

September 14th, 1911

Mr. Herbert Croly,  
Windsor, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Croly:

You remember when we were talking the other day the question of the McKinley-Walker timplat failure was raised. I think I said to you that I had never taken up the matter with my friends, but that I had such strong confidence in Mr. Walker's honor, that I did not believe for a moment that he had in any way deceived Mr. McKinley. On thinking the matter over, I concluded to write Miss Walker, asking her to give me the facts in the case with any documents that they might have. I have received short letters from her and from Mr. Walker with the promise that when I go on they will give me the full story. They do not wish, however, that it should be published in Mrs. Walker's life time.

Miss Walker, who was the treasurer of the concern, says "The Major knew every dollar that went into the business. One half the money was his own paper." She says "I have a hundred blank notes in my possession that he sent me signed to use to help get money anywhere I could for father or himself." She says that when the failure came Mr. McKinley owed her \$2000 and that this has never been paid.

Mr. Walker in his letter says that he has it from a friend who was present at a conference of creditors with Mr. McKinley and Mr. Hanna that Hanna suggested to Mr. McKinley that he make the plea that Walker had deceived him. McKinley refused, saying that Walker was honest and had carried him through many a political storm. Mr. Walker says that Abner McKinley came to him at the time and begged him to say nothing. He also promised him that out of the money donated to help Mr. McKinley the Walker home at Poland, Ohio should be bought and deeded to Mrs. Walker. This was not done and only recently inquiries were made of Mr. Walker by certain men in New York who had made contributions to the McKinley relief fund whether or not Mr. Walker had received the amount which was promised him if he would keep silence.

On August 13th, 1899 an article appeared in the Youngstown Vindicator written by John N. Clark, now attorney in Cleveland, which I think reflects the feeling of the best business and professional men in the Mahoning Valley at that time. This article I am having copied and will send you.

My interest in this matter is, as you see, strongly personal. I have known these people to be good, gentle and honorable. Mr. Walker has kept silence through all these years partly from a sense of personal dignity and partly from a sense of fidelity to a man of whose friendship he had been so proud and whose ambitions he had served so long and so faithfully. I only hope that some day I can get the full documents to prove the case as I believe it to be, and that when that time comes the Lord will give me strength to do up the Major.

Pardon me for this long letter.

Very sincerely yours,

H

M.T.

Do you remember  
John H. Clark,  
one of the  
partners - a  
man who kept  
the books  
and was the  
major's  
secretary.

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