

A true copy

John Hay

Room 1, Cushing's Block,

Cleveland, O. _____ 188

Hon. W.B. Fidd

Springfield Nov. 16. 1888

Dear Sir

Yours of the 15th is just received. I wrote you the same day. As to the pecuniary matter I am willing to pay according to my ability; but I am the poorest hand living to get others to pay. I have been on expenses so long without earning anything that I am absolutely without money now for even household purposes. Still, if you can put in two hundred and fifty dollars for me towards discharging the debt of the Committee, I will allow it when you and I settle the private matter between us. This, with what I have already paid, and with an outstanding note of mine, will exceed my subscription of five hundred dollars. This, too, is exclusive of my ordinary expenses during the campaign, all which being added to my loss of time and business, bears pretty heavily ^{upon} one no better off in world's goods than I; but as I had the post of honor, it is not for me to be over-nice.

You are feeling badly - "And this too shall pass away." Fear fear.

Yours as ever

Wm. C. Coker