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Letter, 1914, February 3, Harriet Taylor Upton and Martha McClellan Brown

Harriet Taylor Upton

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February 3, 1914.

Mrs. McClellan Brown,
818 Hutchins Ave.,
Cincinnati, O.

Dear Mrs. Brown:

It is the funniest thing how odd sums of money get twisted up. These are the facts in regard to the Harriet Taylor Upton pledge. Usually, when I go on trips the club inviting me pays my expenses. I never have had one cent of salary and until two or three years ago, not even my expenses. When, therefore, I had been in Cincinnati for your club, you asked me what the expenses were, saying at the same time you had very little money. I told you that you could pay $13.00, I think it was. Anyway, it was something like one-half of $25.00, which it cost me to go to Cincinnati and stay two days. Or, I said that you could pledge $25.00 at the State Convention. I said if you pledged $25.00 the State would pay my expenses and of course, in one sense, the State would pay my expenses. Your Association really would be paying, but I believe it would be better to have you do that, because it encouraged people at a Convention to have a Club pledge $25.00.

Therefore, under the circumstances, the Harriet Taylor
Upton Club owes $25.00. Of course, if it is hard to pay it or if there is to be the least bit of feeling about it, I don't want you to press it. I believe good feeling is better by far than money.

Now then, when I was in Cincinnati, Mr. Kiefer wanted to talk to me about the arrangements. He said that he thought the Cincinnati people ought to finance the Convention. I told him they that it would be awfully good if they could, but I had always heard that it was hard to get money for suffrage in Cincinnati and I was afraid they couldn't. He then said he would do everything he could and get as much money as he could. I offered to stand back of any expense which the Cincinnati people would incur. Of course, he used his office force for the work and several members of the Finance Committee did help a great deal. I can't remember now who did what.

They called me in at the last meeting the day before the Convention and they reported the number of tickets sold at the banquet and one lady told the money she had got for advertising, and all told, it looked as if they ought to have money to come out even.

Then the question was, what would be done with the balance. I said the State could use the balance, if it had it, but that I didn't think they better turn it over right away, because there might be some bills coming in, which they would want to pay; that I thought the Cincinnati people better do with what was left as they
saw fit. Miss Tracy said there was money due either to her or to the headquarters or something and that is all I remember about that meeting.

Now, the Men’s League for Woman Suffrage had engaged Max Eastman to speak for them about the 19th. I therefore suggested that we take him as one of our speakers. The Cincinnati people were to pay him and Mrs. Ohnstein was making the arrangements. Sen. and Mrs. La Follette were to come for the other evening and I had expected the State would pay that. You know how we fell down and so the State didn’t have to pay for them.

Some time after the Convention was over, I got word from Mrs. Breckinridge that there was a little bill of expense in connection with Eastman which somebody ought to pay and if I remember rightly, I wrote to Mr. Kiefer or Miss Tracy or Mrs. Ohnstein, telling them about this and asking them, since they had a balance, whether they should pay for it, or whether I should pay for it, and I remember seeing a letter from some one, saying that it would be paid from the suffrage fund which Cincinnati had collected.

A day or two ago, I had a letter from Mrs. Sherwood, in which she said that you had called her up in regard to paying the Ohio pledge. She said that at the Finance Committee was raising its money for the Convention, that the Harriet Taylor Upton Club promised the Cincinnati Finance Committee $25.00. She also said
at the time this bill came in for this expense of Max Eastman, that Mr. Kiefer called her up and reminded her of the $25 which the Harriet Taylor Upton Club had promised to pay. That pledge of $25 to the local people had nothing to do with the State whatever, but you can see how easy it is to mix things up. I am just explaining at this length so you will understand how things are. As I say, use your judgment in regard to it all.

I am so glad that you think Mrs. Vorce did well.

Sorry you are not working inside of the Woman Suffrage Party. You see, my dear, you are a strong person and you can do so much more inside than you can outside.

Let me know now that you understand about this financial business.

Cordially yours,

HTU/MCS.