

Peter Stewart to Col. Leekahow

A.A. No. 272

20557 8

85 Hatton Garden,

April 18. /13.

Private.

My Dear Sir,

I feel myself exceedingly obliged by your very friendly letter of this day.

I acknowledge it both inadvertent and indecorous ^{have} to submitted any proposition for a loan — even through your kind medium — to such a very high character as the P.B.; but, at the moment, it occurred as the most delicate way of urging a temporary relief, fully persuaded that I ought to offer you the return of it at the time mentioned, even should its appropriation be ordered for a charitable purpose.

Pardon me for mentioning a fact which can be proved by respectable witnesses, and which, although I do not attempt to state as a claim, has, by a species of over-zeal, been the origin of my present difficulties.

For several years I knew of an important series of "the Book," and some months ago gave securities for the purchase, in order, as has always been my endeavour, to suppress every thing of the kind whose publicity could be supposed to have the smallest tendency

tendency to wound the feelings of the P. R. or any of his Illustrious Family. And when I thought I was about to obtain the well-earned approbation of my conduct, out came suddenly and unexpectedly the contents of Pandora's Box, and all my efforts of suppression were dissipated in idle dreams.

For this exertion of loyalty I have already sustained, as could be easily proved, a greater loss than that sum stated. But although I most solemnly aver, that I now communicate the real truth, ~~but~~ I beg it to be clearly understood, that the relief now solicited, may not be considered as on that account, but for past services, and in an exceedingly serious extremity of danger.

Have the goodness to put it on any footing which your better judgment may direct; and be assured, that although my humble efforts can never cease in support of the P. R. yet that it is the very last time which any application from me of a pecuniary nature shall ever be made for any services which I may have rendered. Barring this obstacle, my prospects are immediately flattering, being about to be rewarded with a publication by which I will be enabled to serve myself and Friends. Nothing but the most serious extremity, which I have for the two last months combated

Peter Stuart to Col. Mackay

A.A. No. 272

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in vain, could have induced me to apply the most dutiful respects
and ^{most humble} devotion to the P.R. Excuse me for earnestly requesting
a favourable answer on the receipt of this, which I hope in God may
be before Wednesday next; and I beg and pray that you will for this
once save from a dreadful abyss.

Dear Sir,

yours ever faithfully

P. Stuart.

Right Honourable
John Mackay
Esq.

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2022

Q. Stuart
April 10th 1913.