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Letter to Governor Murphy J. Foster (LA), December 10, 1894

John Marshall Stone

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November 10th, 1894.

His Excellency,

Governor Murphy J. Foster.

Baton Rouge, La.

My dear Governor:-

I am too familiar with the subject and the delicate surroundings to obtrude my views or any recommendation for clemency upon you, or upon the board of pardons, in a case of which I know so little as I do about that of which I now write. But the fact that the father of the prisoner was my friend from my earliest childhood until his death, must be my excuse for speaking a word in behalf of M. L. Kincaid, who was recently convicted in New Orleans of assault with intent to kill and murder, and sentenced by the court to three years confinement in your State penitentiary. It is not of the merits of the case that I would speak, but of the man, and the possibility that he was suddenly drawn into the difficulty and committed the deed without malice, and that further clemency might be the means of restoring to society a promising young man, and saving from mortification and sorrow, a large number of relatives, including several sisters, who are among the best people of North Mississippi and West Tennessee. Col. A. J. Kincaid was, for many years, a citizen of Tennessee, where I knew him well, and where he was connected with the best people in the State, and where he was held in highest esteem. He came to Mississippi after the war, and died at Corinth several years ago.

Gov. Foster, # 2.

This young man was raised in Coridh, but being a boy during my residence there, I am not prepared to speak of him and his antecedents definitely, of my own knowledge, but have heard him spoken of as a sprightly, sober, steady and promising young man. I have known little of him for the last five or six years, and had lost sight of him until he made me acquainted with his troubles in the present instance. I never heard of his being in trouble before, and did not think he was in the habit of drinking or other vicious habits.

I submit the matter to your better judgment, Governor, and if you shall find any reason for favoring him, and extending clemency, I think it will be worthily bestowed, and I shall be much gratified.

If you shall discover any apparent impropriety in this communication, I hope you will find justification in the commendable purpose to serve the unfortunate son of a worthy sire who was my life-long friend.

I am, Governor, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,