

**REPLY OF MR. WM. E.  
CHANDLER TO THE  
SLANDERS OF HONORABLE  
BAINBRIDGE WADLEIGH**

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Reply of Mr. Wm. E. Chandler to the Slanders of Honorable Bainbridge Wadleigh by William Eaton Chandler

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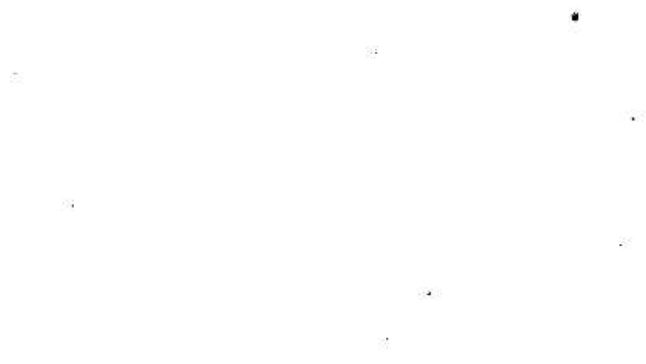
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**WILLIAM EATON CHANDLER**

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BAINBRIDGE WADLEIGH**





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REPLY

—OF—

MR. WM. E. CHANDLER

TO THE SLANDERS OF

*HONORABLE*

BAINBRIDGE WADLEIGH,

LATELY U. S. SENATOR;

TOGETHER WITH A REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF

SOME ACTS OF MR. WADLEIGH

WHILE SENATOR.

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CONCORD, N. H.,

JUNE 7, 1870.

REPLY OF  
MR. WM. E. CHANDLER  
TO THE SLANDERS OF  
HONORABLE BAINBRIDGE WADLEIGH,

Lately U. S. Senator, together with a request for explanation of some acts of Mr. Wadleigh while Senator.

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CONCORD, June 7, 1879.

HON. BAINBRIDGE WADLEIGH:

*Sir:* During the last two years or more, and especially since you decided to support, and I to oppose, the Southern policy of President Hayes, which has proved disastrous and is now distinctly abandoned and condemned by its authors, you have been habitually defaming my character, by assertions concerning my business and professional occupation at Washington; made not openly and boldly, but in secret, and in conversations not intended to come to my knowledge, but to destroy my reputation with the persons you addressed, without any opportunity for me to reply to and refute your slanders.

Whether you have thus taken an unfair advantage of your high position as a United States Senator to commence and continue to defame and injure a mere private citizen who never gave you occasion for your hostility, from jealousy of a possible rival, or from old habits acquired in the early years of your law practice, when you narrowly escaped disbarment on a charge of trickery, it is not material to me; but I am determined no longer to be injured, without public and emphatic protest, by such slanders, made plausible and important only by reason of the official station you have held.

## YOUR REFUSAL TO MAKE YOUR SLANDERS SPECIFIC.

The nearest approach you have made to open defamation was in certain statements in a letter of February 22, 1879, to the *Monitor* and *Statesman*, concerning the Voelter Wood Paper Pulp Patent; and even there you do not mention my name. Having been informed of your oral slanders by my friends, and that they understood the statements in your letter to refer to me, I requested Col. Wm. E. Stevens, the editor who had taken the responsibility of publishing them, to ascertain, if possible, whom you meant. Subsequently he addressed you this letter,—

CONCORD, March 14, 1879.

HON. B. WADLEIGH, Milford, N. H. :

*Dear Sir:* You did not call on me when you were in Concord; if you had done so, I should have made some inquiries of you, which I now present. In your published letter of February 23, you attribute the *Globe* article connecting you with the Voelter Patent, and also the attack upon you in the *Nashua Telegraph*, to Washington lobbyists, and in particular to "a gentleman, whose connection with the Washington lobby is not a matter of conjecture." You also state, that by your unvarying opposition to all the plundering schemes of the Washington rings and lobbyists you have won their bitter hostility; and that you were long ago informed that you could not be re-elected unless you yielded to them; and long ago resolved that you would accept no office on such degrading terms.

If the facts are as you state, I wish to know them more accurately, so that I may not be misled by any such influence in reference to yourself or any other person or subject; and they perhaps ought also to be known to the people of New Hampshire.

Will you therefore inform me what the plundering schemes were, by opposing which you have won the bitter hostility you speak of; who the persons are who compose the rings in question; and in particular who the gentleman is, connected with the lobby, whom you charge as instigating the attack upon you, with liberty to use the information as I may deem proper.

Very respectfully,

WM. E. STEVENS.

To this letter no reply was given by you; and ten days later Col. Stevens again wrote you, requesting a reply; but of neither letter have you ever taken any notice.



This refusal to define what and whom you meant in your published attack, I consider cowardly; and you have placed yourself unmistakably in the attitude of a willingness to publicly claim credit and sympathy for yourself by accusations against others, without daring to name the men whom you accuse, nor to specify the acts which you charge upon them, so as to give them an equal opportunity to defend themselves.

I am further justified in saying, that you then desired and now desire to have the people of New Hampshire believe that you specially meant to incriminate and make odious a particular person, and yet had not the courage, in the face of the people, to call him by name and stand by your accusations. Such evasion and dodging is in keeping with other acts of your Senatorial career, and is utterly unmanly and discreditable.

#### CHALLENGE TO MAKE YOUR SLANDERS PUBLICLY.

It is now my privilege publicly to request of you openly to proclaim the various statements you have so constantly made concerning me during the past two years. If you meant me in your letter of February 22d, I desire you to charge it publicly, as an open assailant, instead of whispering it slyly as a secret slanderer; and to make good, if you can, your statements, charges, and insinuations, by specification, description, and proof. If you do not, I shall stigmatize you as a wilful libeller, unworthy of the least credit among honorable men.

#### COMPREHENSIVE DENIAL AND DEFIANCE.

In advance of what you may say, I challenge investigation and exposure of all my actions, public and private, during my whole life. What they have been in New Hampshire is well known to her people, and especially to the citizens of Concord. In Washington I have been in official position, in business enterprises, in arduous political service, and in legitimate and honorable law practice. During the last three years, however, I have been obliged to give up the greater portion of my law business, except limited service for one client, who has employed and trusted me for over ten years, and for the protection against unjust encroachment, of a business investment of

my own and other New England men, in which I have ventured about all I am worth. The rest and largest part of my time has been freely and gratuitously devoted to electing President Hayes, securing for him a fair count, and defending his title while opposing his fatal Southern policy.

From my admission to the bar in 1865 to this hour, I have endeavored to do no dishonorable act, either in my law business at home or in Washington; in office in the Navy or Treasury Departments; or in my connection with politics; I have battled, whenever the occasion seemed to demand, openly and boldly, for all my convictions, without caring for personal consequences; and I defy you and all my other defamers, personal or political, all Potter Committees, and pulp and patent corruptionists, to leave contemptible insinuations and cowardly secret suggestions, and come out into the open daylight and charge and sustain anything against me.

You and your agents have freely stated that I desire only Congressmen from New Hampshire whom I can control and improperly use; and that I would have had no objection to you if I could have controlled you. This is a slander upon Senators Cragin, Patterson, and Rollins, and Representatives Stevens, Pike, Briggs, Ela, and Blair, no one of whom have I ever attempted to use or control; nor have I ever interfered with or taken any part in any New Hampshire matter at Washington except in coöperation with and at the request of some or all of our Congressmen; while as to yourself, although we were in familiar, and, so far as I knew, friendly intercourse, with occasional correspondence, during the first four years of your senatorship and as late as April, 1877, I never undertook to control or influence you, nor directly or indirectly desired or asked anything of you, at any time, anywhere, to any extent, or under any circumstances; and I challenge you to assert the contrary, and specify the instance.

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EXPLAIN YOUR OWN SURRENDER TO CORRUPT INFLUENCES.

There are other questions to which I wish to call your attention, and ask of you explanations. For three or four years after your accidental election as senator, you often, although

insincerely, declared that you did not like the office, and that you were inclined to resign it and resume more congenial law practice. You now present yourself for reflection solely on the ground that you have resisted the corrupt influences of Washington lobbyists; and while so doing you make charges of corruption against persons who you say are your enemies, but venture not to name them. An examination, however, of some acts of yours while senator, discloses facts which, without denial and disproof in detail, will convince every one that, instead of being abstemiously honest among corrupt influences, you have surrendered to a corrupt ring at Washington, and are, like many a prototype, in fact guilty of all you wrongly charge against others.

#### PATENT CORRUPTIONS THE CAUSE OF YOUR FALL.

Of all causes of dishonesty and corruption at Washington, those arising from patents take the lead. With the patent lobby, you, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Patents, came into close relations. Taking advantage of the unpopularity at the West of two or three agricultural patents oppressively handled, you first entered into a combination with certain wealthy corporate interests to enable them to oppress and destroy poor inventors, and to make the whole patent system valueless to them, and only operative as a means to enable rich capitalists to seize meritorious inventions, and with them plunder the public without benefiting the real inventors.

#### YOUR ALLIANCE WITH THE PATENT CORRUPTIONISTS THROUGH JOHN W. ODLIN, A LABORER.

To procure the passage of a bill of this character, there came to Washington an agent of the Western Railroad Association of Chicago. There came also a formidable lobby, whose boast it was that with free liquors, free carriages, and other influences of various kinds, they would reach their ends. Their ally in the Senate you became, and established intimate relations with them in person, and more especially through your private secretary, John W. Odlin, whom you had taken into your full confidence, although a man of bad repute and of worse