

My dear Mr. Wood.

The letter in yesterday's "Freemason" is doubtless a great insult and quite unwarrantable. I should undoubtedly lose no time in suing the editor and writer for libel, for it is an anonymous attack upon ~~some~~ ~~one~~ ~~documentary~~ personal character, and imputes deception. The fact that the writer wrote surreptitiously to Sir Bernard to keep some secret malice - I think that a copy of the paper should be sent to Sir B. Burke, and legal advice at once taken. In such a case I should be satisfied with the writer's entire denial of the truth of his statements. But I should go through a first class London lawyer. Will you do me the favor to send me the name and address of the best London lawyer for such a case without loss of time. I should be prompted. Mr. Parker informs me that the anonymous writer J.A.H. is a Mr. Horner, who lately became bankrupt under unfavorable circumstances, and stands high in the "Red Top community." I feel sure that Sir Bernard's name has been unwarrantably used to give force to a libel which otherwise would have been taken as merely the result of secret malice. But as regards the question of Sir Bernard's opinion - it means nothing if we obtained said would, I am entirely ready to have an article in the "Freemason" my friend Captain Archer who sent it to me for approval, be discovered as such by Sir B. himself, who has never undertaken to settle questions of foreign nobility; and who, of course, would only reply to an unknown individual (by the way, my own class, in the usual and official way, which J. A. H. depicts as "correspondence" - All these (including Captain Archer) who are conversant with the usage of official intercourse will therefore at once recognize the vanity and presumption of a writer, who seeks, while making a malicious personal attack, to insinuate a social status for himself, at the expense of "I" who knows his own position, too well to compromise it.



fold the paper

such imputed correspondence  
Of course I should not be satisfied with any trivial sort of  
a public retraction in the Magazine & the Editor's very ample  
apology, and the payment of the expenses of any  
Twenty guineas to some Masonic scribble institution  
or abatement for an admitted error, the same being distinctly  
stated in the donation.

But I may be not a good legal authority, and there-  
fore should like to hear your opinion, accompanied  
with the name of the best London lawyer in order  
to place the matter in his own hands.

Believe me to remain with sincere regards

My dear Mr. Wood

Yours most faithfully & obediently  
Rhodourakis

24 July 1870  
Park House  
The Bury St Edmunds  
New Market