



CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

Concerning a Recent Difficulty

BETWEEN

MESSRS. IRVINE AND POPE.



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1854.



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## CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

CONCERNING A RECENT DIFFICULTY BETWEEN MESSRS.  
IRVINE AND POPE.

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It is at all times disagreeable to make public, circumstances which should remain private, but in consequence of certain incorrect statements having been made respecting the difficulty which occurred between Mr. Irvine and Mr. Pope. I feel it my duty, being cognisant of all that took place, to make the facts known.

On Thursday afternoon last, the 7th inst., at about two o'clock, Mr. Pope called on me and informed me that he had been waited upon by Mr. John Pentland, who had stated that he had come on the part of Mr. Irvine to speak of a matter, which had occurred between them in Court that morning, and to know if he (Mr. Pope) would make an apology, to which the latter had replied "most decidedly not," and that thereupon Mr. Pentland had requested him to name a friend, and that in consequence he requested me to be that friend. I consented and I at once called on Mr. Pentland. I told him that it would be necessary that Mr. Irvine's communication to Mr. Pope should be in writing. Mr. Pentland agreed to this, and shortly after, he placed in my hands, a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

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Quebec, 7th Dec., 1854.

THOMAS POPE, Esq.

Sir,

Having been informed by my friend Mr. Pentland, whom I had requested to call upon you on the subject that you desired me to communicate to you in writing the nature of the expla-

nation which I required from you, I beg to say that you having publicly asserted that a statement made by me when arguing a case before the Superior Court, this morning, was untrue, I had requested Mr. Pentland to call upon you with a view of ascertaining what explanation or apology you had to offer.

I remain,

Your Obedient. Servant.

GEO. IRVINE.

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[To this letter, Mr. Pope sent the following answer.]

Sir,

I have just received your note. I was desirous that there should be no misconception hereafter as to the nature of the subject which has caused your communication to me. I now beg to say in reply that when you addressed the Court this morning, you stated that when I had given you the inscription in the case you were then arguing, I must have intended to deceive you. I immediately said "that is not true," I am not in the habit of using language so strong, and under other circumstances I might have regretted, not that I at once contradicted your assertion, but simply the *manner* and *tone* in which that contradiction was given, yet, as you first used terms which were extremely offensive, and which provoked the words which have annoyed you, I beg to state that in this case, I have no other explanation to give and most certainly no apology to make.

As you have advised with a friend in this matter, I beg to say that my friend, Mr. Young, will hand this to Mr. Pentland, and that in any further communication that may be necessary Mr. Young will act for me.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

THOS. POPE.

Quebec, 7th Dec., 1854.

GEORGE IRVINE, Esq.

I handed this letter to Mr. Pentland shortly after 3 P. M., after he had read it, he said that nothing remained for him and me to do, but to make the necessary arrangements for a meeting between Mr. Irvine and Mr. Pope, and it was agreed that it should take place with pistols, the next morning at half past 7. I then left him and communicated the result to Mr. Pope, with whom I made the necessary preparations. On returning to my house in company with Mr. Pope the same afternoon, at half past 5, I found the following letter from Mr. Pentland on my table.

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“ MY DEAR YOUNG.

Mr. Irvine has communicated to me the note which he has just received from Mr. Pope. It is well that there should be no mis-apprehension as to the facts of the case. Mr. Pope has stated in his note that Irvine in arguing the case which has given rise to the difficulty asserted that in signing the inscription, Pope must have intended to deceive, this was not the case, Irvine merely stated as part of his argument in the alternative, that either Mr. Pope in signing the inscription for the sixth intended to proceed on that day or in giving the inscription he intended to deceive. As there was evidently no intention to insult in using these words as expressly stated by Mr. Irvine at the time, I must insist on the part of Mr. Irvine on an apology for the words used by Mr. Pope. I was present on the occasion and know the facts to be as above stated.

Yours truly,

J. C. PENTLAND.

Quebec, 7th Dec., 1854.

P. S. You will find me at my office until 6 o'clock.

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[I answered this letter as follows.]

“ MY DEAR PENTLAND.

On returning home at half past five, I received your note. You are aware that when I handed you Mr. Pope's letter, you

informed me after reading it, that the only thing that remained for you and me to do was to arrange matters, and you and I then settled that a meeting should take place between Mr. Irvine, and Mr. Pope. We moreover settled the hour, tomorrow, at which the meeting was to take place. All this I communicated to Mr. Pope. You now assert that Mr. Irvine had no intention to insult Mr. Pope, but only stated that in signing the inscription for the sixth, the latter must have intended to proceed on that day or that he intended to deceive. To bring matters to a proper understanding, let your friend declare that he had no intention of casting a disreputable imputation on Mr. Pope when he made his statement to the Court, and then the matter may remain open for an amicable explanation; otherwise however unpleasant and painful, the matter must remain in the position in which you placed it by your statement to me this afternoon, that there was nothing for us to do but to make the arrangements referred to in the first part of my letter.

As you have addressed me in this friendly way, I must say that I think an advance on the part of your principal might be made without any sacrifice of proper feeling. Under any circumstances the sooner the matter is finally settled the better.

Yours truly,

JOHN YOUNG.

Quebec, 7th Dec., 1854.

J. C. PENTLAND, Esq.

[The following correspondence then ensued.]

*Mr. Pentland to Mr. Young.*

“ MY DEAR YOUNG,

I have already stated that Irvine had no intention of giving offence when he said that Pope “ when he signed the “ inscription for the 6th either intended to proceed on that “ day or to deceive” I think that the words bear no offensive construction.

In reference to your request that Irvine should declare

that he had no such intention as Pope has imputed to him, I think that what I have already said and Irvine's assertion at the time ought to be sufficient.

It remains now for your principal to say whether he will apologize or not.

Yours very truly,

J. C. PENTLAND.

7th Dec., 1854.

P. S. I await an answer at my office.

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*Mr. Young to Mr. Pentland.*

" MY DEAR PENTLAND,

My note I intended to be very plain, Mr. Pope is under the impression that Mr. Irvine used offensive language to him. It will therefore be necessary to disclaim the intention of having intended to offend Mr. Pope in toto, before my friend can enter into any explanation.

Yours truly,

JOHN YOUNG.

Quebec, 7th Dec., 1854.

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*Mr. Pentland to Mr. Young.*

MY DEAR YOUNG,

In answer to your note just received, I beg to say that I have been throughout authorized by Mr. Irvine to state and have stated that he had no intention whatever to insult or give offence to Mr. Pope, and I wish you distinctly to understand that whatever may be the result, Mr. Irvine's position in this that without the remotest intention of giving offence, which he has disclaimed and still does disclaim he feels himself to have been gratuitously affronted and it was upon this ground alone that he demanded an apology.

Very truly yours,

J. C. PENTLAND,

7th Dec., 1854.

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*Mr. Young to Mr. Pentland.*

“ MY DEAR PENTLAND,

From your last note I presume you are willing to withdraw the observation on the part of Mr. Irvine that Mr. Pope intended to deceive him. If you are authorized to do this, I am prepared to enter into an explanation.

Yours truly,

JOHN YOUNG.

Quebec, 7th Dec., 1854.

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*Mr. Pentland to Mr. Young.*

MY DEAR YOUNG,

In answer to your last note, in which you state, that you presume that I am willing to withdraw the observation on the part of Mr. Irvine “ that Mr. Pope intended to deceive him.” I beg to say, there is no misapprehension as to what Mr. Irvine did say, but there appears to be still a misconception as to his meaning. By stating in the alternative “ that Mr. Pope either “ intended to proceed to a hearing on the 6th or to deceive “ him,” Mr. Irvine had no other intention then to shew to the Court that Mr. Pope, absolutely, and to the exclusion of any other intention or supposition whatever intended, to proceed on that day; and the alternative that “ Mr. Pope intended to “ deceive if he did not intend to go on,” was only put by way of establishing conclusively that Mr. Pope did, beyond all doubt, intend to have a hearing on the 6th and was not, as already repeatedly stated, intended to impute to Mr. Pope an intention to deceive. Further than this, I am not disposed to go, and should not the above be deemed satisfactory, I should feel much obliged if you would meet me at once and make the necessary arrangements.

Yours very truly,

J. C. PENTLAND.

7 Dec., 1854.

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*Mr. Young to Mr. Pentland.*

“ MY DEAR PENTLAND,

Mr. Irvine stated under an alternative that Mr. Pope intended to deceive; such an imputation should not be cast on a gentleman, and being improper should be withdrawn, unless done, therefore our correspondence is at an end. You will remember that it was re-opened by you after you had arranged a meeting.

Yours very truly,  
JOHN YOUNG.

7th Dec., 1854.

*Mr. Pentland to Mr. Young.*

“ MY DEAR YOUNG.

In answer to your last note, I beg to say that I await your convenience at my office.

Yours truly,

J. C. PENTLAND.

7th Dec., 1854.

Upon receipt of this communication, I proceeded to Mr. Pentland's office, and arranged with him that the hostile meeting should take place between Messrs. Irvine and Pope the next morning, at 11 o'clock. Mr. Pentland stating that his principal could not be ready at half past 7 (the time first agreed upon) as he had yet to procure his pistols.

The next morning (Friday) about half past 9 o'clock, I called on Mr. Pentland who informed me that he had been unable to procure pistols for Mr. Irvine. Thereupon I said that his principal could have one of Mr. Pope's pistols. (I had been authorised by Mr. Pope the night before to make this offer, in case any difficulty should arise on the part of the challenger to procure weapons.) Mr. Pentland accepted the offer and we then secured the attendance of a medical gentleman.

At 11, we arrived on the ground together. The principals bowed to one another, and Mr. Pentland and I loaded the pistols. We then measured off fourteen paces as the distance. We then returned to the place where we had left the principals. I then proceeded to conduct Mr.

Pope to his place when Mr. Irvine said "Gentlemen, may I be permitted to make a few observations?" The seconds acquiesced—Mr. Pope said "Not the slightest objection," Mr. Irvine then said "Before doing an act which may be fatal to one or both of us, I wish to say that I had no intention to injure Mr. Pope's feelings, no desire to hurt him in any way. I had no intention to throw any disreputable imputation on his character. Mr. Pope is under a misconception as to my words." Mr. Pope then replied "That is the same as was stated in the correspondence. The words still remain, and the public will give a meaning to them. If they were withdrawn, of course, I could have no objection to withdraw mine, but unless that is done, and as we are here, we had better finish the business for which we came." I then conducted Mr. Pope to his place—Mr. Pentland did the same by Mr. Irvine. The parties were placed back to back, and at the words "one, two, three," they fired simultaneously. Mr. Irvine fired in the air. Mr. Pentland said to me "It appears but as one shot, they have both fired simultaneously." I then walked up to Mr. Pope and he said "Tell Mr. Pentland that if Mr. Irvine wants another shot, I am willing." I replied "No, it is settled there shall be no more" Mr. Pentland having before told me that he would not have more than one. We then left the ground. As we approached the gateway leading to the high road, Mr. Pope asked me "if it was true that Irvine had fired in the air?" I said "Yes," "then," said he "I'll speak to him." Mr. Pope and I then walked towards Mr. Irvine and Mr. Pentland, and Mr. Pope said "Now, Mr. Irvine, after what has just taken place, and as the matter is now over, I feel that I am in a position to say that I am very sorry that any words used by me should have led to a meeting of this kind between us." They then shook hands. Mr. Irvine said, "I hope you saw that I did not intend to do you any bodily injury." Mr. Pope replied "I suppose that the usages of society require this sort of thing, but I think it is a most absurd way of settling a difficulty." We then walked to our carriages and returned home.

JOHN YOUNG.

Quebec, 15 Dec., 1854.

