

charges had been abandoned, as a copy had not been furnished, and as Col. Morgan had told me that he did not agree with Capt. Mason upon the subject. On my return, I was surprised to learn that the charges had been preferred, and forwarded to the Department. I obtained from my accuser, a copy of the complaint, nearly a month after it had been promised, and two weeks after it had been forwarded, in my absence.

"I lost no time in preparing and forwarding my defense to Washington. I also sent a copy of the charges, lest they should be lost on the way. I heard no more of the matter, till I visited Washington in December, 1831, when I found that no charges had been filed in the office against me. I remained in Washington till the 20th of February, 1832, and during a portion of my stay, Major Garland was in the city; yet while I was there, and my defense supported by documents not to be refuted, and on file in the Indian Office, no move was made against me in the case; and a few days before I left the city, I withdrew my defense, considering it unnecessarily there.

"Capt. Mason, I believe, visited Washington in the spring, but took no steps to call up the investigation while there; but on his return to the frontier, he wrote from St. Louis to Major Garland, to revive the matter. This brought the matter before the Secretary of War, July 31st, 1832, for the first time. This revival of the matter, it will be recollected, after so long a time had elapsed, and opportunities for a full and fair investigation had passed, took place when the Indian war was raging in the vicinity of this place, and the whole of both your time and mine was incessantly engaged, often in the night as well as in the day, in the discharge of paramount public duties; while Major Garland, snugly seated in his *Bureau*, could manage the charges, secure from the dangers or toils incident to a frontier station.

"From a subsequent letter from the Acting Secretary, of the 25th of September, 1832, it appears that the original communication of Capt. Mason to Col. Morgan, has at length made its appearance at the Department, and the charges therein contained