

John Anthony Quitman Papers, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Genl. John A Quitman
Washington

Rivas September 3, 1857
Nicaragua

Dear Sir! There are sometimes in life circumstances of an extraordinary natur[e] combined with ap[p]arent misfortune, which do not allow a person for a time to justify himself ag[ain]st the slanderous clandestine assaults others make ag[ain]st his C[h]aracter this said this has been my lot. Absorbed in the occupation of the war in Nicaragua, I had neither opportunity nor time to contradict the many venenous calumnies circulated in the press, touching my conduct towards Walker. Under this circumstance it is not strange, that my enemy's should have succeeded in influencing the minds of my friends ag[ain]st me, by shaking their confidence to me.

Sir! I never was a traitor to the principles for which I fought in 1848 in Hungary, never for which I bled in Cuba and suff[er]ed in the Dungeons of Africa. My memoirs which I will publish shortly will convince you to my justification of my assertion.

Walker never did hold the standard of Progress, of Emancipation, of true Democracy - his aim was an ambition military de[s]potic. his conduct was calculated, to bring hatred in the middst of this people ag[ain]st American Institutions - the wisest in the world; to bring detestations toward the American people (the most generous on the globe).

I acted the counterpart, trying to soften this sentiment, and some will tell, if I better fulfilled my mission.

I have a duty to explain to those who under all Circumstances honored me with their friendship to explain my conduct under this Genl you have been, who I am sure by the knowledge of my C[h]aracter never admitted that falsehoods should shaken the confidence in

Your most ob[edient] Ser[vant]
Louis Schlesinger