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Letter to Col. J.M. Wesson, September 8, 1894

John Marshall Stone

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September 8th, 1894.

Col. I. M. Wesson,

Wesson, Miss.

My dear Colonel:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, stating that a large number of deputies are to be appointed for the collection of the Income Tax, and asking me to assist you in securing the appointment for this district. Now, my dear Sir, you will note the esteem in which you have always been held by us, and I feel the best towards you to-day, and would gladly do anything for you I conscientiously could, for I know, as all who are acquainted with you know, that your integrity is, and has always been unquestioned, but this deputyship for the collection of this income tax will involve, not only a great deal of hard labor, but that sort of energetic inquiry that can be done only by a young and vigorous man. I apprehend that your physical infirmities will totally disqualify you for the service to be rendered, and with this conviction I could not conscientiously recommend you for the place.

I know you will not be offended at what I say, for I am sure there is no man of my acquaintance who appreciates frankness and candor more than yourself.

I am, my dear Colonel,

truly your friend,

J. W. Ford.