

4-5-1895

## Letter to Mr. H.A. Juff, April 5, 1895

John Marshall Stone

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April 5th. 1895.

Mr. M. A. Ladd,

Owens, Miss.

My dear Sir:

I thank you for your kind letter of the 3rd. instant, but am not prepared at this time to give you such an answer as I would like to do, but I have received several letters along that line asking my views on the silver question, and in a few days, just as soon as I can find time to spare from my official duties, I shall prepare and publish my views in full, and when they will belong to the public.

As you ask my views for private satisfaction and use, I will say that I am what is known as an Administration Democrat, and stand on the Democratic platform adopted at Chicago in 1860, and have continuously stood upon every Democratic platform that has been adopted by the proper Democratic authority since 1860, and have never adopted an "independent" or scratched a ticket. On the question of finance, I am for bimetallism, but not for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 without international action, for I believe that would destroy the credit of the nation with the commercial world. I want gold and silver of equal and interchangeable value, the silver dollar worth as much as the gold dollar, and vice versa. I do not care how much is coined or how free it is coined provided its value is equal to the best dollar, no matter of what it may be made. Let the poor man's dollar be worth as much as the rich man's dollar. This is written hastily, and in the line in which you requested it.

(Confidential)

Yours very truly,

*Wm. D. Lewis*