

Huntsville March 3rd 1872.

My Dear Friend.

Altho. weary and soon after my long trip home, I wish to inform you of the extraordinary state of affairs here and to take your advice, and the advice of our friends in Montgomery, in relation to them. The U.S. Dist. Court is now in session at this place. And a large number of so-called Ku Klux Cases are being tried in which Judge Busted has acted in a most extraordinary manner. He has in several cases outraged the plainest provisions of the law, invaded the province of the jury, and forced from them verdicts of guilty against innocent parties. The words & use are deliberate and well considered. Indeed, language can give no adequate idea of the conduct of the Judge. He filled his Court-room on the first day with a guard of U.S. soldiers with loaded muskets and fixed bayonets under the pretext

of fear of rescue of prisoners and a pagination
of the Court. He ordered every person entering
the Court room to be stopped & searched, by his
Marshall, at the door for the discovery of con-
cealed weapons; And in this and various way
he insults this Community (which he swore
in Washington, was a law abiding people) while
he proceeds to intimidate the juries to force
from them verdicts, contrary to all the facts
and the law. He has acted so infamously
that we determined to make the issue with
him and defy his power

On yesterday (Saturday) afternoon was the
trial of an important case, the U.S. vs Shelton
Deal & others, citizens of Blount County
charged by Lakin with intimidation & C.
After a long argument by Counsel, Busted
proceeded to deliver a written charge to the
jury, invading their right to decide upon the
evidence and demanding a verdict in palpable
violation of the facts. He refused to hear applica-
-tions for charges of law from the defendants &
would not ^{allow} them even to be read in Court

when offered by Walker & Brickell counsel
for the defence. He refused to give his
written charge to the keeping of the clerk
or to furnish the counsel with a copy of it.

After Court had adjourned, the judge in
company with the Marshall, Assistant Marshall,
District Attorney, Register in Bankruptcy
and other attaches of Court being still in
the Court-room, Robt. C. Brickell, one of the
counsel for defence ~~and~~ (whose learning
and purity ornaments and guards the le-
gal profession of the State) returned to the
Court-room in company with myself and two
other gentlemen, for the purpose of seeing
Judge Busted and expressing to him in
person the indignation of the community
at his conduct during the present session.
We found him sitting by the fire, surround-
ed by the officers of his Court and Mr
Brickell approaching him said "Judge
Busted has your Court adjourned for the
day" The Judge replied "it has sei" Mr B.
said "then we meet as citizens on equal

terms, man to man and face to face, And
I have come to say to you Sir, that you have this
day acted infamously. You have invaded the
province of the jury and forced from them,
contrary to law & fact, a foul verdict against
innocent men. You have done this wilfully
and corruptly for mean, selfish purposes
of your own." Judge B. said "I'm sorry
to hear you say this, Mr Brickell, what can
I do to repair it?" Mr B. answered "that
is false, You are not penitent. I've no confi-
-dence in your sorrow. You do not wish to
repair it and you know that as a judge
you can make no reparation, nor do I ask
any from you in your judicial character. I only
desire, face to face, to denounce you in the
name of Alabama for your infamous conduct
to her defenseless citizens. You have this day
outraged law and justice to oppress innocent
men, You have disgraced this Court house
where you sat and blackened the ^{Federal} ~~crimine~~
which you presume to wear. You have
done all this for your own selfish & bad
purposes and you know it. And I know
it and the public shall understand it.

And now Sir for what I've said to you
 you may seek to wreak your revenge upon these
 poor, defenseless prisoners, ^{now} in jail by your
 mandate but Sir you shall not escape
 entirely from the power of public sentiment,
 I intend to publish your infamy throughout
 the length and breadth of this land and every
 honest lawyer in America shall know
 and despise you as you deserve."

During this bold and terrible denuncia-
 -tion the cowardly and corrupt judge stood
 mute and seemingly appalled. After this
 Mr Brickell and myself took up our
 books and left the Court-house. It is now
 said that we will have to answer for con-
 -tempt of Court on Monday, and will
 probably be indicted for Conspiracy to in-
 -timidate D. C. & Co. I care nothing about it
 and am determined to stand by my position
 without regard to consequences.

District Attorney Minnis vs one D. P. Lewis

second fiddle prosecutor for the U. S. are thought to be at the bottom of this matter. They furnished the pretext for bringing troops into the Court-room. Bud Lewis is the candidate opposed of the Opposerites for Governor. There is no doubt that all this has been done in the line of the Congressional Ku Klux legislation, for political effect in the Presidential Campaign -

The Editor of the Democrat, J. W. Clay, has been ordered by Busted on motion of Mcminis, to come before him on Monday to answer for Contempt on account of an editorial criticizing the Court. It is to be hoped that Clay will stand firm.

In addition to what is written I wish to direct your particular attention to the motion made by J. J. Smith for the appointment by Busted of a Receiver for the A. O. C. K. K. It is current here that a Receiver will be appointed & that Geo. Burke Register in Bankruptcy and lately a Federal officer & radical Confederate of Busted will

be the man. I've no doubt that some-
-thing is rotten in this business, Gov. Reid
-say ought to be apprised of it. He must
do his whole duty and act above suspicion.

This is hastily written ~~and~~
publication but you are at liberty to show
it to our friends and publish the facts
if you see proper. The Court meets again
on Monday and if anything of importance
transpires I will telegraph you if you wish
it. We look upon these matters as the
inauguration of the Grant Campaign in
Alabama. While we do not intend to tamely
submit to insult and outrage you
may depend upon our discretion.

Excuse this scrawl. Remember
me to our friends

Yrs as ever

Wm M. Lowe