

I simply desire - that you state facts as you know them from other public sources - and suggest what you think is proper.

and inferences does me injustice - to me
these unfair statements have been annoying
as I placed by them in a false position

The sort of notoriety it gives is to
me very distasteful - The affair though
propagated upon me, is I confess mortifying
that I should at any time of life be
under the necessity of doing as I have
before which I would repeat under sim-
ilar provocations instantaneously -

This letter is not for the public, is
only to request you to state the facts as
you learned them when in Sax a sense
of delicacy, would restrain me from ob-
truding my statements and to me their
is nothing more unbecoming or offensive
as to obstruct our private grievances in
the public - We got enough to hear a
conversation with the Editor of the Journal
of Commerce, and we became him - to my
friends Dr. Paine & Mrs. E. Brooks - to Mr
Bancroft ^{I wish you to state the facts} - but that I
wish any notice from the press of the
affair, but as private friends & gentlemen
to whom I wish to be properly represented

With my affectionate regards to Mrs
Susan Ship Henry Hall & the children
I remain your faithful friend
A. S. Duncan

Lexington May 28th 1859

My Dear Doctor

A day or two since Uncle Dany
handed me a slip he cut from his "Jour-
nal of Commerce", purporting to give an
account of the affair between Courts and
myself - So utterly destitute of truth and
such a perversion of the facts, that
I will call your attention to it - The ex-
tract I send you - that a ^{paper} ~~journal~~ of the
high character for ^{which distinguishes the Journal of Commerce} propriety and fair
dealing, should be betrayed into an act
of injustice - by permitting to a place
in its columns any publication of the
character above - relating to private in-
dividuals - is a matter of surprise, when
there was every probability, that an in-
position would be practised - Correspondence
made with this publication in the J of
C - the following article appears in the
Boston Journal - a slip of which was
sent - far more gross & unscrupulous in
its statements - which I will copy for
a Genl Leslie Combs had a rough and
a tumbled fight on the 3rd of May with

"I'm Henry J. Duncan, in the managers' corner
"of the Northern Bank of New York in Lexington
"N.Y. You Combs punished his antagonist severely
"by, ~~and~~ The Owl is over 72 years old and
"his ~~is~~ is over 80. Upon a reading of the
two articles they evidently have a com-
mon patriotism, and fully illustrate that
love of notoriety, of imposture and hum-
= bugging which is so characteristic of
the notorious general. That I am strong-
ly inclined to suspect his agency in the
procurement of these publications
It was certainly done by one - willing
wantonly to impose & deceive by attri-
buting to the general an achievement
& success - overwhelming to his modesty &
sense of truth no doubt

Now my dear Sir - as you were
here about the time this modifying &
rather - roading affair occurred - and
are perfectly familiar with the
facts of the case - as familiar to every
one in this community & the opinion
of the fair entire society - that the
redoubtable General - was upon this
occasion exceeding rude & insulting
and upon being rebuked - finally de-

cidid - that he would ~~punish~~ his antagonist
as the Boston article says, ~~then~~ struck or
attempted to strike upon which with a
cotton core very light - ~~was~~ was caused
while & then upon coming to close
quarters, he was flogged and decently thrus-
= ted. Not a man woman or child in his
community - who did not think he deserved
all he got - that he did not get a back
swing - retiring from the contest well think-
= ing for his endurance & fully in deciding
or seeking to decide this affair by a single
= last fight or cuffs - a department in which
this I understand, is not his final achieve-
ment - This is not the first time, he was thrus-
= checked ~~down~~ & thrashed for his insolence

You will oblige me as you have
opportunity - of putting me right among
my friends in N.Y. (The affair was not
of my seeking - I could not have done
less than I did) as you know the facts
pertained when you were here - from
those who knew them - you can with
propriety - state them & disclose the mind
of the Editor, who has inadvertently lent
his columns - to the circulation of such
unfair & prejudicial statements - which
is the ^{fact} statement

we cannot secure the crops
which will aid so materially
in the payment of our
debts

Under these urgent cir-
cumstances - I must apply
to you for an order res-
toring Messrs Nelson
Frank & Co (The latter
probably run away) at
your earliest convenience
They are now needed in
the harvest field

Yours truly
A J Simson

Livingston June 30th 1863

Brig Genl Bayles

Dear Sir

I learn from Genl
Hantsuff - that the charge of
the Contraband question has
been assigned exclusively to
yourself

The Slaves of West Gibson
Nine in number were taken
to labor on the public works
In the first, sixteen were
taken - 3 restored upon my
application & were subsequent
city releases - making 7
with 3 additional hands since
being all the efficient hands
upon the place - of whom
3 were again released and
subsequently 3 more - only 2 of
whom were returned

One a boy named Bob - The
officer, in discharge of his
duty - failed to return as or-
dered - keeps him - is disobedience
of orders in the public employ-
ment - or has conspired at or
promitted to escape.

Besides this Boy Bob - there
are 4 more names Morgan Nelson
& Frank - making 4 - such
is the condition of the wheat
crop - now ready for the sickle
and being a large crop 160 a
that it is a matter of the first
importance, that we get
these 4 additional hands, with
all the labor I can hire
which is scarce & difficult
to get.

The true condition of
these boys is this - Gibson
has only a life Estate, his
creditors with myself the

principal are here attached
these slaves and all the other
property of Gibson - which
from the tenure by which
this property Land & Negroes
are held (a life estate) will
be in all probability used
equally for the ^{with} payment of the
debts.

I have executed an at-
tachment bond for these
being for the coming upon
the discharge of the cases
this property with the growing
crop - will all be subjected
to these debts - all of which
(I know no exception) is due
to British Men - which I
respectfully think makes
it a case - not within the
reason of the rule improp-
ing the labor of Rebels
without this labor we

Sept July 11th 1843

Brig Genl Boyle

Dear Sir

I am this

moment in receipt of a letter from Lieut Thos Wallace (Son of Arthur H. Wallace) Informing me that he was taken prisoner - This side of Bardston, in the neighborhood of Perryville, paroled & turned loose, but fearing that his parole was not in proper form - He went on to Knoxville and reported himself & fears that he may be sent to prison - States that he is unwell - and would like to stay in the Knoxville neighborhood on any

Mr. Wallace

It is unfortunate

for me to do anything

for young Wallace -

from his letter appears

to be from Knoxville -

J. T. Boyle
my care

which in the State - that
might be indicated.

Upon this statement - He
has been paroled - It would
seem to me, that upon this
state of fact - The author-
ities would not from mere
informality in the parole
order his arrest.

Allow me to suggest
that you take such action
in the matter as may
relieve his fears & place
him according to his
request either at Louisville
or elsewhere, as in your
judgment may seem
best.

His Father & family are
well known to you - and
I doubt not - They will
gratefully appreciate
Yours

your good offices in his
behalf.

With sincere regard
I remain

Yrs Truly

H. J. Duncan

I have no testimony of the
neglect of Gibson - you
were good enough to
release some days ago
There is certainly some
irregularity or inattention
to the proper & prompt
execution of these orders.