

quite sure that there is nothing but condemnation found  
in the scriptures for "Evil Speaking" and "Uncharitable-  
ness". The same authority teaches me to know the  
Tree by its fruits. - and declare that Sweet fountains

James Morrow Esq  
New York  
| city,



do not give forth bitter waters

However Sir, I do not presume to judge you, if  
your hands have been clean in this matter, I at least take no  
blame to myself, for I have alleged against you the words  
of your own mouth.

I am Sir yr most obedt  
servant  
J. Morrow

St. Col. Soons, U. S. A.

Wachita March 30, 1843

Ho! I findy the findy that she agreed to with of her than she really  
is all right the comment. The paper is bad, and my hand is  
trembles. I have written in some haste. Believe me, with high  
esteem, Yrs affectionately  
James Morrow Esq  
Dear Uncle

I have adjoined hereto for your  
inspection a copy of correspondence, which ex-  
plains itself. The last paragraph of my first  
letter, I would not retain, if the subject were to  
be reconsidered. He who trusts to  
the forbearance of human nature, leans upon a  
reed: he who demonstrates his power to defend him-  
self is generally unmolested, - because inter-  
est and safety are stronger in the human mind,  
than justice or generosity. These facts have gov-  
erned me in this case. We are told in the Bible  
to resist the first approach of evil: I think the same  
holds of aggression. Sometimes I think  
my poor Father's grand error was in permitting  
the first attacks on his reputation to pass unheeded.  
Many infinitely more depraved, have held their own  
by steadfastly resisting the first by which society  
endeavored to drive them from its communion. "Un-  
doit savoir brover l'opinion". Certes, if he  
had not weakly yielded to a cabal, whose strength he  
overrated, he had not fallen so duply into the pit

He had done few overt acts of bad fame before he "fell among  
thieves" in London. They were envious of his superiority in  
birth, in education, & talents - those marks of distinction  
among men, engraven by the hand of nature. He is most  
blamable for permitting (under any circumstances) a  
rate to be brought upon him - for allowing malignity  
and persecution to drive him into the desperate career in  
which his enemies rejoiced to see him run. Their end  
was attained, - they triumphed over a man who with all  
his faults, had not a particle of craft or dishonesty in his  
nature, and naturally owned more of the milk of hu-  
man kindness than the whole band of his persecutors.

Enough! These things are long past - I have not forgot-  
ten them, nor held intercourse with the characters of that  
drama; my brother's beliefs have - but ~~not~~  
I have not advised - each judges for himself.

I fear I have fatigued you with all this:

May I expect to hear from you? We have  
nothing new here. I am quite contented. This  
place suits me entirely. I have nothing to ask.  
Separation from friends is a necessity in military  
life always - and it is time I should have turned the  
upon of submission both - however hard.

I desire my affectionate regards to Aunt  
Monroe - and shall be glad for her to read the letters  
appended - as she did me the honor & pleasure to ap-  
prove of my conduct in the former part of this  
matter. Fanny writes to me sometimes

plea of not remembering distinctly etc. - when such a thing as  
the veracity of a gentleman is concerned - strikes me as strange?  
It is also strange that you should deem it possible that any expla-  
nations - however ingenuous - should for an instant affect my precise  
and possible recollection of an occurrence in which I am so much interested.

If further explanations at the time was cut off "by my [your] feel-  
ing called upon, abruptly to break up the interview"; could the  
same cause operate to prevent explanation during the entire  
week which intervened before the charges were written?

Your memory does not serve you correctly with respect to  
the subject from which the conversation arose. It was  
about a more important and weightier matter. How-  
ever, it is sometime since the occurrence.

At various times I have determined to dismiss  
this subject in the state in which it was left by  
W. J. Warby of the 8<sup>th</sup> Regt of Inf. at other times, when  
I considered that the imputation on my character (however  
undeserved) had never been efficiently removed, I have inclined to  
the course finally pursued. I am truly glad that the point  
is now settled, although the satisfaction given is so dispro-  
portionate to the injury. Still, it is sufficient for my purpose,  
and I dismiss the subject willingly and forever, with the single  
hope that it may never again be my misfortune to be singled out  
as a party in a transaction whose nature I so thoroughly  
despise.

I am unable to decide how far my principles of  
life are in consonance with those of <sup>Christianity</sup> the ~~Evangelical~~ ~~Christian~~, - or how  
much they may conflict with yours; I am however

There were some expressions perhaps too harsh (the exact expressions I do not now remember) used by me relative to some of your conduct - which you may have understood to apply to your language. I allude to your frequent dilatory manner of attending reveille calls, and inspection of your company details for guard. - any further explanation at the time was cut off by my being called upon abruptly to break up the interview.

Very respectfully Sir,  
Yr obt servant  
(Signed) G. Loomis  
St Col 6<sup>th</sup> Inf -

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Las, Monroe, 4<sup>th</sup> Inf  
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Fort Wachita, March 9, /43

Sir: I acknowledge the receipt of a letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst, with which you have favored me. In this letter you make to me meagre and tardy reparation for a very grievous injury. You also therein "accord" to me your "forgiveness" - which I must and do consider foreign to the purpose; in other respects too your phraseology is so arranged as to make it appear that I am receiving a favor at your hands. If this mode of rendering justice suits your ideas of what is "noble" - I have nothing to say.

Will you permit me to remark that your

(1)

Fort Wachita Feb'y 7, 1843.

Sir:

Permit me to remind you of certain charges preferred by myself against you, while the 6<sup>th</sup> Inf'y were stationed at Ft Harrison, Fla. The nature, and probably the fate, of those charges are known to you: it is therefore unnecessary to say anything on that point. After this lapse of time I revive the matter because a wrong has been done me, which is still undressed. This is my reason: no apology is due the wrong doer.

Col Worth endorsed on these charges that "St Col Loomis denies having had any intention of knowingly using the exceptionable language imputed," etc. I was permitted to address myself direct to the General Heads of the Army. Why I chose not to do so, is my own affair.

The case, Sir, stands thus: as St Col of the Regiment you addressed to me violent and abusive language, styling me as an equivocator. As I told you at the time, your rank, and other obvious circumstances (by which I mean your profession of the Christian Religion) shielded you from a personal responsibility. I took care however to embody in the charges a specification the effect of which was to throw upon myself the onus of proving the falsity of your assertions, - of proving a Negative; an unusual and hazardous proceeding, but done to clear my character from your aspersions.

It is enough that you were unwilling to bring the charges to the test of a military Tribunal

Your aspersions, in the position you occupy, have

a weight totally independent on your character as  
a man. My purpose in writing to you sir, is to request  
a withdrawal under your hand of the charges you thought  
proper to make: whether you made them "knowingly," or  
not knowingly, - in a moment of passion, or not, - this  
does not affect the matter, - except that they should be the  
more readily withdrawn if not made deliberately. My  
honor, of the first consequence to me as a soldier, requires  
this: as a gentleman, it is imperatively necessary that the  
stain upon my veracity be removed. You have made the  
charge: you evaded the trial, when offered; - it remains that  
you utterly retract it. This is my right.

Should you make the reparation sought, there can  
be never a return of good-feeling between Col Coombs and  
myself. To permit this with a man who has so far out-  
raged all feeling, is not compatible with the principles  
in which I have been reared. But justice between us  
may be done, and so far harmony of conduct restored;  
and this is what I now seek at your hands.

I am sir,  
Yours truly  
G. W. Coombs  
Capt. Inf.

Col Coombs  
U.S.A.

(2) (Copy)

Fort Towson, March 4, 1843.

Sir:

I have been for some days in the reception of  
your letter of Feb'y 7, 1843, reminding me of certain charges  
preferred by yourself against me in 1841. I remember seeing  
charges shown to me by Genl, then Col, Worth as signed by  
yourself. - I had no copy furnished me. I gave him them  
as correct an account of the subject matter as I could. - I  
told him I did not then admit, nor do I now, that I used the  
exceptionable words imputed to me. I certainly could have  
had no intention of doing it; as it did not then <sup>up</sup> rise in my  
mind that you were guilty of using such language, nor  
does it now.

I hold it to be far more noble in any man to  
acknowledge and correct an error, than persist in wrong;  
and his duty to make reparation for an injury, if he has  
done one, so far as he can. If therefore I have done you  
an injury at any time, I ask your pardon for it.

There are some parts of your letter that it does not  
become me to notice. The principles I profess, and the  
Master I serve, teach me to forgive even my enemies. I  
do therefore freely accord to you, my forgiveness, for any  
and all (if any) of the injuries you may have done me: and I  
will endeavor that you, and all, shall always find me, as hereto-  
fore, ready to do justly by all, even though they may rank and treat me  
as their enemy.