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Title: Letter from Horatio King to John Cunningham

Date: April 4, 1885

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Walter King

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Washington, April 4, 1885.

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

You need not have asked me to put the interesting sketches, ^{rec'd} from you yesterday in my scrap-book, for they were headed direct to it the moment they left your hands. I am much obliged to you for them.

I notice some slight mistakes.

You say Jacob Thompson "resigned in consequence of the order issued to fire on Fort Sumter". The reason he gave in his letter of resignation (See Geo. Pickens Curtis' Life of Buchanan, p. 401) is the

order for the Star of the West
to sail with men and pro-
visions for Fort Sumter. He ^{at once}
notified the authorities of
South Carolina of that order
and threw up his commis-
sion. With all his professions
to the contrary, he turned out
to be one of the vilest of rebels.
(See his letter from Toronto to J.
P. Benjamin, Dec. 3, 1864, in
paper herewith, which letter
should be preserved in your
scrap-book, as it has place
in mine.) I never doubted
that he made a good cabinet
officer until he turned traitor.

You give Jefferson Davis
age as 67 years. Lammans
Dictionary gives the year
of his birth as 1805, but I see

Spofford's Almanac says it was 1808, which would make him 77. This error in your sketch was probably typographical.

Instead of "six months," I worked just a year in the Jeffersonian office before purchasing, with Hannibal Hamlin, a half interest in the establishment. This discrepancy is of no consequence; but you have got into a bad scrape with "my family" - that is, my wife - by your outrageous comparison of her elegant spouse, styled "tall and angular", with his "fine, soldierly-looking" son, "Judge Advocate General of the militia of New York." She says she

decidly prefers the father to the
son, as she is in duty bound to
do, and that, ^{on the whole,} as you have said
so many pleasant things about
the "angular" man, you need
not stay away from Washington
nor 707 H. St. from any apprehen-
sion of not receiving an old-
time welcome whenever you may
be pleased to call.

Very truly yours,
Horatio King

John S. Cunningham, Esq
New York, N.Y.

P.S. Are you not in error by
saying See Manning is a Ro-
man Catholic? He has taken
a part of a pew and sits near
us at St. John's Church, (Episcopal.)