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Letter to Governor C.A. Culberson, January 20, 1896

John Marshall Stone

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January 20th, 1896.

Governor C. A. Culberson,

Austin, Texas.

My dear Governor:-

Your letter informing me of your action in the case of E. S. Harkreider has been received, and I heartily thank you for the same. I feel assured that you will never have cause to regret what you have done in this poor fellow's behalf. While he undoubtedly knew the girl was under the age required, and to which he swore she had attained the circumstances under which he took the oath appealed strongly to my sympathy. He had been encouraged in his suit, and it appears from what I could learn that it was not the objection of the parents to the daughter's marrying at the age she then was, but that they desired the alliance made with another, to which the girl protested and urged Harkreider to do so and get her and relieve the strain that was upon her by reason of the urgent demand of her parents that she discard Harkreider and marry the other. His old grandfather and grand mother who raised Harkreider were excellent people; the former an excellent Confederate soldier, who is now dead, and the other a splendid woman who is still living, and in this young man there is no intentional harm. It is all over now, and I hope nothing but good will result from your kind consideration of my urgent request.

Again thanking you, I am your obedient servant,

J. M. Stone