

Pres. N.F.A. & I.U. 344 D St. N.W.,

Washington, D. C., March 24, 1891.

Mr. Elias Carr,

Raleigh, N.C.,

Dear Sir & Bro:--Yours of 21st this moment received. I address you at Raleigh that you may get my answer tomorrow. In your letter to me in regard to the Rittenhouse matter, you said that Brother Terrell complained that I had not published Rittenhouse's acknowledgment of the authorship of the Vincent letter. In reply I stated to you just what you say, that if he had ever acknowledged it I am not aware of it. In the absence of such acknowledgement, of course I could not publish that he had made it. You are also correct as to the statement I made you when you were in Washington. Brother Macune showed me the letter which had been sent him by the Vincents and it was in Rittenhouse's own hand writing and I must say was more bitter and ferocious than I had anticipated.

I conceive that I have nothing whatever to do with the matter. It being a question purely and only between Macune and Rittenhouse. Macune evidently thought, that I had nothing to do with it as up to the time he opened the matter at Ocala, nor indeed up to this moment, has he ever mentioned the matter to me. I learn that charges were preferred against Rittenhouse in the Capital Alliance some weeks ago



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by Brother Gray, but of this action I have never received any notice and know nothing of the status of the case.

Since the Ocala meeting I have seen very little of Rittenhouse and have had nothing to do with him and no communication with him, since he wound up the office work of which he had charge immediately after the Ocala meeting. I learn that he is in this city, but I have not seen him in about two months. If he has written a line for the "Progressive Farmer" within that time, I do not know it. These are the FACTS of the case: I have had nothing whatever to do with the matter--am not and have not been implicated in it--am in no way or manner responsible for any of the charges preferred against Rittenhouse and regard it purely and simply as a matter only between himself and Macune, the adjustment of which, is amply provided for in our law. I have no apologies to make for Rittenhouse, nor can I attempt to explain his course, nor am I in way or manner responsible for it. I deplore the unfortunate affair in all its bearings, but the matter should be placed in charge of disinterested or unbiased Brethern, with a view to a thorough and rigid investigation and if our law has been violated, it should be promptly vindicated. If I shall be able to give you any further information on the subject it will be cheerfully done. Do you know whether the charges have been transferred to his Alliance in North Carolina and if so, what the status of the case is?



Just why Brother Macune's friends should still seek to connect my name with this matter, is a question which to me, is exceedingly unpleasant to contemplate and if, in the investigation of this case, it is at all necessary to my vindication, or to a proper understanding of my position, I will cheerfully attend the trial in person. The painful conviction has been forced upon me that the enemies of Rittenhouse have diligently and persistently sought to implicate me in the charges made against him, but I knew nothing of the matter until made known indirectly at Ocala, whereupon my official connection with Rittenhouse, was promptly severed and since which time, I have had nothing to do with him.

Hastily and Fraternally yours,

*L L Polk*

Pres. N.F.A. & I.U.

Dictated.