

Charleston 27th April 1823

My dear Sir,

Your affection towards me has been severely tested, & yet your deportment in our casual intercourse, convinces me that it still exists. My anxiety to preserve it is the cause of this address.

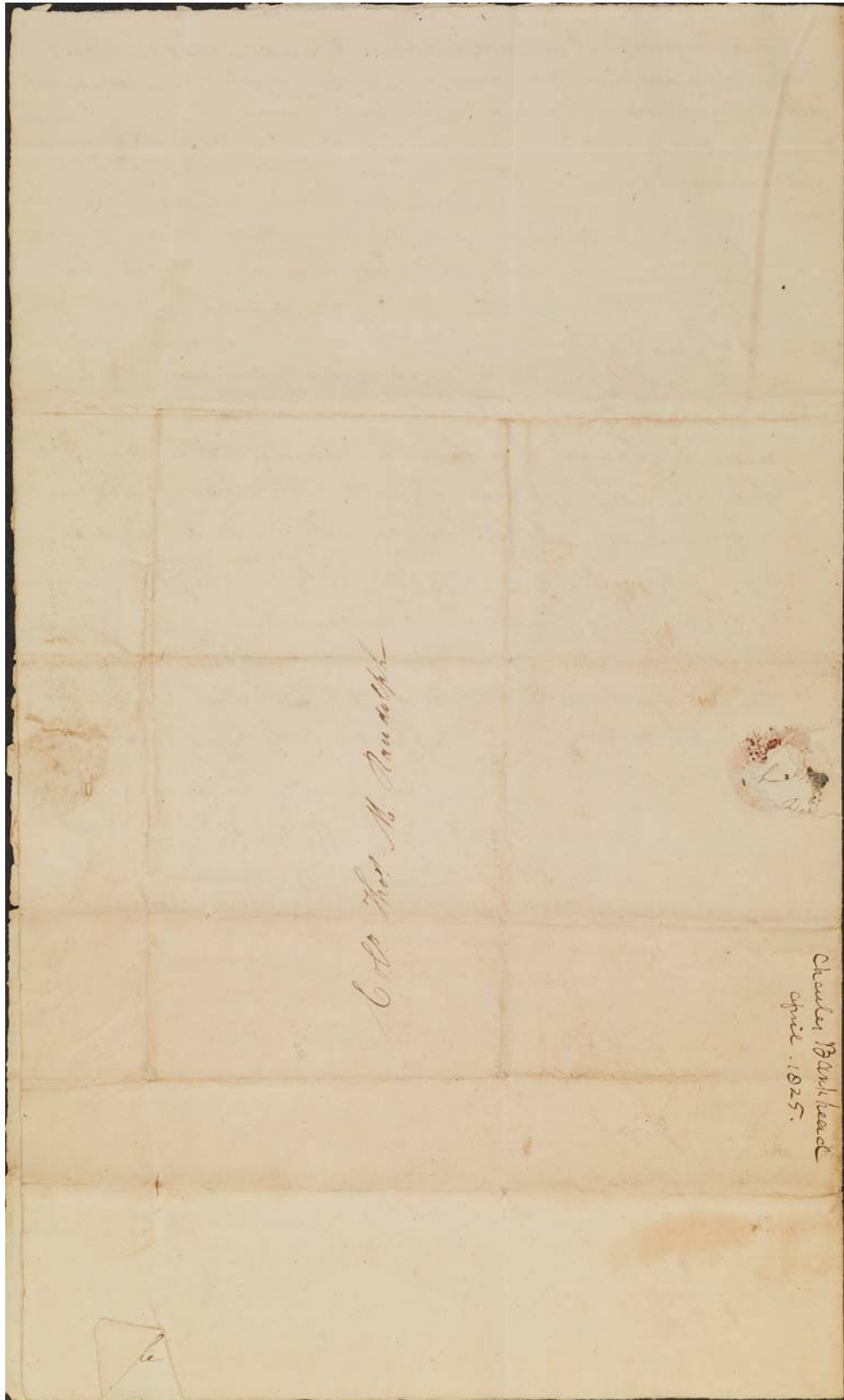
Col. M. M. has for years been to me a shy & suspicious foe. I believe, although before a Court I could not prove it, but I sincerely believe, that he fomented the discord which has caused me anguish, privation, loss, & endless regret. That he has lately used my name in a way which no one should do, who associates with gentlemen, I know. I proclaimed that I would insult him the first time I saw him. I do so. I have always suspected him to be weak of spirit, but had no idea that the weakness of his mind, equalled his want of valour. He stands now a recorded coward. It is somewhat novel that a Col. of Cavalry, should intrench himself behind the law, & swear the peace against an individual, who although obscure, has always ranked with gentlemen. His calculation was, that his oath, combined with a host of witnesses, would induce the Court to bind me in so high a penalty, that I could not give security, & that he would enjoy the satanic pleasure of seeing me in jail; he was disappointed; he calculated so that the tenure by which I hold my estate would increase the difficulty of my procuring security, & thought me groundless; in that he was also disappointed; one of his witnesses Col. M. P. Brown I can prove to be perjured. & no one of ~~them~~ ^{them} establishes what he wishes (viz. that I am a devil & pirate to assassinate him). I observed to the Court in ^{an} audible voice, that the Col. M. M. has magnified his danger; he obliged by asking me to use his own words to "try it again". The notorious Col. M. M. should have reflected whilst inviting me in open Court to try it again, that he was using every effort to tie my hands, the fact is he feels himself thwarted in his cowardly & base

design, I have placed me in a situation, which disables
me (even should his desperations prove a substitute for valour,
& prompt him to such a step) to afford him an opportunity
of breaching his supposed honour; He exhibited a letter as he
called it, but more properly a note, which I wrote him
from Fort Royal, some time in R. 22, you will confer
a favour on me by asking him to show you that,
should he evince any unwillingness to do so, which I think
probable, I refer you to our friend Gordon who held
it read, his exhibition of that note to the Court to
Establish on my part "malice prepens, is a striking evidence
of his mental dettity. That letter contained a tender of
friendship or hostility, it was an appeal to his honour,
and engagemens, expressed a desire that he would do as
his honourable Brother Peter would have done. He is sly,
hypocritical, & as vindictive as his tenacity will allow him to
be, such was his mortification at my ^{having} obtained security
that absolutely reprimanded one of them & told him that
he certainly would have to pay the penalty; that circumst-
-ance if no other does, ^{but that} proves that he promised himself some
diabolical hope from the peculiar tenure by which I hold
my property, that my securities were to suffer. James Sims-
-more the Alexander & Chas. Letterworth. I could have
obtained more but they did not request it, & the notice given
-en me being short & myself so involved, that the Sheriff
granted me the indulgence of one day. The penalty is
£1000 which shall not be forgotten. The Doctor thought
however that I would, I call him Doctor because
he is literally so, He wears all sorts of venerable rings
& I have from good authority, that he has deposited
with Leonard a celebrated Smith near the University a
Butchers knife to have a steel scabbard ^{made} for it, poor fellow
I pity him, but I refer to heaven. I do not fear him.
If such things were to be sold in Charlestonville, I would
really buy him a neat heavy handle worth a handsome
pair of Prapitane pistols & present them to him.
I view an incensed Coward more dangerous than
the bravest man. Col. C. might encounter me in

Some sequestered spot to shoot me & swear that I attack, &
him; having insulted him in public, would countenance
his tale; where there are witnesses I know he will be harm-
-less. having been well informed that attempts will be made
to induce on my part a violation of the peace I have
determined to avoid all public places, consequently will
not be at the election unless I hear from one of whom
I have asked the favour that, my vote & the little
influence I might have, may be necessary in your behalf.
But I can not believe that an old & approved agent
of the people will be excluded by a young man &
in state affairs certainly inexperienced.
"nosce te Ipsum" is a favorite maxim with me & I
fear I shall not have the self command to submit
to an insult; altho' I could now do so, without incur-
-ring a blemish; it would certainly be very dishonourable
to involve my friends & securities. The right of self
defence however no citizen can be deprived of in
this country & with a view to that even I shall car-
-ry a stick only affectionately Yrs.

Chas: L. Bantheat

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