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Letter to Officers and Members of the Mississippi Division of the Travelers Protective Association of America, December 7, 1894

John Marshall Stone

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December 7th, 1894.

To the Officers and Members of the
 Mississippi Division of the
 Travelers Protective Association of America.

Gentlemen:

In justice to myself I am unwilling to let this opportunity pass to make my acknowledgments of the many obligations under which I have been placed by your worthy and noble association as a boy, and by thousands of its members' ^{individual} acts of kindness have been ~~sent~~ to me, almost daily reminders of the nobility of character and lofty, disinterested friendships of the great body of men who compose your association, during the last thirty years. From the close of the war to the present day it has been my proud privilege to number a vast majority, amounting to almost unanimity, of the traveling men with whom I have been acquainted, among my truest and best friends. True many of these of my earlier acquaintances have retired from the stage of action; some gone to their final accounts, others, like me "Superfluous legs the veteran on the stage". But as often as one oppressed with years retires, another, young, vigorous and great-hearted fills his place, and with ranks closed, the great army keeps in line with the progress of the day, making the world brighter and better wherever the influence of the general "drummer" is felt.

More than once I have been favored with courteous invitations to be present at your annual meetings, but for various reasons I have been unable to

† 2.

to deny myself the honor the invitations implied, and the pleasure which I know the acceptance would have ensured. This time I hesitated to be with you, but was unavoidably hindered by reasons which need not here be given, and which, if explained, I am sure would be sufficient and satisfactory to you.

In obtruding upon you this testimonial of my appreciation of the uniform courtesy and friendship received at the hands of your association and its members, I beg that it be accepted as a sincere and grateful tribute to the memory of more than thirty years of unexampled loyal personal and political support from that part of the association which has sojourned in my state during that time, trusting that no act of mine, personal or political, has brought regret to a single individual by whom I have been thus favored.

With nothing to ask in the future but the privilege of retaining the respect, confidence, esteem and friendship of your association and its members, which I prize above all other considerations,

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

your favored friend and obedient servant,

