

They say that "so far as their knowledge extends, Mr. Williams has never been unwilling for Mrs. Polk to see the child whenever she desired." This may be so; but there is abundant proof that she went two or three times to his house for the purpose, but could not gain admittance.

They ask, *why did I come to Washington to publish?* I answer, because the printer at Princess Ann refused to print for me, alleging that by so doing he would incur the displeasure of persons to whom he was under obligations.

I should have made my rejoinder sooner, but I did not see a copy of their pamphlet until two days ago, when a friend politely showed me one that was sent to Mr. Butler, the Attorney General. It is said that a copy was sent to the head of each of the Departments; as if those high functionaries take any interest in our petty quarrels. The silly trick, however, if it be so, will only render them the more ridiculous in the eyes of men of sense.

I shall not promise, as they have done, to write no more on the subject. Should they break their promise, I *shall* answer them. I have not exhausted my *amunition*, and I will stick to them, if they continue the battle, as long as I have *a shot in the locker*.

Some, perhaps, may blame me for using such harsh language; but I cannot speak in respectful terms of men who, in my estimation, have forfeited all claim to my respect and to the character of gentlemen. I have spoken of them as I have done, because I believe their conduct was the result of a wicked and settled purpose to confirm and strengthen that unnatural aversion, which the child has to seeing her mother. I know not how else to account for their conduct. I regret that they should give me cause to speak of them as I have felt constrained to do, for it is far more agreeable to me and congenial with my disposition to treat all men with politeness and kindness, than otherwise. But their reply is far from being to me a satisfactory solution of their conduct; for if they did really think our object was to take the child away by force, *why did they not close the door*,—a thing so easy to do—instead of laying violent hands on the mother and child?

I send these facts to the public, as I have stated them, *on the credit of my veracity*. I feel no apprehensions in putting it in competition with that of my adversaries. I know that all who know me well, will believe my statement, all that has been or may be said to the contrary, notwithstanding; and as to those who do not know me, their opinion is not a matter of quite so much moment.

JOSIAH F. POLK.

WASHINGTON, OCT. 3, 1836.

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