

Private file

Newburyport 17 Dec. 1857

Dear Sir.

Accompanying this, I address to you an official letter on the subject of the John S. Thacher, by which you will see that on the side of his matter he has many connexions here, whom you will greatly oblige and gratify by any thing you may do in his behalf.

I should have written to you before concerning Mr Thacher, but for some indiscreet publications made in the news papers by some of his friends, which publications, besides being disrespectful to the American Government as well as that of Spain, had the additional faults of containing so much of mere vague appeal to popular prejudice, and of dwelling so continually on oral or supposed facts quite immaterial to the true merits of the question, and of saying so little on the all-important matter of the guilt or innocence of the accused, as to have produced in the minds of many persons (my own included) doubts on the subject, which would not otherwise have

averted.

I conclude, however, on further reflection, that these considerations ought not to affect the action of any person writing well to Mr Thrasher; and I am confident that the President, with generally and the other members of the Cabinet, will have taken this view of the case, regarding it in its true light, as a question merely of what is due from the Government of the United States to an American citizen needing its good offices.

Indeed, the statements made by the National Intelligencer show that the Government has not waited for the stimulus of imperfections, public or private, to call its attention to the occurrence of the trial and condemnation of Mr Thrasher.

I am aware of the delicacy of the existing relations of our Government and that of Spain, and of the complications of ^{points} produced by their mutual relations; but I think the fact that the trial of Mr Thrasher was by the direct action of the Spanish Government or its military authorities, takes the affair out of the range of the MacLeod case and of the recent

cases of grievance suffered by Spanish subjects
in New Orleans, Mobile, and Key West; and
I am sure that you, if any one living,
can do and say whatever ought to be
said or done in the matter, to produce a
favorable impression on the mind either
of the Caldeon de la Barca or of
the Marquis of Miraflores.

In regard to the new controversy
between the United States and Spain, I
feel persuaded, and I so say to my Span-
ish friends, that, in asking the intervention of
Great Britain and France, the Spanish
Government has committed an error, which
cannot justify ~~itself~~ ^{itself} in the
end, to talk against her interests in
Cuba.

I remain

Very faithfully

Yours friend & such

Albany

M^r. Daniel Webster.

City of
Newburyport 17 December 1857

Sir:

Doubts having been expressed in some quarters as to the nationality of Mr John S. Thacher, whose case it is understood is now engaging the attention of the Executive, I beg leave to state, that many of the connexions and personal friends of Mr T. reside in this ^{City} neighborhood, in whose name and behalf I lay before you the following statement of his birth and parentage.

Mr Thacher was born at Portland in the State of Maine, March 11th 1818

His father, Benjamin Thacher, is a citizen of the United States, at that time residing in Portland

His mother was the daughter of the late Stephen Pown of Newbury in the State of Massachusetts.

Mr Thacher is therefore, by birth, and by parentage on both sides, a citizen of the United States.

I am

Very respectfully

Dear Sir

Benjamin Thacher

Secretary of State

John S. Thacher

Esq.

Mayor

City of
Newburyport 17 December 1857
Sir.

Doubts having been expressed in some quarters as to the rationality of Mr John S. Thacher, whose case it is understood is now engaging the ^{consideration} attention of the Executive, I beg leave to say that many of the conversers and personal friends of Mr Thacher in this City or its neighborhood, in whose name and behalf I beg before you the following statement of his birth and parentage.

Mr John S. Thacher was born at Portland in the State of Maine, November 18th 1810.

His father, Benjamin Thacher, is a citizen of the United States, at that

The Honble
Daniel Webster

Secretary of State

times residing in Portland.

His mother was the daughter of
the late Stephen Poirer, of Newbury in the
State of Massachusetts.

Mr. Theobald is therefore, by birth,
and by parentage on both sides, a citizen
of the United States.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant

Cushing

Mayor of the City

of Newburyport

Newburyport 17 Dec. 1857

Dear Sir.

Accompanying this I address
to you an official communication on the
subject of the John S. Thacher, by which
you will see that ^{on} the side of his
mother he has many connexions here, &
where you will ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{gratified} by
any thing you may ~~do~~ ~~the~~ ~~President~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~in~~
I did his ~~best~~ ~~interest~~ ~~belong~~

I should have written to you ^{concerning} ~~the~~ ~~subject~~, but for the ^{inconvenience} ~~inconvenience~~
publications made in the newspapers, ^{by} ~~the~~ ~~press~~ ~~of~~
~~the~~ ~~city~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~, which publications,
being very disrespectful to the Amer-
ican Government as well as that of
Spain, had the additional fault of
containing a number of ^{untrue} ~~untrue~~ ~~and~~ ~~of~~
false to popular prejudices, and of
dwelling ^{continually} ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~points~~
facts which are quite immaterial to
the question of the guilt or innocence
of ^{the} ~~the~~ ~~Thacher~~, and of saying a little on
the ~~the~~ ~~important~~ ~~matter~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~true~~
merits of the case, as to have ^{been} ~~been~~ ~~produced~~
to produce in the ~~public~~ ~~mind~~ ~~of~~ ~~many~~ ~~persons~~
a ~~kind~~ ~~of~~ ~~doubt~~ (any one included) doubt -

the subject which would not otherwise have existed.

conclude however, further, that I think, in ~~express~~ reflection, that these considerations ought not to affect the action of ~~the American Government~~, as that of any person wishing well to Mr. Thacker; and I am confident that the President, with generally ~~the~~ members of the Cabinet, will have ^{taken this over of} regarded the case, ^{regarding it} in its true light, as a question merely of what is due from the Government of the United States to one of its citizens needing ~~and asking for~~ its good offices.

I am
Very faithfully
Yours
J. M. Mason

Mr. Daniel Webster.

Indeed, the statement of ~~made~~ by the A. Public shows that ~~you~~ ^{the} have not waited for ~~the stimulus of~~ ^{the stimulus of} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~or private~~ ^{or private} ~~to call its~~ ^{attention} ~~into~~ ^{to the} ~~trial~~ ^{of} ~~condemnation~~ ^{of} Mr. Thacker.

I am aware of the delicate nature of ~~the~~ ~~of a~~ ~~case~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~ ~~relations~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~Government~~ ~~of~~ ~~that~~ ~~of~~ ~~Spain~~, and of the ~~confidential~~ ^{points} ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~confidential~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Government~~ ~~of~~ ~~Spain~~.

