

MRS. M. L. CONROY WRITES PROTEST

SAYS SHE DID NOT DESIRE EX-CONGRESSMAN MOODY'S CONVICTION, BUT WAS NOT FORGIVEN HIM FOR "TAKING LIBERTIES WITH HER MAIL."

Portland, Or., Nov. 22.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Being tried and worn with the subject, I have not until today read what the papers have to say about Mr. Moody's trial. I have not desired Mr. Moody's conviction and cannot say I was surprised at the verdict, except that I certainly did not expect the judge to order the jury to return a verdict, and believe he was afraid to allow it to go to the jury. How 12 men could permit such liberties with the free exercise of their right of judgment is more than I can understand. The character of the comments of the papers is such that if there is no other to protest I feel it my duty to myself and to those who were brave and gentle enough to help me to make an effort to do so myself.

There has been no effort to "railroad" Mr. Moody into the penitentiary and it seems to me his friends should be satisfied with having railroaded him out of it, and, after the job is done, cease their press of falsehood and dishonor. I admit that if Mr. Moody had been in the penitentiary, and welcome the threat in the editorial of The Journal of trial of the accusers before the bar of public opinion or any other bar, even Judge Bellinger's. Even if every word of Mr. Moody's testimony were true, I am surprised that there should be so many defenders among public men of a man who admits that he shaved the claim of a poor widow who regarded him as a friend recommended by her dying husband, 20 percent, when he knew the money on the claim was ready to be paid. Is it the boasted chivalry of men to attack the honor of a woman subjected to such treatment to save the reputation of such a man?

Merits of the Case. I do not believe that the merits of the case rested upon any testimony upon which Mr. Moody and myself differed—that his testimony and the letter and receipt with the erased signature was sufficient to decide the case, but if the case did rest upon any such testimony in dispute between me and Mr. Moody, I believe Mr. Moody's admitted conduct in the case was such as to weaken his testimony on such points, and I do not consent to allow my testimony to be impugned by Mr. Moody's without protest even if Judge Bellinger did accept implicitly anything he said. I have never forgiven Mr. Moody for the liberties he took with my mail and at no time, I intended to let him go unpunished. I am unacquainted with the processes of law, did not wish to fee a lawyer, and thought it the duty of the government to take the matter up. My first effort to prosecute was a visit to the postoffice inspector at the federal building in Portland. At the same time I saw the United States district attorney, and the prosecution in my opinion grew out of these visits. The affidavits I signed before Mr. Manatee had nothing to do with the prosecution, and had I been sure that the prosecution was being pursued I should not have made the affidavits. I deny the statements attributed to me by the witness Joe Heroux, what to me by the witness Joe Heroux. What to do me that injustice I do not know.

I claim the integrity of my testimony on the subject in full, before the grand jury, before the trial jury, in the affidavits made before Mr. Manatee, and in statements to reporters, and am fully able to establish it. I claim that there was no real discrepancy, if Judge Bellinger did claim that there was, and would like to see any proof to the contrary.

Talk Over the Telephone. As I remember Mr. Moody's testimony, the only points differing materially from mine were that he claimed to have told me over the phone that my final papers had come; that he took the receipt from the letter in the presence just before handing it to me, and that this happened at our second meeting, which occurred before my seeing Mr. Wilson. Instead of the third, which occurred after. Before the grand jury he testified that it occurred at the third meeting. It seems Mr. Moody was considered by the judge to have the right to revise his testimony on so material a point as this without prejudice to his case, while a constructive and only apparent discrepancy in my testimony was considered sufficient to invalidate it. In like manner the testimony of Joe Heroux was readily admitted to attribute statements to me contradicting my testimony, while that of others present, denying I made such statements, was not permitted without argument. I cannot help believing that the evidence in this case was avoided as much as possible, and that that which could not be avoided was ignored; that it was Mr. Moody's friends, position, and influence that cleared him instead of the evidence; that a poor man in his place would have gone over the road, even with the best legal talent to defend him.

The Unsigned Receipt. It may be because of my woman's limitations, but I think it is because I have common sense, that I cannot see the justice of many of Judge Bellinger's rulings. I think they were intended to exclude testimony that would be repetition of the facts from every point of view and all agreeing evidence not depending upon the testimony of any witness, but which could not be denied, leave no possible doubt what the facts were. The ruling that the receipt taken from my letter was not an article of

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value, being only an unsigned form, on which the count of plain embezzlement was thrown out, appears to me absurd. It contained the amount of my claim, written in by the controller of the currency, and was a voucher to me of the amount due me, and when properly signed was the voucher of payment required by the government. The claim could not be collected without this paper, and had it not been for the kind and honorable interposition of Mr. Wilson I would have lost it, and in consequence of its loss lost \$92. By throwing out this count the judge excluded this receipt and the letter from the testimony, and with it the evidence of an erasure and a previous signature—made, I suppose Mr. Moody would have us believe, while that receipt was reposing innocently in my unbroken letter upon his manly and chivalrous breast.

If that is law, it is law worthy only of "Dogberry's court," but it answered in this case to confine the trial to the count of tampering with another's mail and admitted all that cloud of testimony about motives, banking and practices by which the defendant's facts in the case were finally enshrouded and hastily consigned for burial.

No Personal Animus. I again wish to deny any personal animus against Mr. Moody. I am satisfied that he is not punished by the law, but I claim the right to defend my property, my mail and my money against the aggressions of any man, and no judge nor clique can shut my mouth by the hypocrisy of their will or their authority, and, furthermore, when a conflict arises from the efforts of a poor widow to defend her own, and any arise who would shield the shoulders of dishonor by transferring the guilt to the poor, innocent or the weak, I feel it my duty to make such humble efforts as I can to fight the matter. Is it to be published that the law in Oregon is that a man may not tamper with another's mail or swindle the defenseless unless he is a man of power and influence? But, if he is, there are many such little liberties he may take.

Says No Apology Is Due. In conclusion, I wish to express my most defiant feeling that no apology is due from me or District Attorney Hall or Mr. Wilson, or any one else siding in the prosecution of Mr. Moody, and I am afraid of no trial before the bar of public opinion for conspiracy or falsehood or "lese majeste," or any other offense. To my mind—and, I think, to that of any just person who has become acquainted with this case—the whole matter is summed up in these facts: That Mr. Moody took my letter from The Dalles postoffice, bought my matured claim at a discount of 20 per cent and completed the transaction without informing me of or delivering the letter and while I was ignorant of the amount due.

It was my implicit confidence in Mr. Moody that made this possible. I thought that he had been properly authorized to make these final payments on these points his testimony agrees with mine. He admitted that he did not produce the receipt until after he had given me the order on Max Vogt for payment of my claim, and then that he "may not have called my attention to the fact that he was opening my letter," and the other fact—which he does not altogether admit—that he did not make restitution until I had discovered from other sources than the official notification the amount of the claim, confronted him with it, and Mr. Wilson told him he must correct the matter. The trial established these facts. They were almost undisputed. The rest of the testimony was hardly relevant. Yet the court decided that this kind of business was all right for Mr. Moody. Is it established as a precedent which every one may follow? Is it really according to law?

MRS. MARGARET L. CONROY. BRAIN FOOD It Is of Little Benefit Unless It Is Digestible. Nearly everyone will admit that as a nation we eat too much meat and too little of vegetables and the grains. For business men, office men and clerks, and in fact everyone engaged in sedentary or indoor occupations, grains, milk and vegetables are much more healthful.

Only men engaged in a severe out-door manual labor can live on a heavy meat diet and continue in health. As a general rule, meat once a day is sufficient for all classes of men, women and children, and a diet of fruit and vegetables should constitute the bulk of food eaten.

But many of the most nutritious foods are difficult of digestion and it is of no use to advise brain workers to eat largely of grains as vegetables when the digestion is too weak to assimilate them properly. It is always best to get the best results from our food that some simple and harmless digestive should be taken after meals to assist the relaxed digestive organs, and several years' experience have proven Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets to be a very safe, pleasant and effective digestive and a remedy which may be taken at any time.

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