

Rev. S. Griffin,



Canaan, Aug. 23, 1818.

Dear Sir,

My ^{son} brought me yours of to day in
reply to mine of this morning; and I must say I am
pleased with the gentlemanly spirit in which it is
written. I fully appreciate your situation, since being
your explanation. The truth is, neither of us antici-
pated such an accumulation of communications. When
I wrote out my first reply, I did so, because I saw
Mr. S. would be much longer in getting through,
than I expected; and I thought I could commence
and publish the two first Nos. of my reply, before
he closed; and by the time the two first Nos. of
mine were published, he would be through and I
could then go on.

I am disposed to make every allowance,
when I think there is an honest intention to
do me justice; and I have no complaints to
make as to your course towards me in this
controversy, except publishing the piece of True
American; and I attribute that to the fact, that you
were under the impression that giving the name
whom called upon would do as well, as putting
the signature there in the beginning. There is however
a great difference, especially in such a case as
this where the writer ~~is a witness~~ and details the
testimony of a witness, whose name is not given.
Suppose you give ^{me} ~~my~~ individually the name, I
cannot publish it to all the readers of the paper;
and perhaps there may be men in Oregon who read
your paper and who know the witness to be un-
worthy of credit, and who would inform me of
the fact, if the name was given in your paper. I
have been myself the editor of a paper, and I never
in all my experience, to my recollection, knew a quarrel

serious charge made against an individual under a
fictitious signature. I wish you to publish the names of the
witness and the witness, that I may be ready to pay my res-
pects to them, at the proper time.

It is difficult for an editor to satisfy all parties,
especially when different sides of a question are dis-
cussed through his columns. I feel a great sympa-
thy with those editors who are endeavoring to pro-
mote a generous, just, and enlightened cause. I will
always be disposed to do them justice. And now might
I be, relying upon your generosity and justice, and seeing
the delicate situation in which you have been unexpectedly
placed, not by your own fault, but by circumstances,
I shall not be forward in complaining of your edi-
torial course. If I should think myself decidedly
injured, I will first apply to you for redress, before
I complain to the public & hope you will do the same.
Neither this, nor the note this morning, was intended for publication.
I am respectfully,
P. N. D.

Rev. J. A. Smith
Col. & Mission
at Orama