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Mayville, N. Y. September 14th, 1908.

Monday a.m.

C. D. Pennebaker Esq.,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have been absent from Mayville most of the summer and your communication of Aug. 21st is just read.

I have not the money for your very unjust claim of \$12.77, ~~due~~ for collecting the amount of \$51.11, --due my husband by the government for 46 years--because of the continued illness of my only child and consequent expenditure for the alleviation of her sufferings. Were your claim in any way proportionate to what you had done, I would feel under obligation to try to meet it. I received from the Treasury department some months since Form 571, which specifies the fees which may be charged by attorneys for collecting funds due old soldiers. By this I see you can claim but 10% of the amount collected. I was wholly unaware of making a contract with you to pay 25% for prosecuting this claim--a thing which no woman in her senses would think of doing.

In contrast to your action in this matter, I would cite that of a colored attorney of New Orleans who has just collected for me a fee due my late husband as U. S. Consul at Bordeaux, France, since 1904--of a like amount--viz, \$50.--for which service he makes no charge, giving as reason--that I am the widow of an old soldier, as well as that of a lawyer and judge, and duty in the first instance--and courtesy in the others would prevent him from asking any recompense for what he had done for me. You evidently do not make your living that way.

Should you see fit to take the fee allowed, I would make a great effort to raise it.

I am, Sir,

Very truly yours,

E. K. J.