

Newport News, Va., July 9, 1912.

Hon. William Hodges Mann,
Governor,
Richmond, Va.,

Dear Sir:

There is one phase of the Christian case that fills me with the deepest concern and accuses me to my inmost soul of a mistake of judgment which probably will result in death for a convict.

It was my voice that prevailed and kept Virginia Christian from testifying in her own behalf, thus leaving out of the record evidence that might have proven conclusively lack of premeditation.

I therefore beg your Excellency to read with great care the convict's confession, and if it appeals to your judgment that clemency should be shown, let whatever censure your Excellency thinks proper fall on me, but let the convict live.

Personally, I do not press Virginia's claim on account of her sex, for your Excellency ought not and will not undertake to make a new law for this case, but I present her claim for the reasons set forth in our petition and for the further reason contained in this letter.

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We shall file the names of a few petitioners Friday.

I wish to add that my intense interest in Virginia Christian is not that of a well paid attorney for we have not been paid for our services in this case. We had to pay for making up the record for the Supreme Court of Appeals out of our own pockets and we are not being paid for services we are simply doing this as a work of humanity which [we] regard as our Christian duty.

We do not believe she should be executed.

Yours very respectfully,
J. Thomas Newsome.