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the confusion of moving from the old campus to the new, had become temporarily "lost." I am happy to be able to state that "Exiled" finally turned up, not lost at all but carefully stowed away! It is now safely—and permanently—housed among the Millay treasures in the Rare Book Room of the new Miller Library, and visitors are there invited to inspect it, and to see with their own eyes the evidence of what it is to possess the memory of a poet.



A REVEALING LETTER FROM  
JAMES G. BLAINE

By HOWARD B. GOTLIEB\*

A LETTER recently discovered among the John Alexander Logan correspondence in the Yale University Library reveals several interesting aspects of the character of James G. Blaine—aspects which have not hitherto usually been associated with the "Plumed Knight" from Augusta. From this letter it appears that by 1886 Blaine had resigned himself with a rather astonishing placidity to attacks and misrepresentations on the part of the press and to the fact that he was almost, reluctantly, at last a private citizen. That his prodigious literary output did not in reality come easily to him is in itself somewhat of a discovery in the light of the amount of writing he produced.

The background of the letter is grounded in the political climate of the period and in Blaine's personal relationships with those who had figured in his long and illustrious career. Blaine left Augusta for the Congress in 1863 after having served both as a local newspaperman and a member of the State Legislature. He remained in the

\* Librarian of Historical Manuscripts and of the Edward M. House Collection in the Yale University Library.

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House until 1876 when his Maine constituents sent him to the Senate for the ensuing five years. In 1884, when he was chosen his party's standard bearer, Blaine's running mate was the colorful and elusive General John Alexander Logan, the recipient of the letter printed below.

In many respects Logan's career paralleled that of Blaine, notwithstanding the fact that they were essentially diverse personalities. John Logan entered Congress from Illinois in 1858 and remained there intermittently until 1871 when he went to the Senate.

At the time of their nomination in 1884, both Blaine and Logan were out of office. Each had long nurtured dreams of a high elective post. Their personal relationship has always been open to conjecture by historians. What Blaine thought of his running mate and what the General felt for the doyen of the party has never accurately been determined. Each, however, strove his mightiest for the cause, although Logan on more than one occasion privately admitted he was fighting a losing battle. After defeat it is to be assumed that a friendly if not a cordial relationship ensued.

Blaine's letter to Logan, dated Augusta, April 25, 1886, reveals much about the two defeated nominees during the two year period following the election. Both gentlemen were by no means reconciled to their defeat and each anticipated returning to the national arena. While Blaine in his letter maintained that he was "not meddling in any legislature" and avowed that he was "but a quiet citizen living the most quiet of lives," he was undoubtedly much concerned with his political fortunes and with the prospects for 1888.

Logan for his part had been sent back to the Senate in 1885, after an enervating inter-party struggle. His concern for the Army Bill up before Congress in 1886 and for general support for its passing, as evidenced by the remark concerning it in Blaine's letter, was in keeping with

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his determined interest in military and veterans' affairs. The information that his former running mate, as reported in the press, was not in agreement with his views would naturally have irritated the soldiers' champion in Congress. Blaine's assurance that he of course "never sent a word of any kind to any person for or against it" was intended to soothe. The enjoiner that the General was not to be disturbed by journalists intent on manufacturing a disagreement between the two of them, was also an effort by Blaine to placate his ever sensitive associate.

There were few better versed in the methods of the contemporary press than was James G. Blaine. From bitter experience he could write Logan that he cared "little for what the ubiquitous reporter puts in circulation." Ten years before, the affair of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad and the so-called "Mulligan Letters" had been made public knowledge and Blaine's role in the business the subject of voluminous newspaper comment. Indeed it had perhaps cost him the Presidential nomination at that time. It was therefore indeed ironic that he describe himself to the General as "not one of the uneasy kind. . . ."

In 1886 Blaine published volume two of his mammoth *Twenty Years in Congress*, Part One of which had been issued in 1884. At best it had been a labor to fill the days after the 1884 defeat—two large volumes, written in the style of the period, and only seldom illustrative of the personality of the author. In his letter to Logan, Blaine noted that writing was "wearing work" and wished the General luck in his own literary efforts. Shortly thereafter John Alexander Logan's *Great Conspiracy: Its Origins and History* appeared in print. It has been subsequently described as either dull or unimportant or both. The reception of the book at the time did not, however, dissuade Logan from continuing to write, for after his death there was published the ponderous and pompous book *The*

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*Volunteer Soldier of America, With Memoir of the Author and Military Reminiscences from General Logan's Private Journal.*

Blaine's letter reads as follows:

Augusta, Maine  
25 April 1886

Dear General

Dont be fretted or disturbed by any efforts made by newspaper reporters to represent you and me as antagonistic . . .

I thank you for speaking so cordially in regard to the matter—but I want you to know that I am not one of the uneasy kind and care little for what the ubiquitous reporter puts in circulation—

—As to the Army bill you need no assurance of course that I never sent a word of any kind to any person for or against it—

I am not meddling in any legislature, but am a quiet citizen living the most quiet of lives—Hope soon to hear that your book is issued from the press. You found I am sure that it is wearing work—

With kind regards to Mrs. Logan  
I am very sincerely yours  
JAMES G. BLAINE

Senator Logan



THE SOHO BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HENRY JAMES

**I**N the February 1947 issue of this quarterly, the following brief announcement was printed on page 14: "Mr. H. B. Collamore, of Hartford, Connecticut, has given his entire Henry James Collection to the Colby Library. This is a gift of such magnitude and importance as to require detailed analysis and report later. All that we do here is to announce the gift and to invite our readers to rejoice with us that the Colby James Collection can now, by reason of this immense boost, take rank with the best collections of Henry James to be found anywhere."