

Montgomery Blair & Son,
Attys. at Law

456, Louisiana Avenue,

Washington D.C. March 10, 1876

My dear Doctor,

I thank you for your letter of the 8th inst. and for the copy of your letter in the newspaper in relation to Mrs. Belknap. You need not have stopped to tell me who you are. I am a Kentucky law man, and know enough of the history of my State to know who Dr. C. C. Graham is.

I do not justify what Mr. & Mrs. Belknap have done, by which they have brought upon themselves such an outpouring of wrath in Congress and upon the press; You are certainly right in thinking that it is not at all creditable to the discrimination of public opinion that such a battery should be opened upon the acceptance of a return for a public trust, which was not stipulated for as the consideration of the appointment, whilst transactions not at all distinguishable from this in character have so long escaped censure. How many of our public men have received presents much larger in amount from persons who have not been at all distinguished for liberality, or patriotism, and when it was evident that the present would be returned, sooner or later, by public office! and how often has this calculation been verified! Are the lesser men and women of the land to be held up as criminals of unparalleled baseness because they have imitated those who were popular idols when this gift taking by public men commenced not only without rebuke, but with the plaudits of the press? Educated among the robust intellects and simple but dignified men of Kentucky, I have looked with astonishment at these proceedings. But I am not astonished at the fruit they have borne.

Yours truly,

Montgomery Blair

Dr. C. C. Graham,
Public Library of Kentucky,
Louisville,
Ky.

