This Respondent learns, with surprise, from the Complainant's Bill of Complaint, of her extraordinary efforts to reform his pretended habits of dissipation, and feels gratified at that rare evidence of her affection. But it is not true, as alleged, "that the Respondent failed to provide for the Complainant's reasonable wants". The Respondent, whilst the Complainant remained with him in the faithful discharge of her duty as his wife, not only boarded her and himself at a first-class boarding house in Washington City, but supplied her also with an abundance of wearing apparel, and other means, suitable to her condition in life, as well as with the luxuries enjoyed in said City; And when he was deprived of his said Office, by a change of Administration, he desired to go, with the Complainant, and live in the house he had built on her farm, but she refused to do so.

This Respondent admits that he did "induce the Complainant to return and live with him", as stated in her bill, and he desired her to continue to do so; but he denies that he compelled her to leave him again, by reason of his harsh treatment, because of her refusal to sell her land, or for any other cause. He denies that he ever sought to compel her to sell her land, but, on the contrary, he caused, as above stated, a dwelling house to be erected on the said land, intending it as a home for her, as well as for himself.

The Respondent denies that he deserted and abandoned the Complainant, as she alleges; But charges that the Complainant abandoned and deserted him, in violation of her duty, and against his wishes. And he also denies that his conduct towards the Complainant was such as to prevent her from "risking herself," with entire propriety and safety, "in his care and keeping", or to justify her in abandoning him.

The Respondent agrees with the Complainant, in so far as, that the seperation betwen them is final and beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation, and has continued for more than three years before the filing of the bill, to which this is an answer; but the fault is due and owing, entirely, to the perverse conduct of the Complainant, and is not owing to the fault or dereliction of the Respondent.

This Respondent having fully answered said bill, prays hence to be dismissed with his reasonable costs. And as in duty &c.

W. Devis Bowie
& Thos Anderson
Solrs for Respondent