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1857 November 22: Diogenes Wetmore, Jefferson City, Missouri, to Governor Elias N. Conway, Request for assistance in securing release from Missouri prison

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Missouri
Jeff. City
Mar 22d. 1857

My dear Sir

Excuse the liberty, as an old
Schoolmate I have taken to write you and ask
your kind offices in behalf of myself and Bri-
tis Thackeray, - I am a poor unfortunate man
and am writing you surrounded by prison walls.
I have written a long letter to day to my devoted
wife and I stated in that letter that his brother-
law, John W. Genney - Governor of Arkansas;
I should write and request him to ask the
Arkansas delegation to co-operate with the
Missouri (our only) and respectfully and humbly
pray the President ^{of the} United States to release
us from bondage and once more restore us to
liberty and our broken hearts ^{to} chilans. -

The Gen. Assembly of Missouri of course per-
manently manfully to the rescue - and solicit the
President to release us - A letter from you to
him will have great weight. We were sent
here upon the perjured testimony of three witnesses
in behalf United States; - Presidential military

22 Nov 1857
Dignus Moore
Box 20
Gen E. D. Conway
asking his in-
-fluence to secure
the release of himself
& brother from the
Prisoners of War.



Miss
Cassell,
E. Gen. W. Conway
Governor of Arkansas
Little Rock
Arkansas.



the semblance of Law, and a perversion of Public
Justice - The charge is for transmitting a fraudulent
application for Foreign Letters, - and I am grieved to say
the Judge of the United States Circuit Court -
aided and assisted in our concealing, by making spee-
ches to the Jury, ruling out our testimony and not
permitting any of our instructions, to go to the Jury.
I could not get a continuance, when I had need due
diligence for a witness, would not allow to be tried
by a jury of our citizens, who were competent to try the case
I asked for an adjournment which the Judge refused re-
turnable forthwith; I asked for a new trial - which
was peremptorily refused; a want of judgment even
ruling, asked for stay of execution ^{which was} refused. No chance
of Review, and there is no Law granting an appeal to
Supreme Court United States; and Mr. Paine the former
President and leading Attorney, who admitted the
illegality of the whole proceedings after examining
the Law at the Library in the Hospital at Washington

Is this not a flagrant outrage of the legal ad-
ministration of Law, and the Judge deserves impeach-
ment by the United States House Representatives.
I wish dear Madam, you would communicate with
Mr. John B. Clark our Representative in Congress for
from the Howard County District.
He will also print our 'Howard Letters',

petition. You know my Father Maj. Alphas Betman
who lost ^{an} arm in the War 1812, You also know Maj
Jacob Brown my uncle who was killed at the
bombardment Fort Brown at the commencement
Mexican War, a gallant and meritorious officer
also my brother Leander Brown Captain 6th
Regiment United States Infantry, - who was,
in three wars, Black Hawk, Florida and Mexican,
and who died in 1850, coming from Fort Snelling.

My brother and self were sent here - he for eight and
I for ten years, and we have been imprisoned for 18
Months, our families rendered almost destitute and
broken hearted without any Law to cover the execution
without any evidence to convict - except the perjury
of three witnesses for the Government.

Your kind interposition in our behalf with
the Authorities at Washington will be gratefully
acknowledged by ourselves and our poor broken-
hearted wives and children. - Write me if
you please in receipt of this. Live to see
leaves of Red, F. de Hughes Jeff. City, Mo.

With Great Respect,
Mr. Friend
Oligario Matamor,
for himself and Brother
Madaleno,
Arkansas