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**MC073: Folder 37: William Joseph Palmer to Thomas Sharp Palmer 1861 May 4**

*This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record. Please note that this transcription has not been reviewed for final editing. Please contact us with any questions.*

Omnibus Office May 4 1861

To Thomas

Your letter to Kate came to hand yesterday. My first impression was not to notice it in any shape or form for did not the chirography betray it I certainly should behoove to believe it ever was written or dictated by a brother of mine, for it is, (if possible,) more insulting ungentlemanly and untruthful than your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. In regard to that letter I will here remark that had a MAN written such a letter to you and the opportunity had offered of giving him a whipping or cowhiding and you had not done it, you have less spunk than the Palmers generally have. I think the best answer she could of given you would have been to send you a copy of your letter so you could of read and reflected on it at your leisure. In yours recd yesterday you speak of your long suffering towards her and of receiving all the abuse that an exasperated female could give you. You also speak of being ignorant of a certain kind of etiquette. Judging from your letters one would suppose you to be totally ignorant of all kinds of gentlemanly etiquet, for you accuse her of falsehood, of using language that would cause any Lady to blush. But I care not to repeat all the chaste and elegant expressions contained in your very brotherly epistle. and then you wind up your letter by saying, But still I will love you as a Sister with all your faults. How magnanimous, how very kind and condescending. She certainly ought to feel very thankful that you dont annihilate her. I am afraid the love and anxiety you have for her is what the Wolf has for the Lamb.

The next thing is to ask what is it all for. You state the grievance yourself which is this; that she intimated that the people of your Section were cowards and that she looked upon your people as enemies to her home and birthplace, and as such she would hate them and teach her children to hate them. That is the whole charge as brought by yourself. In your letter you admit she said she intended nothing personal, but in the face of this, tell her she did intend it as such and in two or three places give her the lie direct, and then say there is nothing in this letter that she can get angry about. You certainly have high notions of Gentlemanly conduct. You appear to be very sensitive to being called a coward. In reply I could ask is it the mark of a brave man to insult a woman. In one of your letters you tell to advise her husband to ride one of his fleetest horses when he goes to battle and put his breast plate on his back. I suppose you thought this very witty to call her husband a coward but at the same time you say, Kate, call me simpleton,

fool, anything but never call me a coward. Those that live in glass houses should not throw stones. It would be well if a man who writes as you do to keep copies and give them to disinterested person to read. I hope you have copies of your two last. If so, show them to John and he will tell you if they are fit for one man to write to another, much less a man to a woman and that woman his sister. As regards your threat that we will find out that the north are brave, if it will be any accommodation we will admit that, for it was fully proved by the brave fleet off our Bar during the bombardment of Sumter. They saw the small body of men they were sent to succor, fighting for 30 odd hours and never raised a hand to help them. The sea at the same time as smooth as a house floor, and not blowing a gale as they said. Anderson don't say there was a gale. But I shant discuss politics, that is past the time for action has come. As regards brother Charles troubles, I know nothing, as we have not recd a letter from them in three weeks, Lincoln and his tribe having stopt the mails that come by the way of Washington.

Give our love to John and family also Nancy and the children and rest assured I never will insult your wife as you have mine. She has not seen your last letter, it was directed to me therefore I opened and read it and thought I would not pain her by letting her see it as it would only cause her a sick spell.

Yours,

W J Palmer