

called him a gentleman, I would now class him as he deserves to be classed, with M'Intyre and Heiskill, with whom he has associated himself and leave him there in the mud with them. My only purpose now is to satisfy the world that I am not the aggressor in this affair and that I am only acting in self-defense.

I should do great injustice to my feelings should I conclude this address without expressing my deep regret that I have been compelled to publish publicly my opinion of Mr. John McCarty. For his brothers and all his family who I cherish as friends and relatives, the necessity imposed on me say such things is most certainly painful to them and is extremely painful to me. But whatever may be the final result of this controversy, I most sincerely hope that it will not be permitted to affect the amicable relations which exists between us and our families.

ARMISTEAD T. MASON Selma, January 31st, 1818

February 16, 1818

TO THE PUBLIC

I cannot condescend to reply *in detail* to the publication of a man, whose late pusillanimous conduct has sunk him beneath the scorn and pity of mankind. I refer the public however to the altercation at the hustings – to the correspondence – and the publications that have passed between General Mason and myself – and leave that public to decide whether if he had possessed the feelings and principles of a gentleman, he would rather not have demanded of me honorable reparation for injuries that so deeply affects his honor as to have given rise to his late publication then to have sought redress by vulgar misrepresentation. General Mason's refusing to call on me for the indignity I offered him at the hustings and also for the insults contained in my several communications to the public (the last of which was particularly calculated and intended to close a "war of words" and to draw that challenge from him, which he in a previous publication substantially pledged himself to send) leaves no other conclusion than that GENERAL ARMISTEAD T. MASON IS A DISGRACED COWARD.

JOHN M. MCCARTY, Mrs. Peyton's Boarding House, Alexandria, February 16, 1818