

8-31-1895

Letter to no Recipient given, August 31, 1895

John Marshall Stone

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August 31, 1866.

The approaching convention of the Grand Army of the Republic to be held in the city of Louisville on the 9th. of September is significant and note-worthy. Were; It should be, and I doubt not is, gratifying to all generous minded citizens of the whole country. Whilst with us of the South the resentments and animosities engendered by the incidents of a period now a generation past ~~have~~ have long since been buried, as evidenced by thousands of overt acts of fealty to a common country, its flag and institutions, it is to be regretted that among our former antagonists- of whom the Grand Army of the Republic is the organized representative- there have been ~~but~~ given few vouchers of a "smoothed front" toward us.

Without moralising I beg to say there are but few offenses that time does not condone; that oblivion does not swallow up, and incidents become a memory instead of a vital principle actuating man in his relations with his fellows. Thus it should be, and I verily believe it is now culminating to the infinite credit of the hearts of a unified people of this great country, as shown and emphasized by the holding of Grand Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic for the first time on southern soil.

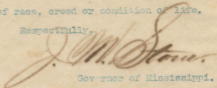
The southern people are prompt to join an issue, quick to settle a score and graceful in accepting results; and to them the "vendetta" is unknown.

To my mind the Grand Army of the Republic is an instrument of

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infinite good in the promotion of fraternal relationships. It can be one of equal and endless mischief by rekindling the fires of sectionalism. As the Chief Executive of the great Southern State of Mississippi, and in the name of my people, I welcome our friends of the Grand Army of the Republic to our South Land. They and theirs are equally welcome as individuals to homes upon our favored soil to share with us the overflowing fruits of intelligent effort and labor, and the happiness and contentment guaranteed by a most wholesome and generous code of laws, erected for the good of all, regardless of race, creed or condition of life.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Stone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the Governor.

Governor of Mississippi.