

It is disgraceful that
so few Southern men seem
to have the pluck & spirit to
be consistent. For - even if
silence be necessary in a
Foreign Office - a flat
denial or retraction of our
honest heart-felt sentiments
is worthless & mean. I
must ~~not~~ ^{not} give contempt to
friends & free alike.
Kentucky is the most
valiant & manly State, as
you have citizens who
turned words into deeds.
I sustained their opinion
at the point of the
bayonet. The news of
the Union victory I
cackanted me. So -

233 Fifth Avenue

MD

Jan 27th

I see Mr Duncan
your last long
& most agreeable letter as
the great pleasure for
our newspaper intelligence
I hope your is very
pleasant & any private or
reliable information is
casely welcomed. Of
course I fully understood
that the epistle was meant
for my eyes alone. I
when perused it rose
at once burnt. As
regards your query about
Dr Duncan's negroes - I
can give no answer. Not
having heard a word

on the subject - and through the paper
report. If it were true - we should
not have known it from the
family. & I am not inclined to
believe that there is the least
foundation for such a rumour. &
the Dr is a kind master. - I
saw Miss Emily & Duncan last
week. & they were all pretty well.
She spoke of you. & a fine bag
of mutton from Lexington.
I am happy to say ^{the} still remain
loyal. - Had a letter from you
last time from my sister-in-law
Miss ^{Ann} Dingle in Paris. & the
article in "radical succession"

style - ardently "desiring a
war with England." When they
sailed in June - both Mr & Mrs
I now intently opposed to
secession. But under the impres-
sion that the South is to be trium-
phant - they have changed their
principles - much to my regret.
So - if a thing is radically &
irreversibly wrong in the beginning
it is so in the end. & if the
North wins the war - you will
see many secessionists ready
to declare that they have
always been good Unionists. -

at the immortal Iro
we are very depressed as to
the prospects of the Confederacy
& I think that unless
the South has speedily "recog-
nized" that they must
be to yield, as they
want ammunition, &c. &c.
Under these pressing cir-
cumstances - we feared
they will try any measure
to cause the removal
of the blockade & I confess
to great nervousness as
to the events of the
coming weeks. For if we
lose another battle -
I shall be well nigh hopeless.
I can't imagine the

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regret to know the South
is not. The Southern people
hardly acknowledge their
defeat & are obliged to
falsify - in order to sustain
the drooping spirits of
the people. I have some
times thought that the rebels
have been forced to
retreat from Bull Run
& are your hopes as high
as formerly in regard
to the prospect of triumph in
the Southern campaign
I have universal satisfaction
to all parties & I really
think that Lincoln
means & wishes to do
right, & fulfil his duty.
If we can have a Cotton
port - or achieve some

grand victory we long - why
no danger of trouble from
foreign powers. But - but but -
unless successful in one way or
another - against the South - the
the South will undoubtedly be
raised by April or May. &
then - our cause is forever
lost!!! Why do they not attack
N.C.? & when is that procrastin-
ating Montague to leave
Cairo? I am very impatient. &
about begin to despair. As
to any move on the Florida -
the mud renders that impossible.

Another present. & often all what
we are playing such a desperate
game - if F.C. or Mobile can
be taken? All England wants is
Cotton. Stuff her Lion's mouth
with the raw material - & he
will roar no longer. & why
not try for the one great
centre of Cotton & Southern Union
viz - New Orleans! - Captain
Lyons (cousin of Lord Lyons)
who commands the Gun Boat
"Racer" is now here. & dined
with Stidell & Mason the other
day at Bermuda. He tells me



Henry J. Duncan Esq
Lexington.
Kentucky.

& information of the two. But for the
sake of their property - the plays are
cards left Henry. John's "Devotion" & the
a thoroughly unprincipled man. "John
in two - taken in "Marius" & I need
not trust a traitor in any thing. For
he has not been behind a shield
in the matter - but has gone over to
false gods - me to forward the
own selfish ends, & ambitious designs.
I think I know the man pretty
well - felt him personally - & the
experience of others. I am not
wondered if you are in other
than as you represented. I do

233 7th Avenue.
9m - 31st

M

How Mr Duncan
Your kind note
reached me last evening.
& Mr Duncan will be
delighted of course - to comply
with that request concerning
the "reference". He intends
writing you today on the
subject - & the fact - then
Captain Matthew Prince.
I only wish it were in
my power to confer some
real benefit on either
yourself or on Mr - the
"Circular". You is too
trivial to be considered
as the least objection.
& my good wishes in law
would gladly be service
to our whole friendship
to value & prize.

I hope for continued good news from
Ky. - but fear that (as elsewhere) your
conquests will not be carried out. Do
there any prospect of a battle near
"Bouling Green"? You presume that
strongly fortified point need hardly
be attempted. Am sorry to learn of
Beauregard's removal West, as his
name will be a tower of strength to
the enemy. I regret also to hear
that the fleet from Cairo will not be
ready (owing to a delay in the gunboat
building) for "some weeks"!! & if the
Expedition be delayed much longer - we
shall never take Columbus or Newkirk.

Am vexed by things that have been
managed in the War Department! &
I confess to very gloomy forebodings
of interference from foreign powers, -
our ultimate failure. How do you
look about it all? I entirely agree
in your opinion of that Stamp Peddler.
I wish him defeat - if for nothing
else than his cheat in drawing "extra
pay" - while betraying the bond that
led him. What is the general sentiment
in your State about that scoundrel,
Bombastic traitor? Mrs P. is as
deceitful as her husband - you may
be sure. For she is the better politician

really in Ky. at this present: &
are people excited against him? Am
Mrs. Mrs. P. effort to feel? The
eldest daughter was rapidly secession,
& openly avowed her hatred to the
Union at Wazara. - saying to her
mother in my presence. "you know
mother that you are secession too".
I wish Preston would be taken - or
bitterly punished for his crimes. I
hope you will tell me all you hear
of Brown don't him. But depend on it
he will never expose his precious person
to danger. In such a rascal is
submitted by a coward. - The weather

has at last cleared up. & I hope
it may continue fair. - Have seen
a great number of fine Englishmen
here this season (as all strangers
bring letters to Mr Duncan - & have
been able to glean much informa-
tion respecting popular opinion Broad.
Do write me soon again - if possible
I see Mr Duncan. for your letters
are very valuable as giving me only
whisper intelligence from N.Y.
Love to your family. In haste &
affection
Yours faithfully
Mary Duncan.