

80-85  
Nov. 28. 08  
Maury  
Sir

Washington Nov. 28. 08.

I have received your letter <sup>on</sup> the 27<sup>th</sup> requesting me to send you an aid of one hundred Dollars. after the duty of setting apart a portion of one's income for objects of real charity, a duty still remains to distribute this in such way as to relieve the greatest number of suffering objects. an aid which would be a sensible relief to a man in your circumstances, as an hundred dollars, would give equally sensible relief to an hundred others whose wants are of the daily necessaries for the support of life, & not merely of comforts. however without going into this question at present, I need only observe that in winding up my affairs here, I shall leave considerable debts unpaid for want of money to pay them. under such circumstances, an hundred Dollars sent to you, would be of the money of my creditors, not my own, and would be doing charity at the expense of justice & the rights of others. I am too well persuaded of the correctness of your principles to believe you would not be the first to desire that nothing might be given to you which was unjustly taken from another. I pray you to accept my best wishes.

W. Jefferson

Mr. Benjamin Maury.

Maury Benj. Nov. 28. 88.

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Washington Nov. 28. 88.

I have received your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> requesting me to send you  
 on a bill of one hundred dollars. After the duty of setting apart a  
 portion of one's income for objects of real charity, which will re-  
 main to distribute this in such way as to relieve the greatest  
 number of suffering objects. An equal which would be reasonable  
 to a man in poor circumstances, as an hundred dollars would  
 give equally valuable relief to an hundred other persons one of  
 the best references for the support of life, but a small amount of  
 favour without going into this question at present, I feel only ob-  
 ligo that in winding up my affairs here, I shall have some  
 considerable debts unpaid for want of money to pay them. Under such  
 circumstances an hundred dollars sent to you, would be of the  
 most of my creditors, not my own, and would be being charity  
 at the expense of justice to the rights of others. I am too well pro-  
 vided of the necessities of your principles to believe you would  
 not be the first to desire that nothing might be given to you  
 which was unjustly taken from another. I trust you to accept  
 my best wishes

*Maury Benj.*

Wm. Benjamin Maury