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Letter to Mrs., Nelson, September 19, 1895

John Marshall Stone

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September 19, 1895.

Dear Mrs. Nelson:-

I have thought proper to write you in regard to your matters at Luke, and I hope you will not consider me intrusive or presumptuous, for my only purpose is to try to protect your interests there. I have learned that Walter Ellis has charge of your business there, and I know it is not best for you that he should have anything to do with it. He hardly regards himself as your attorney, but rather as your agent, and in this I believe he has a purpose not suspected by you, and which in the end will work to your injury. I do not feel that I should specify, but I hope you have sufficient confidence in my judgment and in the justice of my intentions not to question either. I am situated, as you know, so that I can do no more than advise you, for you must know that I cannot undertake to manage your business for you; hence I can have no other motive than to give you what I believe to be wholesome advice.

John Gosman tells me that one Col. Sperry, of Nashville, owes you or John a considerable amount of money which he contemplates paying at an early day, and my advice to you is that it do not go into the hands of Mr. Ellis, and I further advise that whatever other business he has of yours, be withdrawn from him and placed in the hands of some other person, and an immediate settlement be demanded with him.

Now, Mrs. Nelson, I have no one to suggest for this business, but I believe Mr. Candler would attend to it, fairly, honestly, to your best interest, and that he can be relied upon to take care of what is entrusted to him. He is responsible, and will always pay you your money when he

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has it had you wantit. Of course, Mr. Candler being a lawyer and making his living by his profession will charge you for his services; so will Mr. Ellis, but I know Mr. Candler will be reasonable in his charges, and will treat you right. I do not know whether he would be willing to take charge of your business or not, but am quite sure he would not while Mr. Ellis has anything to do with it, or any part of it. I have said not a word about this matter to any one, and as it is a voluntary act on my part, it need not be known to any one not interested.

If Mr. Candler should not desire to take charge of the details of your matters there, such as looking after your property, collecting rents &c., which may be looked after closely or it will all be lost, I believe Capt. John F. Bean would render you good service, and would treat you fairly and right. He is making his living, partly by this sort of work, and would, of course, charge you for his services, yet I believe he would be moderate, and would work to your interest, and that you would lose no-
 thing by him. I do not know, either, whether Capt. Bean would be willing to take your business or not, but think either of them would if you would request it.

I hope you will pardon this long letter, but I could not well state what I wished to say in a shorter space.

I heard from John a few days ago and he was about as usual, and getting along as well as you could hope for under the circumstances. I may say the same of Miss Tonie, but she is at times more or less excited with a poor, little prospect of permanent relief.

Sincerely your friend,

J. M. Stone.