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Title: Letter from Roger B. Taney to Unknown Recipient

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my bear Ju

Calo Howard mentioned to me some time ugo, that he gilmon thought it somethe that I should address a letter to Mr. Horper on Mr. Juhins, in bechalf of our friend Faral's ofphiation for a divorce - and he again yestersey cales my attention to the subject. - Many engent enjoyements in land and out of land, have left me but little time to think what I can do or ought to do - Bout it offers to me that I with hardly write fruch a letter to wither of The Selegates from Baltimor, as would be littly to Itimulate their exertions in an forour . -

when I was a minuter of the Linate I noted against ale the applications for deinances a binner the a binner material materials. - not only from the abilities opinions I entite in - but because

I believed them to be wrong on the sear of prolings.

and this opinion I after expression in detate in the

Tenate - I have not since changed it. - And if I were to write a letter to any one, it would be due

to truth and to myself to uppress it.

You may perhaps ask why with these opinions L'advised the lapplication and promised to write to any of the members - with whom I supposed a letter from me anight be of surice? - I answer That since I left the Quate, the Legislature has here in the familia proctice of granting di-vonces - and townshows a part of the ordinary and regular Legislation at very Legion - that what con my own spinions, whigiams or positione may be I have neither expected nor desired that Lord or her friends should make them the quide of their conduct - and as I know their opinions differ from mine - and believe that The situation of Sorah, entitles her to relief; is a divorce is grouted in any lase, Ladrised The experiention. One if I were to write a latter I could do no more, then uphress my opinions,

description - and represent her situation, as appealing Itrough for support, there who hold opinions on that subject touthery to mine.

howto fuch a letter to hor Jenkins on hor Horper be of any votes to our friend? - I think not. If I had any griend there who thight he was quainted weither the circumstances of her case - or who might have been decided by misrefresentations to her disadreantage - and lahore ino ference or opposition to her petition arose from that cases - I supposed that a letter from me might pulsafs be useful to win dicate her conduct; - and it was to a letter of that description of to persons of that description That I' looked when I' affer to letters in Run Janour. - But fuch a letter would hardly he useful - and would hardly indeed he me pertone to her. Harper on her Jentions, coming on they do from the lity where the partice line and who may well suppose that their knowledge of facts & of the conduct of the practices

is equal to my sum - and that their judgment is more importate between them. - and when you look at the whole matter I think you wice sque with me, that I cannot with propriety address a letter to wither of these quetternen - -I have grown this detailed uppromation, - amid many wignest ingugaments, because I are unbeilling that Socah on hu friends should believe that I have look ony of the lancare enterest which I have hortofore to him in her welfare -& am be tie restrected I truly yours A was to a liter of the R. B. Janey The said with there is compared to the second of the equipme - our inon her The to the le mos Marke (13 Janes

My dear sir

Col. Howard mentioned to me some time ago, that Mr. Gilmore thought it desirable that I should address a letter to Mr. Harper or Mr. Jenkins, in behalf of our friend Sarah's application for a divorce, and he again yesterday called my attention to the subject. Many urgent engagements in court and out of court, have left me but little time to think what I could do or ought to do. But it appears to me that I could hardly write such a letter to either of the Delegates from Baltimore, as would be likely to stimulate their exertions in her favour.

When I was a minister of the Senate I voted against all the applications for divorces *a vinculo matrimonii*, not only from the religious opinions I entertain, but because

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I believed them to be wrong on the score of policys, and this opinion I often expressed in debate in the Senate. I have not since changed it. And if I were to write a letter to any one, it would be due to truth and to myself to express it.

You may perhaps ask why with these opinions I advised the application and promised to write to any of the members, with whom I supposed a letter from me might be of service? I answer that since I left the Senate, the Legislature has been in the familiar practice of granting divorces, and [word excised] it has become a part of the ordinary and regular legislation at every Session, that whatever my own opinions, religious or political may be, I have neither expected nor desired that Sarah or her friends should make them the guide of their conduct. And as I know their opinions differ from mine, and believe that the situation of Sarah, entitles her to relief, if a divorce is granted in any case, I advised the application. And if I were to write a letter I could do no more, than express my opinions,

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adverse as I have stated to all divorces of this description, and represent her situation, as appealing strongly for support, [word excised] to those who hold opinions on that subject contrary to mine.

Would such a letter to Mr. Jenkins or Mr. Harper be of any value to our friend? I think not. If I had any friend there who might be unacquainted with the circumstances of her case, or who might have been deceived by misrepresentations to her disadvantage, and whose indifference or opposition to her petition arose from that course, I supposed that a letter from me might perhaps be useful to vindicate her conduct. And it was to a letter of that description & to persons of that description that I looked when I offered letters in her favour. But such a letter would hardly be useful, and would hardly indeed be respectful to Mr. Harper or Mr. Jenkins, coming as they do from the City where the parties live and who may well suppose that their knowledge of the facts & of the conduct of the parties [page 4]

is equal to my own, and that their judgment is more impartial between them. And when you look at the whole matter I think you will agree with me, that I cannot with propriety address a letter to either of these gentlemen. I have given this detailed explanation, amid many urgent engagements, because I am unwilling that Sarah or her friends should believe that I have lost any of the sincere interest which I have heretofore taken in her welfare.

I am dr. sir respectfully & truly yours R. B. Taney