

held with me on the day of my departure for the North; and that you had probably communicated your erroneous impressions to the Board. Consequently, I thought it prudent, as well as frank, to advise the Board of what did actually pass in that interview. I could not consider the interview confidential, nor semi-confidential (as the usually supposed privilege of a visitor;) on the very plain reason that, the charge preferred was of a serious character, made against an official, and to me as the official superior of the accused.

I have but one rule in such cases; and that is, to entertain no private complaint, from any one, against any one. I deal with all citizens alike; and I treat all officers, under my authority, as though they were personally unknown to me. They are immediately notified of complaints, written or verbal, if made by responsible parties; and, upon conviction of misconduct, they are rebuked or dismissed, without fear, favor or affection. I regret, Rev. Sir, that you should have intimated, as you very clearly have done, in your letter to me of the 14th of November, that there was any, the remotest violation by me of the usually supposed privilege of a visitor, in my own (or, you should rather have said, my father-in-law's) house. In regard to the second and last point, (personal to myself) namely, my misconception of the charge preferred by you against Mr. Lucas, in the conversation alluded to, allow me to say that there can be no necessity for an issue between us. I certainly interpreted your remarks precisely as I gave them in my first letter to the Board. You may have intended to be more specific than you were, or than I understood you to be. But, one thing is very unquestionable, and it is this, that I ^{never} had any knowledge of the exact nature of the difficulty between yourself and Mr. Lucas, until I learned it from him some time after my interview with you. It was perfectly new and fresh to me. You are therefore more likely to be mistaken in your recollection of what you actually said in our hurried conversations at Col. Polk's, than I am. You were speaking with your mind filled with the details; and may have been, and were less precise in your expressions than was necessary to convey your true meaning, as I now understand it. My mind was a blank sheet, receiving just the impression which your words made upon it, and none other. That impres-

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