

Richard Fletcher

Papers

All settled on

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1879

---

If not delivered in 10 days, return to  
R'd FLETCHER,  
MOUNT LEBANON, Columbia Co., N.Y.

Letters of Mrs. P. M. L.

Supreme Court.

Sarah M. Lord

Plaintiff

vs.

Richard Fletcher

Defendant

Copy SUMMONS.

Seth N. Hedges

Plaintiff's Attorney.

Danville

N. Y.

Leave  
To Richard Fletcher

Recd  
Oct 17/79

STATE OF NEW YORK.

*Supreme* Court: *Livingston* County.

*Sarah M. Lord*

Plaintiff

vs.

*Richard Fletcher*

Defendant

} Summons.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT :

You are hereby *Summoned* to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer on the Plaintiff's Attorney within twenty days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated *March 12<sup>th</sup>*, 1879.

*Seth N. Hedges*

Plaintiff's Attorney

Office & Post Office Address  
*Danville*

*Livingston Co., N. Y.*

*Rec<sup>d</sup> Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> a.m.*  
*without any complaint attached or delivered*

101  
Supreme Court.

Sarah M. Lord  
Plaintiff

against

Richard Fletcher  
Defendant

**NOTICE OF RETAINER.**

SIR

*We* have been retained by and appear for the defendant

in this action, and demand a copy of the complaint. All papers herein may be served on us at our office, in Hudson

N. Y.  
office, post-office address is 323 Warren  
St. Hudson N. Y.

Dated, March 26 - 1879

*Richard F. Edwards*  
Att'y for Defendant

To *John A. Sedgwick*  
Plaintiff's Att'y

Personal service of a Notice of which the above is a copy, is admitted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18

Att'y for \_\_\_\_\_

Supreme Court.

Sarah M. Lord

Plaintiff,

against

Richard Fletches

Defendant.

COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, ss :

Burgess Speed Jr. of the City of Hudson, in said County, being duly sworn, says, that he is Student at law and Clerk to ANDREWS & EDWARDS, Attorneys for the defendant in this action, that on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 1879 he served Seth P. Hedges Esq., Attorney for the plaintiff in this action, with a notice of retainers.

a copy of which is hereto annexed. And this deponent further says that such service was made by carefully enclosing the said notice of retainers in a wrapper, and putting the same into the Post Office at Hudson, N. Y., that being the residence of the said ANDREWS & EDWARDS, directed to the said Seth P. Hedges Esq., at Cannonsville, Livingston Co. N. Y. that being the residence of the said Seth P. Hedges Esq., and paying the postage thereon.

And this deponent further says that there is a regular communication by mail between Hudson, aforesaid, and Cannonsville aforesaid.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 1879

Charles A. Archer

Commissioner of Deeds, Hudson, N. Y.

Burgess Speed Jr.

Supreme Court.

Sarah M. Lord

apt

Richard Fletcher

Copy Complaint

Seth Hedges

Plym. City

Danville,  
N.Y.

in May 6. 1879

in May 5. 1879

in May 3. 1879

fol 1

Superior Court, Livingston County

Sarah M. Lord }  
 vs }  
 Richard Fletcher }

The plaintiff complains of the defendant  
 & for cause of action herein, alleges:-  
 That on or about the 2<sup>d</sup> day of July 1877  
 in consideration that the plaintiff who  
 was then sole & unmarried, at the request  
 of the defendant, would marry him  
 on request, the defendant promised to  
 marry the plaintiff on request.

That the said plaintiff relying on  
 the said promise & undertaking of the  
 said defendant has always from  
 thence hitherto remained & continued  
 & still is sole & unmarried has been  
 & still is ready willing & anxious  
to marry  
the defendant

That after the making of said promise  
 & undertaking by the defendant & on  
 or about the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 1878  
 & on or about the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December  
 1878 & at divers other times the  
 plaintiff requested the defendant  
 to marry her the said plaintiff, yet

" 2



the defendant not regarding his  
said promise & undertakings did  
not, nor would not at the said time  
or times when he was so requested  
as aforesaid, or at any other time  
enquiry by the said plaintiff, but  
has hitherto wholly neglected & refused  
to do & has violated his said  
Contract & vows & declares that  
he never will marry the plaintiff

And by reason of the premises the  
plaintiff has sustained damage  
in the sum of five thousand dollars,  
Wherefore the plaintiff demands  
judgment against the defendant  
for five thousand dollars besides  
the costs of this action.

Seth Hedges

Plff's atty

Livingston County ss

Sarah M. Lind being duly  
sworn says that she is the plaintiff  
in the above entitled action, that she  
has heard read the above complaint  
& knows the contents thereof, that the  
same is true of her own knowledge  
except as to those matters therein  
stated to be alleged on information

& belief & as to those matters she  
believes it to be true

Sworn to before me on this } Sarah M. Lord  
3<sup>d</sup> day of May 1879 }

Wm. W. Coyne

Notary Public

Supreme Court

Sarah M. Lord  
Plaintiff

— against —  
Richard Fletcher  
Defendant.

Answer.

Answer by Edwards  
Deft. Atty  
Hudson, N.J.

Supreme Court.

Sarah M. Lord Plaintiff,

against

Richard Fletcher Defendant.

COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, ss :

Burgess Speed Jr. of the City of Hudson, in said County, being duly sworn, says, that he is Student at law and Clerk to ANDREWS & EDWARDS, Attorneys for the defendant in this action, that on the 13th day of May 1879. he served Seth N. Hedges Esq., Attorney for the plaintiff in this action, with a copy of the annexed answer.

And this deponent further says that such service was made by carefully enclosing the said copy answer in a wrapper, and putting the same into the Post Office at Hudson, N. Y., that being the residence of the said ANDREWS & EDWARDS, directed to the said Seth N. Hedges Esq., Counselor at Law at Danville, Livingston Co., N. Y. that being the residence of the said Seth N. Hedges Esq., and paying the postage thereon.

And this deponent further says that there is a regular communication by mail between Hudson, aforesaid, and Danville, aforesaid.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 13th day of May 1879. Burgess Speed Jr. Giles H. O'Neil Notary Public Commissioner of Deeds, Hudson, N. Y.

Feb. 1.

Supreme Court

Garah M. Ford plaintiff

against

Richard Feltche defendant

The defendant for  
answer to the complaint in  
this action <sup>first</sup> denies each and  
every allegation therein  
on oath except that the  
plaintiff was sole & unmarried  
~~as in said complaint alleged~~  
remained continued and still  
is sole & unmarried & has been  
& still is ready & willing to  
marry the defendant. ~~request~~  
~~the defendant to marry the~~  
~~plaintiff. That defendant~~  
~~did not & would not marry~~  
~~the plaintiff and has hitherto~~  
~~wholly neglected and refused~~  
~~to do so and declares that~~  
he never will marry the  
plaintiff, ~~and that the plaintiff~~  
~~has been~~ <sup>each & every of</sup> and as to the allegations  
in said complaint that the  
plaintiff <sup>was</sup> remained continued  
~~was~~ and still is sole and unmar-  
ried and has been and still

is ready & willing to marry  
The defendant, The defendant  
on information & belief  
denies that he has any knowl-  
edge or information that is  
sufficient to form a  
belief. The same

Second defense. The defendant  
for ~~second~~ defense  
on information and belief alleges  
that at the time of the alleged  
promises, agreements, ~~and~~ alleged  
in the complaint the plaintiff  
was a married woman the  
wife of one Mr. Lord whose  
Christian name is to the plaintiff  
defendant unknown and her  
marriage with said Mr. Lord  
was then and still is in full  
force and effect and in no  
way annulled or otherwise -

Third. The defendant for a  
Third defense ~~alleges~~ <sup>alleges</sup> that after  
the time of the promises of the  
defendant alleged in the complaint  
to wit on or about April 7, 1878  
the plaintiff and defendant mutually  
<sup>with each other</sup> agreed to, and did release and  
discharge & acquit each other from  
all the promises and obligations  
alleged in the complaint do for

as they or any of them were  
suggested.

Andrew Edwards  
Defendant's Attorney  
Weston N. Y.

Columbia County N. Y.:

Richard Fletcher being duly  
affirmed says that he is the defendant in  
this action and that the foregoing answer is  
true to his knowledge except as to the mat-  
ters therein stated to be alleged upon informa-  
tion and belief and that as to those matters he  
believes it to be true.

Subscribed & affirmed before  
me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May  
1879.

Richard Fletcher

Charles A. Murphy  
Commissioner of Deeds  
Weston N. Y.

State of New York ss.  
 Genesee County

James S. Lord of Pittsburgh  
 in said County being duly sworn  
 deposes and says that he is eighty  
 one years old and that on or about  
 the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 1869  
 he was legally married to Mrs.  
 Sarah Atkins of Warsaw in the  
 County of Wyoming, and that she  
 lived and cohabited with him  
 as man and wife until about  
 the fall of 1874.

When a legal separation took  
 place, and she returned to  
 Warsaw as usual, as this deponent  
 verily believes. J. S. Lord

Sworn & Subscribed  
 Before me this 29<sup>th</sup> day  
 of May 1879

Alison Blood Justice of the Peace



In Supreme Court.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

County of Livingston

Sarah M. Lord

- vs -

Richard Fletcher

NOTICE OF TRIAL.—Plaintiff.

Please to take Notice, That the above entitled action will be brought to trial and an Inquest taken therein, at a CIRCUIT COURT appointed to be held in and for the County of Livingston at the Court House in Geneva, N. Y. on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1879.

Yours, &c.,

Seth K. Hoagler

Attorney for Plaintiff

J. Andrews & Edwards Esqs

Attorneys for Defendant

Due service of a notice, of which the above is a copy, is admitted.

Dated

187

Attorney for Defendant

By Wm. D. ... Oct 23. 79

#d) Lord vs. Fletcher.

Copy Note of issue  
mailed to

"Clerk of Livingston County  
Geneseo, N. Y."

Oct. 22, 1879 and proof of  
mailing per B. Speed Jr.

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Supreme Court

Sarah M. Lord - Plaintiff

— against —

Richard Fletcher - Defendant.

County of Columbia, ss:

Burgess Speed Jr., of the city of Hudson, in said county, being duly sworn, says that he is a student at law and clerk to Andrews & Edwards, attorneys for the defendant in the above entitled action.

That on the 22<sup>d</sup> day of October 1879 he mailed to the Clerk of Livingston County, a note of issue of which the annexed is a copy, by carefully enclosing the same in an envelope and depositing the same in the Post Office at Hudson, N.Y., that being the residence of the said Andrews & Edwards, directed to the said Clerk of Livingston County at <sup>Livingston Co.</sup> Genesee, N.Y. that being the residence of the said Clerk of Livingston County, and with the necessary postage prepaid thereon.

And deponent further says that there is a regular communication by mail between Hudson, aforesaid, and Genesee, aforesaid.

Sworn to before me this

22<sup>d</sup> day of October 1879.

Burgess Speed Jr.

Wm. W. Surlay

Clerk of Hudson, N.Y.

Note of issue for Livingston Circuit ~ Nov. 1879.

Supreme Court

Sarah M. Lord.

Plaintiff

agst.

Richard Fletcher

Defendant

Seth N. Hedges

May 13<sup>th</sup> 1879.

Issue of fact-triable by a jury.

Andrews & Edwards

To Clerk of Livingston County

Dear Sir: Please file the above note of issue and place the same on Calendar.

Yours truly

Andrews & Edwards.  
Defendants Attorneys.

Supreme Court.

Sarah M. Lord  
Plaintiff

against

Richard Fletcher  
Defendant

Copy Notice of Trial for Defendant.  
~~and proof of service by mailing.~~

To Seth N. Hedges Esq.,  
Att'y for Plaintiff

SIR :—The above cause will be brought to trial, at the next Circuit Court.....

.....appointed to be held in and for the County of Livingston at the Court House in the village of Genesee, N. Y.

on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 1879.

Dated the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1879.

Yours, &c.,

Andrews & Edwards  
Att'ys for Defendant.

Due service of above Notice of Trial is admitted this.....day of

.....18

Atty for.....

Supreme Court.

Sarah M. Lord

Plaintiff,

against

Richard Fletcher

Defendant.

COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, ss :

Burgess Speed Jr of the City of Hudson, in said County, being duly sworn, says, that he is Student at law and Clerk to ANDREWS & EDWARDS, Attorneys for the defendant in this action, that on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1879 he served Seth N. Hedges Esq., Attorney for the plaintiff in this action, with a notice of trial

a copy of which is hereto annexed. And this deponent further says that such service was made by carefully enclosing the said notice of trial in a wrapper, and putting the same into the Post Office at Hudson, N. Y., that being the residence of the said ANDREWS & EDWARDS, directed to the said Seth N. Hedges Esq., at Danville, Livingston Co. N. Y. that being the residence of the said Seth N. Hedges Esq., and paying the postage thereon.

And this deponent further says that there is a regular communication by mail between Hudson, aforesaid, and Danville, aforesaid.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 22<sup>d</sup> day of October 1879

Burgess Speed Jr

Wm. W. Surlan

Commissioner of Deeds, Hudson, N. Y.

ed) Lord vs. Fletcher

Copy notice of trial

mailed to -

"Seth N. Hedges Esq.

Dansville, Livingston Co.

New York"

Mailed October 25<sup>th</sup> 1879  
and proof of mailing Per P.S. Jr.

Supreme Court.

Sarah M. Lord

Plaintiff,

against

Richard Fletcher

Defendant.

COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, ss :

..... Burgess Speed Jr ..... of the City of Hudson, in said County, being duly sworn, says,  
that he is Student at law and Clerk to ANDREWS & EDWARDS, Attorneys for the defendant .....  
in this action, that on the 25<sup>th</sup> ..... day of October ..... 1879.  
he served Seth M. Hedges ..... Esq., Attorney for the plaintiff .....  
in this action, with a notice of trial .....

.....  
a copy of which is hereto annexed. And this deponent further says that such service was made by carefully enclosing the said  
notice of trial ..... in a wrapper, and putting the same into the Post Office at Hudson, N. Y., that being the  
residence of the said ANDREWS & EDWARDS, directed to the said Seth M. Hedges ..... Esq.,  
at Danville, Livingston Co., New York ..... that being the residence of the said  
Seth M. Hedges ..... Esq., and paying the postage thereon.

And this deponent further says that there is a regular communication by mail between Hudson, aforesaid, and Danville,  
..... aforesaid.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> .....  
day of October ..... 1879.

Burgess Speed Jr

Wm W. Sinsley

Commissioner of Deeds, Hudson, N. Y.



In Supreme Court  
State of New York  
County of Livingston  
Sarah M. Lord ~ Plaintiff  
— against —  
Richard Fletcher ~ Defendant.

Copy Notice of Trial - Defendant.

Please to take Notice, That the above entitled action will be brought to trial at a Circuit Court appointed to be held in and for the County of Livingston at the Court House in Genesee, N. Y. on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

And we shall then and there move the Court for a dismissal of the complaint with costs.

Dated the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1879.

Yours &c

Andrews & Edwards

Attorneys for Defendant

To Seth W. Hedges Esq.

Attorney for Plaintiff.

Cyprus Canal  
Sarah M. Lord  
of  
Bedford, N. H.  
consent to  
Constitution

Andrew S. Brown  
Secretary

Supreme Court

Sarah M. Todd plaintiff

against

Richard F. Fitch defendant

This Under Consent to  
substitute John A. Mendenhall

in one place and stand  
as attorney for the  
defendant in this action

Dated Nov 5th 1879  
Andrew K. Edwards

Attys for defendant

Superior Court Livingston County  
Sarah W. Lord }  
                  ag't. }  
Richard Fletcher }

For a good and valuable consideration paid, this action and all claims & demands of every name and nature which either party has against the other are hereby settled, and an order discontinuing this action without costs to either party may be entered by either on filing this stipulation.

Dated Nov 11, 1879

Sarah W. Lord  
Seth M. Hedges  
      Perf atty  
Richard Fletcher  
Per James Goodwin

Copy of the original on file  
in Livingston County Clerk's office

Supreme Court  
Sarah M. Lord  
vs.  
Richard H. Letcher

On reading & filing  
the Stipulations of the parties to this action  
& the attorney for the plaintiff on  
motion of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Solicitor General  
Counsel for the defendant. Ordered  
that this action be & the same hereby  
is settled & discontinued without costs  
to either party.  
November 12, 1879

(A true copy)  
J. Patterson Dyckhoff

Supreme Court

Sarah M. Lord  
a/g.

Richard Fletcher

Order of discontinuance

Copy

From Abigail Grosman

Lonyea Aug. 12. 78

To the Ministry

I had waited a little, expecting every day that Sarah Lord would leave, but is waiting for word from her son, with whom she is expecting to live. She takes it very hard that we cannot believe her pretended honesty! Says if any one has reported that she has had impure connections, they are untruthful or crazy! I have had repeated labors with her which she takes very hard that she cannot be owned in dishonesty. She is evidently a modern Potiphar's wife, in whom we have no confidence & shall dispense with her as soon as possible.

4  
Danville Oct  
1878

Yours rec'd — you know Richard, the  
 name was only a mistake of the Lawyer  
 why then dwell so long upon trifles, I never  
 knew a person in my life, by the name  
 of Ford — no Richard I have never deceiv<sup>ed</sup>  
 you — when you asked me to be your  
 wife, to share with you, your joys <sup>and</sup> sorrows  
 I reasoned with you calmly — but you would  
 not take no for an answer, and you knew  
 then when sorrow came, you had no courage  
 to face it — I have ever, and always, told you  
 truthfully, matters just as they were, thoughts  
 that I can abide by, in the great Day of  
 final accounts — and because, I have loved  
 you, more deeply than I can express, — you  
 see fit, to take the matter into your own  
 hands, and trample that Love, pure, unself  
ish, ~~the~~ the crum- born Love, under your feet —  
 I would <sup>not</sup> touch, one dollar of your money, if  
 you had any — but I must have Justice



You will please not say to much  
about persons, friends, every person has  
them. Enemies, you too have yours, I  
have letters in my possession, from Mr  
Sent me ~~the~~, this last summer with regard  
to your self, not very favorable, I assure you  
Further more - I know nothing <sup>about a</sup> pedler  
it is false, every word of it - I can prove it  
Now with regard to a "traveling restliff" Life  
means was I - 20 miles from home, while I  
traveled with you, - and if you believe what  
that miserable Gill, said, you will believe  
much against yourself, you know, you was  
told <sup>there</sup> while, by reliable men, that he could not  
tell the truth, would be a nice person to apply  
to - You also know, I could stay at Donjon  
no longer, Why! they were all gone, but the  
heads ones - I hope, some time you will get  
your eyes open, notwithstanding all the "soft soap"  
how could I work in the Dairy, or any other  
place, with a low, vulgar outcast?  
once more I say to you, thus all gone.

I believe I have answered up all points  
except the "Living Husband" which is returned  
if Living - I care not what others tell you

The writing you gave <sup>me</sup>, the Langer  
I said was good, 5- years to come, or one  
year or over, has expired since you gave  
it to me, - you see, all the advantage is  
on my side - I do not wish to make you  
one bit of trouble, - only you must do  
what is right - if I could see you once  
more ~~in~~ before I die, it would be all  
I would ask - if you refuse me this last  
request - me must proceed, - am willing  
you should live I hate, as long as you  
live - only you can not refuse my last  
request - you do not seem to have  
one bit of courage or resolution -

I am prepared to answer all questions

Yours kindly

J. M. G.

Please recollect we do not  
ask you to go to work at Double  
or Star ~~only~~ only a month

Please omit your tin and  
Hard mail envelopes by  
Substituting others

Cat. NO.  
2809

Please do take

care of your  
health

It will go down

before you are  
aware of it  
you strain

will feel  
your first

may keep all

you please  
than our facts  
which are

Long you will  
say I tell the

(Truth)

Danville Sunday Oct - 20  
1878

Richard -

All I wish is to see you once  
more in this world - then you shall  
be released forever, I will give you  
a writing to this effect, so that in years  
to come, I will have no claims upon  
you whatever - would not this be a  
better way to settle the matter, than  
by Law? - I could not die, without  
having one more talk with you, <sup>for</sup> hearing  
your voice, once again, would be sweetest  
music I ever heard - to look upon your  
face, once more, ere I bid you a final  
adieu, is all the recompense you poor wife  
will ever ask of you - I will spare you  
trouble, that is possible, - but please do not  
refuse, my, last request - for, believe me  
Richard, all is false, you have heard <sup>against</sup>  
me

for they said they were afraid you  
would love me, consequently they told  
you this without a shadow of foundation

I would ask you, - (I love me) what good it would  
be to me, or yourself, to deceive ~~me~~ you - I  
never have, or ever will, please remember  
this - I see you, in my dreams, I hear  
your voice - you speak words of love, and  
hope, then at other times, you frown, turn  
away from me, leaving me forever -  
but soon I awake to the sad, heartrending  
reality - Oh my dear husband, how can  
you refuse my last request? - when you  
have promised me so much - just let me  
see your dear face once more, then you may  
go and do what you please - well I know  
you have written me harsh letters, but it makes  
no difference I shall always love you, and  
I shall see you, though my feet bleed at  
every step, in finding you - you say "there  
is no sense in coming" - is there no sense  
in righting & wrong, or healing a broken  
heart? - does the influence around you  
prompt you to do these wicked things?

not  
more

Danville Jan 23

Richard

I have <sup>transferred</sup> ~~the~~ business of our  
 into the hands of a Christian Gentleman  
 of high Legal attainments, one who  
 thoroughly understands his business, he  
 will write you facts just as they are,  
 and will expect a candid reply, common  
 courtesy demands it. —

I will settle this matter  
 for a definite amount, which I will specify  
 when you request it, ~~since you propose no other way~~  
 If you are anxious to stay there the rest of your  
 life, — why, then, talk the matter over with them  
 and they may help help you out of it, rather  
 than lose you. — On the other hand, as I have  
 formally proposed, — you can, care for me, as a  
brother for a Sister, here, or elsewhere, on  
the same principle, as you care for the Sister  
 there, ~~for you know, Richard, they will not~~  
 let me come there — new one, of these 2 ways

must be done, or trouble will follow  
Either way is reasonable, and any same  
mind will admit of the truth and justice  
of my suggestion, I think my letters  
have not reached you, or your heart will  
So kind, has been totally secured, & brooked  
withstand, & dried, or I should expect - from the  
foldedness and finalities of McKim.

Sunday After Church

My Dear Richard,

Each Day I round my  
meany way to the Post Office - "no letters," is  
the response every time - until my heart is made  
So sad, that I am obliged to give vent to my  
feelings in tears, - the next day I go again  
I shall continue to do so - until - I have  
no feet to get there with - for Richard, Angels  
from their Shining Spheres, have witnessed  
our love, and our kind Heavenly Father, will  
never, never let you rest night or day,  
until you fulfil your <sup>own</sup> vow - Oh! I have  
tried so hard to give you up, have prayed

every day of my life, to be guided ~~by~~  
 by Divine wisdom, — and I feel that I  
 have — no secret I cannot give you up —  
 no human heart could reject the Love I  
 bear you, — read history, please, did not  
 Napoleon first, date the downfall of his  
 destiny, from the hour, he repudiated  
 Josephine, his wife? — and did he not,  
 bemoan with his latest breath, that he  
 had deserted the angelic devoted, heart  
 whose tender Love, he had rejected? —  
 and did he not, when upon the Lonely  
 Island of St-Helena, beset of the Lord  
 of Love, who begged, with prayers and entreaties  
 to shorten his exile — uttered these words  
 "Would to God, I had given more to Love, and  
 ambition less, for since I deserted that  
faithful heart, the Queen of my destiny, has  
 "Get from me", much more to the same effect  
History will testify.

Who dredges  
 is a fine  
 Charming  
 Gentleman  
 the best  
 I enjoy in  
 Downville  
 (throughly)  
 understand  
 himself.  
 and if not  
 reply, he  
 will come  
 there, to  
 see you  
 and the  
 head ones  
 by way  
 kindly



Your health will have you all at once  
insert what I say - from person with  
find you first, than the other top of eye  
depth will follow, that will prove, in fact  
Gretzmann

It will be a good job for some  
body, if my letters to you, have been  
intercepted, - I think they have, from  
some "head ones" there, from the fact  
you have not replied to 3 - three, of the  
last ones I have written you, -  
we are trying them out. It is a land of  
freedom, people are liable to imprisonment  
that intercept letters, there is a mystery  
in the matter, which you will please  
explain, if you can - have just returned  
from the P. office, thought I would wait until  
the last moment before sending this, perhaps you  
would send me just a few lines, Dear, but at last  
again and again do I repeat the weary question  
"is there a letter for me". - until my brain is almost  
New Richard, you must and do know that I have  
legal claims upon <sup>you</sup>, and furthermore, you nor they  
can evade the Law, and you and they know  
it - therefore it is useless to maintain obstacles  
all I ask is justice, and justice is not there

Law Offices of  
Seth N. Hedges,

Dansville, N. Y., July 28<sup>th</sup> 1879

Mr. Richard Fletcher

Sir:

Mrs. S. M. Lord has retained me in the matter of her relations to you, to take charge of her interests. Before commencing any proceedings I deem it fair to yourself & to the honorable Society of which you are a member to give you the opportunity to make any proposition or suggestion you may desire having in view a peaceable settlement of Mrs L's claim.

You must be aware that a resort to the Court would involve large expense & still worse a denouement which would reflect desirably upon your Community. At present the matter is held in honorable confidence, I shall be pleased to hear from you

Yours &c

Seth N. Hedges

From Elder Giles

Shakers. N. Y. Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 1849.  
Dear & Beloved Br Richard.

Your communications  
of 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> both duly at  
hand and carefully considered.

We deeply sympathize with you  
in your affliction, will do all we can  
to aid you; have been waiting to make  
some little legal inquiries on the  
subject, and to hear from abroad, also  
to consult the pages of the "Revised  
Statutes of New York" a little.

Well, Elder Daniel has gone to  
Groveland, and contemplates visit-  
ing the lawyer - Hedges, probably  
accompanied by Br James Lovel-  
win, so as to convince him that in  
no way can society be made amen-  
able relative to the circumstance, &  
to set before him the facts of the case,

Of course no names have been given and nothing by which and else can be had to your personality in this case, but its features have been presented to a good lawyer in Albany who suggests just what we said, together — that the fact of the woman and yourself both joining the Shaker Community and remaining for some months was a strong testimony to the fact you offer verbally took place between yourself and the woman that the marriage promise was abrogated; yet, as possession is nine tenths of the law" she, having your letter of promise, may get a hearing at court, and give you some trouble. But the lawyer and ourselves advise that you remain perfectly silent and let them do what they will —

By Revised Statutes" p. p. 444 & 5  
 you will see that both the woman  
 and yourself, being poor, yet can  
 have the benefit of legal advice  
 and trial by jury at the public  
 expense. — And, the most &  
 worst that can happen is an  
 imprisonment for a time.

By the Revised Statutes" p. 135, at  
 bottom you will see that all promises  
 of marriage, to be valid, must be in  
 writing, except mutual, which  
may be verbal. Now, argument  
 atively, if a mutual verbal prom-  
 ise to marry be legal, then a mu-  
 tual verbal promise not to marry  
 should also be legal, but, here your  
 testimony and the woman's would,  
 probably, be antagonistic, now,  
 though in unison when you both  
 entered the Shaker's Society.

The great misfortune about the

case is that you did not get the woman to return to you the letter of promise, when you separated.

But, Br Richard, in fact your case is not different from numbers who joined the Shaker Church when society was first organized, except in this, that you had both previously been in a Shaker Society.

But, man up, put on the armor of the cross, and firm resolution to do right in the coming time, and, in the finale you will come off victorious should you have a time of sufferings and deprivation of privileges; but, we will hope even this may be averted.

Take our love and be strong in the truth and in purity.

Your Brother,

Giles.

## ANDREWS &amp; EDWARDS,

Counselors at Law,

Robert E. Andrews, }  
Samuel Edwards. }

Hudson, N.Y., May 6 1879

Friend Gates.

The complaint in  
Ford against Fletcher  
was received this morning  
and if Fletcher will come  
to our office on Saturday  
of this week our Mr.  
Andrews will prepare  
his answer and have  
him verify it.

Should a later day  
be preferred please so  
advise and we will  
name one.

Kind regards to friends  
Very respectfully  
Andrews & Edwards  
J. R. E.

Linnam June 6<sup>th</sup> 1879

Friend Gates

Yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> inst. is at hand and my further information in the case of Mr. Lord.

In your first letter you muchly wished to know whether J. S. Lord was still living, and if he was legally married to Sarah Ann! Which facts I believe the affidavit of Mr. Lord clearly shows.

and now in regard to further information I will give you such as I am in possession of. I understand that at the time of Mr. Lord's marriage with Sarah Ann he believed that they were legally married - but that soon after said marriage he learned that



she had a husband living  
at the time of said marriage  
meanwhile she had become  
somewhat distastful to him  
he therefore set to work to find  
her former husband if possible  
and having found Mr. Nourse  
living at Mixville in the  
county of Allegany N.Y. he  
used that as a pretext to  
discard her. Whereupon an  
agreement was entered into  
by and between them for a  
separation, whereby a  
stipulated sum was paid  
to her and she left.

Mr. Nourse her former  
husband I understand  
died a year ago or more at  
Mixville in Allegany Co. N.Y.

This I believe to be a true  
but brief history of the case

If you desire any  
further particulars in the case  
so far as I can I will freely  
give them.

Truly Yours.

A. G. Perry

P.S. - I still adhere to my former  
belief that no divorce was ever  
procured by either of the  
parties.

A. G. P.

W. G. Purdy  
St.  
June 6. 1879

OFFICE OF

ANDREWS &amp; EDWARDS,

Counselors at Law,

Robert E. Andrews, }  
Samuel Edwards. }

Hudson, N. Y., Oct 17 1879

Dear Benjamin:

On the 10th day of November  
 last the Concinn. Court  
 will sit at your old Irving-  
 Place Court. The case of  
 Ford against Fletcher,  
 which previously disposed  
 of, will regularly come on  
 for trial at that time. What  
 are your or Mr. Fletcher's plans  
 in regard to it? Do you  
 wish me to arrange to try  
 it then, or do you wish  
 me to correspond with the  
 opposing attorney & try to  
 get him to consent to sit

going over to the Febru-  
ary Circuit?

If to be tried I would  
like an early interview  
with a view to perfecting  
arrangements. so that  
we may not be unduly  
hurried.

Yours as ever

Robert L. Andrews.

Longe Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 79

Brother Benjamin

I saw Judge Vanderlip Saturday he says if it can be proved she had a husband living when she commenced the present action it is all that will be necessary to dispose of the case. There will be no need of Sc<sup>'s</sup> coming. I am going to Buffalo this week & will stop at Linolen & find out all I can. I saw Hedges he said he did not know if she would try it or not. Court sets Nov 10<sup>th</sup> and if Hedges makes up his mind to try it he will have to give Andrews 14 days notice if he does please notify me. Vanderlip will take care & watch it so you need not fear of their getting a

judgment. There may be so  
many cases on the calendar  
that this one cannot be reached  
this term, I have no idea that  
Hedges will try it for the reason  
he can get no money from her  
& he is too greedy to spend his own  
but at the same time we will be  
ready to meet him if he does

Yours as ever  
James Goodwin



# Continental Hotel,

JOHN G. AVERY, Proprietor.

Buffalo, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1879

Brother Benjamin

I called at Linden yesterday  
 Lord was driving Apple to Linden he is 82 years of age  
 but at present very smart he and his sister will  
 come before the court <sup>at Genesee</sup> in person and give testimony  
 to the facts in the case I think that will be all  
 the evidence we want to kill it on the start

Please send me Lord's Affidavit if I had it seeing it is  
 taken I would make one more effort to stop or kill  
 it before it ever came into court she commenced an  
 action against Lord but never came near and let it go  
 down and they say she will do so in this case

As ever your Brother

James Goodwin



J Goodwin  
Oct 1879

Cat. No. 9807-B

OFFICE OF

L. C. BINGHAM &amp; CO.,

— DEALERS IN —

Heavy and Shelf Hardware, Agricultural Im-  
plements, Stoves, Tinware, &c.

Mount Morris, N.Y., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1879

Brother Benjamin

I enclose Vanderlip's  
letter to Andrews you can see his  
opinion of the case as Andrews has  
commenced the case he would have  
to give <sup>him</sup> power of attorney before he can  
go on with it, on the whole it may  
be as well for Andrews to come up  
even if he leaves it with ~~the~~ Judge  
Vanderlip to look after it may not  
come on at this term of the court  
Vanderlip said to me he would see  
Hedges & make him a proposition to  
withdraw the suit I told him to do  
so if they could kill it so she never  
could commence another action he  
seems to think they are getting sick  
of it as there is no show for money

If we can succeed to stop it before  
it comes into court I will telegraph  
you Monday evening the 3<sup>rd</sup> Andrews  
would not need to come till the last  
of the week as I can <sup>serve the</sup> <sup>on</sup> subpoena all  
those witnesses in one day if we should  
need them I wrote you from Buffalo  
hope you received it saying the Old man  
Loud is well and will put his testimony  
in before the court at Genesee

As ever your brother

James Goodwin

Blank No. 1.

# THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message:

Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**.

This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE** and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

A. B. BREWER, Sec'y.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated Mount Morris by Post 1879

Received at \_\_\_\_\_

To Benjamin Gale

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Cochers better  
Come - I wrote  
you yesterday

James Cochran

Sonyea Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1879

Brother Benjamin

I went to Geneseo this morning and had the Clerk of the Supreme Court put that paper on file I send you a copy also copy of the Court to discontinue the suit Judge Wanderlip said he thought the papers to cut off all further proceedings as strong as they could be

The judge that he ought to have 25<sup>00</sup>  
but will take less if I say so  
I Paid Hedges \$ 84<sup>00</sup>  
which makes in all \$ 109<sup>00</sup>

What little I have done I will take  
prayer in love & good words of Poor Brother  
Richard hoping he may be a help & comfort  
to you your Brother James Goodwin

cat. NO. 9811-A

Recd of James Gordon Eighty-four  
dollars in full of my charges &  
disbursements in "Lord & Fletcher"

Danville Ky

Nov. 11/29

~

Letts Hedges

# Memoranda for Warsaw.

Lawrence Mix, lawyer; own  
brother of Sarah Mix Lord.  
Temperance, wise-pulling politician.

A Mr. Aiken, son of Mrs. Lord  
by former man, is married into  
a "property" and has cut all poor  
relations. Lives in the village.

Another son, Algy Aiken  
is, or was a traveling sewing-machine  
agent, has a large family of  
small hungry children.

Mrs. Beardsley, former  
public lecturer is another  
relative-in-law, more or less  
unfriendly, like the others  
referred to above, to S. M. L.

Beware of Erastus Gill,  
(ae. 60,) red-faced, bush headed farmer

and roaring liar. He would say anything to injure either our side or the other just as it happened. Cannot be depended on.

Report was, a year ago, that old Mr. Lord lived at or near Linden station, on the Erie R.R. I think

Another subject of common gossip was a peddler, with whom J. M. L. lived after being turned away from old Mr. Lord's;—a sort of tin pedlar they said now gone to parts unknown.





## Memorandum

at Danaville, Lin. Co.

In February, 1878, I gave  
 S. M. L. a writing to the effect  
 that I would support her or see  
 that she never lacked the comforts  
 of a home for the rest of her life,  
 and that I considered we were  
 as truly married as though we  
 were bound legally.

Besides this paper, she has two  
 letters, written outside of Lin. Co.,  
 (at Gainesville, Wyoming Co.) addressed  
 to her as my wife.

In April (7<sup>th</sup>) 1878, while she  
 was keeping house for her brother-in-law  
 Mr. Erastus Gill, and myself, she  
 acknowledged that I had kept every  
 promise made and implied, up to  
 that time, that she could see I  
 was not suited to make my way  
 in general society, and that she

was willing and ready to excuse me from trying to make a private home for her, and to accept Eldress Abigail's offer and return to live at Souya, while I was to go to Lebanon

At the commencement of our acquaintance (Nov. 1876) <sup>Sept.</sup> she claimed to be a widow. In March, '78, while we were at Warsaw, visiting her friends, several of her near relatives and acquaintances spoke to me of two of her former husbands as still living, one of them, old Mr. Lord, in the next town, and the other, a traveling peddler. Nourse

As nearly as I can recollect the exact words, here is the dialogue that occurred on April 7, 1878, Sunday, at Jainsville

R.F. "Have not I kept every  
promise made to you up to  
this time?"

J.M.L. You have. But perhaps  
if we should go among perfect  
strangers you could get along  
better than with this E. Gill.

R.F. You know I'm not  
calculated, not shrewd  
enough to get along in this  
scrabbling money-grabbing  
world. I wish you could be  
contented to live again in a  
community.

J.M.L. Well, I see you  
have n't courage to face the  
world; you are under great  
disadvantage with eyesight.  
We cannot keep house together  
anywhere around here. Eldress  
A. said I could come back any  
time, and if you go to Lebanon  
you must write to me.

On Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 1878...  
near Avon, N. Y., the same  
talk in substance occurred  
again, and we parted with  
this verbal mutual agreement  
that our relations were at an  
end, only I must write to her from  
Mt. Lebanon. She had a  
comfortable home at Souza  
for 3 ms. or more after this, and  
if she could have been satisfied  
to live any honest, quiet life  
anywhere, might have had a  
home the rest of her days.

R<sup>d</sup> F<sup>s</sup> statement

In February, 1878, at Dansville, Liv. Co., N.Y., I gave Mrs. F. M. Lord a writing to the effect that I would support her, or see that she had a home, and that I considered we were as truly married as tho' we were bound legally.

Besides this paper, she has 2 letters, written outside of Liv. Co., dated sometime about June 30, 1877 and Dec 26, 1877, addressed to her as my wife.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> 1878, while she was keeping house for her brother-in-law, Erastus Gill, and myself (town of Gainesville) she acknowledged that I had kept every promise made and implied, up to that time.

That she was ready and willing to excuse me from trying to make a private home and was ready to accept Eldress Abigail's offer, to return to live at Toneya and leave me free to go to Lebanon.

At the commencement of our acquaintance (Sept. '76) she claimed to be a widow, whereas we can now prove that Mr. Nourse and Mr. Lord, two former husbands were still living.

As nearly as I can <sup>remember</sup>  
these are the exact words  
that were said on Sunday,  
April 7<sup>th</sup> 1878, at E. Gainesville.

R. F. "Have I not kept  
every promise made to you, up  
to this time?"

S. M. I. You have. I see  
you have n't courage to face  
the world, and we cannot  
keep house together, anywhere  
around here. Eldress Abigail  
Crossman said I could come  
back any time, to Sonyea,  
and if you go to Lebanon,  
you must write to me.

On Friday, April 19, 1878, on  
cars near Avon, N. Y. the  
same talk, in substance,  
occurred again, and we  
parted with this verbal  
mutual agreement, that our



relations were at an end:

She had a comfortable  
home at Songea Society  
for 3 ms or more, after this.

J. S. Lord of Bethany, Genesee  
 County, State New York  
 Married Sarah Akins of Warsaw,  
 N.Y. On or about the 30 day of  
 January, 1869. And lived together  
 as Man & Wife until the fall of  
 1874 When they Separated.  
 J. S. Lord, finding that a former  
 Husband of Sarah was living at  
 Mixville Alleghany, N.Y. by name  
 of Nourse See enclosed letter

Feb & March, 1878. is the latest date  
Sarah M. Lord, claims that Richard  
Fletcher made any promises.

R Fletcher says, nothing of  
 the kind can be shown, since  
 Jan'y 1878. At which date  
 it appears Lord & Nourse were  
 both living  
 B.L.

Abigail Crossman &  
James Goodwin -

Testimony -

Puff. told them when  
she applied for re-entry  
of her separation from  
deft. -

Remained but a few  
months -

They separated to  
go back & live with  
the Clakers.

Mr Goodwin will find  
with witness to prove lead  
character of puff -  
~~between~~ after separation  
from Lord & first going  
to the Clakers -

Who will prove a lack of  
Erastus Gill? Given keeping promise  
stated in "Galewood"?

Mr.

Lord.

his sister -  
Minister or Magistrate -  
sister was at the marriage  
of Jeff & Mr. Lord. + lived  
near him near was saw -  
knows he is living -

Jeff when she made the  
contract with Jeff  
told him that both  
Mr ~~her~~ husband  
were dead. which the  
Jeff believed -

When answer put in  
Jeff had not heard that  
first husband. None  
was then living. Jeff  
found he was dead -

Fitch only lived with  
Jeff. about a week  
in Canada -

When he first knew  
he had not yet been  
informed that either  
Lord or Horse was  
living -

Sl of facts

Benjamin Canby, Capt (Oct 20/79)  
that on the 16th inst he went  
to Harmon F. Burrill -

Wm  
as  
Wm

James Goodwin - Souya - Simpson co  
N.Y.

To Elizabeth Lord. also  
person that married him  
to 1844 -