

BARFIELD & BARFIELD  
*Solicitors*

11<sup>th</sup> June 503.

Dear Sirs,

We act for H.M. King Mark I of Cornwall, who has recently consulted us in the matter of the behaviour of your client, Sir Tristram. It appears that while your client was, at our client's expense and as his confidential agent, escorting our client's then fiancée across the Irish Channel, he took advantage of those very circumstances to seduce this unfortunate lady and has, both before and since her marriage to our client, been carrying on a criminal conversation with her as and when opportunity offered, at Tintagel and elsewhere. We regret to say that the evidence in our possession removes all doubt of the authenticity of these disgusting allegations.

Our client has of course instructed us to file a petition for divorce on the ground of adultery and we shall be glad to hear from you when it will be convenient for your client to attend at our office to be served therewith. We understand your client is at present in Brittany, living with an unmarried lady who, by a curious coincidence, bears the same name as our client's said wife. You may however take it from us that any misguided attempt to plead mistaken identity is bound to fail.

Meanwhile our client is seriously considering further proceedings in the King's Bench Division against your client for enticement and it will depend on the latter whether the *extremely* unpleasant publicity which is inseparable from any such proceedings can be avoided or not. We must ask you to let us hear from you within twenty-one days, should your client have any proposal to make for compensating our client – so far as this is now possible – for the grievous injury he has suffered from your client's behaviour, for which we should have thought "dishonourable" was scarcely an adequate word.

No doubt you will, when taking his instructions, point out to him that in assessing the damages, a jury would be required to take into consideration such factors as (a) the previous long and close personal association between our respective clients (b) the fact that your client was at the time employed in a fiduciary capacity in a matter of the utmost delicacy (c) that your client to ours at the time not merely the loyalty of an old friend but the allegiance of a tried and trusted subject and (d) the unwritten law of chivalry and the obligation imposed thereby on your client, as the only person of equestrian status on board a small vessel carrying a female passenger of noble rank, even apart from his fiduciary capacity already referred to above.

From the other point of view it will, we gather, hardly be open to your client to *minimise* the damage suffered by the Plaintiff in the loss of this lady's consortium!

We understand from our client that your client has indicated an intention of putting up some kind of defence on the ground of "irresistible impulse" and even possibly witchcraft. If this is so, you will presumably consider whether, in the eyes of a jury of reasonable and honourable men, the combined obligations referred to under (c) and (d) above could ever in any conceivable circumstances be discharged by anything less than *force majeure* in the accepted sense of the term.

We are, dear Sirs,  
As at this time,  
Yours faithfully,  
Barfield & Barfield

Messrs Inkling and Inkling

14-6-503

Dear Sirs,

We have instructed our client Sir T. de Lyonesse K.T. R. to ignore the frivolous letter which has been forwarded to us by Mr. C. S. Lewis. The following considerations have led us to advise him that there can be no serious intention of an action on the part of your client.

1. We are prepared to prove on the evidence of Dr. Gouvernail and Mlle. Brangwen that no misconduct occurred during the voyage in the Irish Channel to which you refer.
2. Since H.M. King Arthur of Logres is the overlord of your client and our client is a K.T.R. it is open to him to choose (see Arthur cap. 13. Tit. 24) to answer any allegations of misconduct by wager of battle, as he has already done in case of the 25 Knights (deceased) whose names will be found in the attached schedule.

Yours faithfully,  
Blaise & Merlin

BARFIELD & BARFIELD  
*Solicitors*

19<sup>th</sup> June xxxx 503

Dear Sirs,

*Mark v. Tristram*

We are in receipt of your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Acting on the instructions of our client, we have since applied *ex parte* to the court of King Arthur sitting at Caerleon for a Rule nisi that the plea which your client seeks to aver according to the second numbered paragraph of your letter, is no longer a good custom. It will not however be necessary for you to appear on behalf of your client and show cause, as we have since received an official communication from Sir Kaye informing us of a Decree delivered orally by his Majesty *ad mensam* on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant and intitled "For the Quelling of Garboils and the More Seemly Ordering of the Realm of Logres", by which it is ordered that this dispute be forthwith referred to arbitration and an arbitrator was by the same Decree appointed. In accordance with the usual equitable principles the arbitrator so appointed is the immediate Lord to whom the Defendant owes allegiance. You will be informed in due course of the date and venue fixed for the hearing.

Yours faithfully,  
Barfield & Barfield

Messrs Blaies and Merlin

BARFIELD & BARFIELD  
*Solicitors*

19<sup>th</sup> June, xxxx 503

Dear Sirs,

Mark v. Tristram  
*WITHOUT PREJUDICE*

Referring to our open letter of even date, our client writes us that he feels there is “considerable force” in what you say at the conclusion of your letter under reply. We are accordingly to inform you that our client will not in fact take any steps to bring this matter to arbitration provided that your client signs a full and complete *Retractatio* of all the works of the flesh, draft of which will first be submitted to and approved by ourselves (we suggest the form which was approved by the Court in *Arthur v. Lancelot* as appropriate).

We do not know whether your client has any immediate intention of returning to this country, but we feel we can rely on your good selves to explain to him (by express messenger, if necessary) that our own part in this unfortunate affair is purely that of agents acting on instructions. In our experience, this is a point which laymen do not always find it easy to appreciate. May we add, without offence, that we should like to be assured that your junior partner is also thoroughly seised of this point?

Yours faithfully,  
Barfield & Barfield

Messrs Blaise and Merlin

be castle of jv stoons  
die xx jun año saluaciōs  
CCCCCV

To ii lerned clerks maister barfield and maister barfield gretynge in nōiē dōi amen and wytte ye well syr tristram of lyones is newlie come ageyne to bis reaulme of logres to Douere and soo wonderouslie enchafed that never feend in helle was moore felle & & tedyous inasmuche as some that saw hym when he cam of schippe fell doū for drede and a jentlewoman that was with chylde mis-carried. And soo by grete adventure he rencountred with syr Kaye in a tavern and we knowe not the certeinte of theyr commūnications but wyt ye wel syr tristram hath sent vs a wrytinge as welle under the honde of the said syr Kaye wherein he pleyndly denyeth his wrytinge to your selves and maketh depe othes that yf he wrote be same he was either dronken or subtilly enchaunted and wiste not what he wrote and calleth all unwrytten and putteth hym all hoolly in the grace of the said tristram outhere to lyve or to dye and moore as touching our beloved brother Merlyon wyt ye wel it stondest not in our power to let hym to doon his wil for hee is of ful maisterful mood and passing orgulous. Item he hath this daie departed hence to journey to the citee of London so fell and talentive as no wisard nor magitian was ever more and befoore hys hastie departyng was enraged ayeinst me oonlie for having youre lettres in my hondes that he sodenly by his crafts transformed me into the likeness and feature of an Asse and soo by great entreatie of many good knights and jentlemen and by cause that I was his olde scholemaister he did consent to restoure me to my kindlie fourme yet imparfaitlie for I know not by what negligēce he hath left me with the unnatural eares and hoofs of that beast whether the lyke peril hangeth over onie other i leve to your best consideraciō

In the nae of God.  
Maistre Bleyse