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PHILLIPS & McKENNEY
Attorneys at Law
SUN BUILDING
WASHINGTON D.C.
S.F. PHILLIPS. F.D. McKENNEY.

4 July 1896.

Hon. Hamilton Cabot Lodge,
Magnolia Mass.

My dear Judge,

I have yours of 1st inst. as, I believe, I have had another which I did not answer: mea culpa, &c &c.

I will attentively read the working brief as well as the short hereafter — & consider your other, mss., suggestions. We are just at the opening of the July recess, of 4 weeks. I have had matters immediately pressing that have taken up my time for some weeks past. I read the papers sent by you therefore, but had nothing so far matured as to be submitted to your judgment. I shall block out a brief — & not print, until I find that the Court will hear us at this session. There is a great deal in the case to think about, and I had taken short cities all the rest that I can get. I do not know how you ready writers do — each & all — but for this unready writer, it is true that he goes on cutting to pieces that he has written, up to the last moment — mss., typewriting & typewriting, & mss., & mss. — & typewriting and proofs; and then finally plumbers in shots has been reduced to final form. I say this in order to add — that I had rather have my proofs here, for correction again. You do not say why you suggest that the printing be done in your vicinity. However let me think of it

I sign myself,

Yours Mightily

J. G. Phelps

Robert Douglas was in this office last week for an hour talking of Greensboro and its folk — and how the tide runs in those quarters. The Colonel has lived in a somewhat more settled community; but he talks well, is a gentleman, and a good citizen.

Judge Berringer, as well, sat with me for an hour or so last week. You know that he lives here. He is a very agreeable man. His present health is hardly good — but upon some days he has a very good appearance — as when I saw him last. Mrs B. is hardly as well as he. Yet whoever goes there — they are giving a very pleasant hospitality. Their house (17—, D. St.) is well crammed with articles of virtue, & Berringer brought back a library of good & well bound books.

I noticed some days ago an anniversary reference to the death of Captain Fisher, — and felt a shadow pass over me. He will always remain an object of pathetic memory: his sincere mind, his kindly, open, chivalrous face.

I read last night that some one of your scholars said that from something which appeared in Babylonian records [illegible] it was demonstrated that they had observed [illegible] and had [illegible] in the Persian gulf: "the star Sirius upon Thursday the 29th of April, 1143?, B.C." I pass it on to you. The author made no remark — but [illegible] this matter casual-like — as if he could produce bigger dates in human history than that, if put to it! I would not have you [illegible] lately. I merely pass it on [illegible] with the remark that I

Yours [illegible] J. G. Phelps

[illegible] P.S. [illegible]