

J E F F E R S O N D A V I S

H I S L E T T E R S , P A P E R S A N D S P E E C H E S

C O L L E C T E D A N D E D I T E D

B Y

D U N B A R R O L A N D

M I S S I S S I P P I D E P A R T M E N T O F A R C H I V E S A N D H I S T O R Y

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B E V E R L Y T U C K E R T O J E F F E R S O N D A V I S

(From Confederate Memorial Hall.)

Drummondville, July 1st, 1867.

My dear Mr. Davis:

That very little visit to you made my old heart fresher, and yet I long for its repetition, and hope it is not far off, either in Canada West or East.

You were so kind as to express a wish to see what I had written in relation to the conspiracy charge, etc. I have been unable to procure you a copy of my "Address to the People of the United States," published two weeks after Andrew Johnson's proclamation of May 2nd, 1865. After the publication of that Address, in the Canadian and American journals, and of other letters to which the charge gave rise, I determined to put the whole in pamphlet form, not bound, as the accompanying one is, and of which there were only a few for my immediate family, and friends, so that I could transmit them by post to every part of the world, whither I had been, or was known. You, perhaps, did not see that simultaneously with the issuance of the Proclamation there appeared an elaborate Editorial in Mr. Seward's organ,

the New York Times, which stated in conclusion, that the photographs of the parties charged in that proclamation "had been sent to every police station in Europe, so that there would not be a spot on the habitable globe, where they would not be known as branded criminals."! The "Address" is the chief production in the pamphlet, to which I invite your perusal, and of which I confess I should like to have your opinion. I need not say, that any such opinion is only for my own private satisfaction, and for no other use. It was variously criticized at the time. Many thought it too severe and sweeping, and some of these were of our Southern friends. Many again, and much the larger portion, approved, and in some instances extravagantly (I confess) complimented it - while almost every one thought I was flinging back the charge upon Andrew Johnson himself. I did not, nor do I yet, think this inference is entirely just. I honestly suspected him, as soon as I read the proclamation, so perfectly absurd and farfetched was that document. I had then many things to justify that suspicion. What I intended however was only to draw the lead very fine on him, in showing that by all the rules of testimony - circumstantial testimony, I mean - suspicion of complicity, in the assassination, attached much more strongly to him, than to any one of the parties named in his proclamation, and certainly much more so, than to me, who not only had never dreamed, in my worst seasons of hatred to our enemies, of such a recourse to remove old Abraham out of the way, but who, it so happened actually had never so much as heard the names of J. Wilkes Booth, Surratts or any of the parties, then on trial, and afterwards convicted (?) and executed!

I still think, Johnson should be called to the witness stand in Surratt's trial, in which case, I believe, sincerely, that acquaintance with Booth, if not intimacy, would be proved. These do not necessarily involve guilt, but if I were in his place, and were innocent, (As I now think it

probable he is) I would insist upon being summoned.

The little pamphlette I send you is one I gave my little god-daughter two years ago, which I have borrowed for the two-fold purpose that you should read it, and return it to me, with your glorious autograph on the fly leaf, as a souvenir for the dear little girl. Her father - the Revd. Canon Dixon, who visited you with me at Niagara, respectfully begs that you will put your autograph also upon his photograph of you, which I enclose.

These are little troubles to you, I know, but it is the penalty, that such as you in this world, must submit to for the gratification of your host of admiring friends.

I wrote Mrs. Davis from Ottawa, and indulge the hope that she may some day favor me with a few lines in return. Maggy and my boys will be here with us this week. What a glorious reunion! Mrs. T. unites in love to you, Mrs. Davis, and the dear children.

May our Father bless you and yours with every spiritual and temporal blessing earnestly prays

Your sincere friend,

Beverly Tucker

)Honorable Jefferson Davis,)
endorsed: Bev. Tucker.