

Richreall, Polk Co.
Oct. 3, 1851

My dear Sir,

Your favor, touching the testimony of Mrs. T., I received at Marysville. Want of time forbids saying more than a word in reply. What you say she will swear to, it is true is far less definite than could be desired, but I would, for all that, is a plea of "justification" in preference to that of the "General Ipin" alone. Justify, by all means, under the circumstances, and take the "chances". From what Mrs. T. will swear to, a jury cannot fail to see what wrong and officiousness were committed by the Reff.; and, the effect will, to say the least of it, be greatly to his prejudice in the estimation of damages, provided it is thought a full justification has not been established by the defence. Practically, I am inclined to think, a jury will regard such facts, as you say Mrs. T. will testify, equivalent to an admission by the Reff. of the truth of the matter alledged to be libellous, although in theory it hardly amounts to any such thing. In all such affairs, however, much depends on the address and prudent management of counsel.

Yours very truly,

O. C. Pratt

(Strictly confidential)

Rickards, Locke Co.

Oct. 3 1857.

My Dear Sir,

Your favor, touching the testimony of Mrs. F.,
I received at Memphis - Want of time forbids saying more
than a word in reply - What you say she will swear to, it is true,
is far less definite than could be desired - but, I would, for
all that, risk a plea of "justification" in preference to that of
the "Genuf" of Mrs. F. alone - Justify, by all means, under the
circumstances, and take the "chance" - From what Mrs. F. will
swear to, a jury cannot fail to see that wrong and inefficient
was committed by the Plff.; and, the effect will, beyond the
doubt of it, be greatly to his prejudice in the estimation of the people,
provided it is thought a full justification has not been
established by the defence - Practically, I am inclined to
think, a jury will regard such facts, as you say Mrs. F. will
testify, equivalent to an admission by the Plff. of the truth
of the matter alleged to be libellous - although in theory it
hardly amounts to such a thing - But, in all such ^{affairs} matters,
the result must depend on the address and prudent
management of counsel -

Yours Very Truly,
O. C. Pratt

(Strictly confidential)