffending person, and not at all to blame in the matter in question. My son, a youth above fourteen years of age, distinctly recollects hearing Mr. Hayden make this statement, he having been at the time standing at Mr. Hayden's elbow.

R. BOLTON,

(Late 13th Lt. Infantry.)

I declare the above Postscript to be strictly correct.

(Signed,)

R. BOLTON,

(Son's Signature.)

D. Lorn MacDougall, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Copy, B.)

MONTREAL, *October 15th, 1849.*

MY DEAR BAXTER,—The only course I can recommend you to take, as regards the author of the very ruffianly production you have shown me, is, to hand him over to the Police as a dangerous lunatic.

Believe me,

Very truly yours,

(Signed,)

P. L. MACDOUGALL,

Major, R. C. Rifles.

Q. M. Baxter,
R. C. Rifles.

(Copy C.)

MONTREAL, *Tuesday, October 16, 1849.*

MY DEAR MACDOUGALL,—I have received a letter, as you know, from a person signing himself Fred. H. Vane, couched in flattering language, informing me that I am a disgrace to the Canadian Rifles, &c. I see the name "Robt. Abraham," with an address on the back part of the letter, and as I cannot believe that any person in Mr. Abraham's position, (if I am right in supposing him the late editor of the "Gazette,") would give his

countenance to Mr. Vane in the present instance, were he fully informed of the circumstances of the case, I think it right to state them for Mr. Abraham's judgment before he goes farther.

On the night before last, Quarter Master Baxter, of the Canadian Rifles, was talking with two persons in the public room of an hotel; the conversation turned on female virtue, and Mr. Baxter stated, as his opinion, that the women of England of a certain class were less virtuous than those of any other country, except France, supporting his opinion by stating facts which had come under his own observation. Mr. Vane, one of the two persons present, contradicted him; Mr. Baxter adhered to his opinion, on which the other called him a *liar* and a *blackguard*. This was rather strong, but it might have been accounted for, at night, by imprudent indulgence in spirituous liquors of an ardent character, and I think it a pity Mr. Baxter did not then and there beat the man severely, or, at least, endeavour to do so; for, however we may dissent from Mr. Baxter's opinion, and disapprove of its expression, it did not call for the very gross and disgraceful language, (disgraceful, I mean, to the person employing it), made use of by Mr. Vane. There are different methods of inflicting a rebuke; but that which was employed by Mr. Vane is not resorted to commonly by *gentlemen*. Most men would have been satisfied, in Mr. Vane's position, with what had been done in vindication of the honour of a certain class of his countrywomen, and would have awaited the message which he might have expected from the person he had so grossly insulted, (though few men indeed, of gentlemanlike feeling, would have waited for a message to make an ample apology for such conduct). But this very chivalrous person thought he had not done sufficient; he rose next morning with the determination either to *force* Mr. Baxter into a duel with him, or to publish him as a coward to his Regiment. In furtherance of this scheme, he penned a production, which *no gentleman*, under any circumstances of provocation or anger, should have allowed himself to write. With this note, Mr. Baxter called upon me, yesterday morning, to ask my advice as his brother officer. The moment I read it, I said: "Why, the man must be *mad!*" Such was the exclamation also of another brother officer who was present. After hearing the circumstances of the case, I did not hesitate in deciding that Mr. Vane was either a ruffian or a mad-

man; and, in giving the advice which I did to Mr. Baxter, I consider I was putting the most charitable construction on his conduct.

In duelling, military men always fight at a disadvantage. The laws against it are now so stringent that an officer always risks the loss of his Commission; but, though I look on the practice of duelling with the greatest contempt, still I should be sufficiently weakminded to act as has been the custom under insult. When, therefore, there could be no doubt as to the description of person offering insult, the above considerations would be disregarded; but, that Mr. Baxter, a good soldier, who has won his present position entirely by his own merit, with a wife and family dependent on his life for subsistence, should be *forced* into a duel by such a man as Mr. Vane, to gratify, probably, a craving after notoriety,—I would not countenance.

Under these circumstances, it would be inconsistent in me to call Mr. Vane to any account for the comparatively moderate tone of his communication to me. His conduct has been so bad, that unless an apology is made by him to Mr. Baxter before twelve o'clock to-morrow, which that officer will accept, an account of it will be forwarded to the Post Master General, through the Commander-in-Chief.

I have penned the above remarks entirely for Mr. Abraham's consideration, though of course he can make any use he may think proper of this letter. I have not written it with reference to Mr. Vane. I have not the smallest wish to aggravate the violence of his feelings. I have not written it with the view of its being read by him, but solely to enable Mr. Abraham to judge of the propriety of countenancing such conduct as Mr. Vane has been guilty of, by his support; of Mr. Vane, be it said, I have no knowledge whatever, except through his spoken and written language.

Believe me sincerely yours,

(Signed,) P. L. MACDOUGALL,

Major R. C. Rifles.

D. L. Macdougall, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Montreal.

(Copy, D.)

MONTREAL, *Sunday, 28th Oct., 1849.*

MY DEAR MACDOUGALL,—You ask me to recapitulate your instructions to me, when I became the bearer of your letter (to me) to Mr. Abraham.

You desired that I should make Mr. Abraham distinctly understand that you considered yourself bound to meet him, should he think proper to substitute himself for his Principal; and in that case, you begged of me at once to arrange a meeting, without further reference to you.

I need hardly assure you that your instructions were carried out to the letter.

Believe me most sincerely yours,

(Signed,) D. LORN MACDOUGALL.

Major MacDongall,
R. C. Rifles, St. Johns.

(Copy, E.)

ORR'S HOTEL, 3½, P. M.,

Wednesday, October 17, 1849.

MY DEAR SIR,—I find it impossible to get my answer ready in intelligible form by six this evening; and, as the matter, so far as personal recourse, is positively ended, you must wait, if you please, until to-morrow. I think it only due to the gentlemen concerned, both to your principal and to mine, and to our character for good sense and feeling, that caution and deliberation should prevail, and that I should be enabled, legibly to have copied, and carefully to correct, a letter, which, I think, on perusal, you will see has a material bearing on the business now to be subjected to official scrutiny.

Dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

ROBT. ABRAHAM.

D. L. MacDougall, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

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