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Mrs. F. R. S. Phillips,
Asst. Secy. Old Spanish Trail Asso.,
Tallahassee, Fla.,

Dear Mrs. Phillips:

I am just in receipt of your enclosed favor of the 7th. inst. with enclosures and take pleasure in at once confirming what you have done and thanking you for your prompt attention. Permit me to again express my congratulations to the Old Spanish Trail Association on its Assistant Secretary for the East.

I have been such away from Mobile for sometime now and my correspondence had of course accumulated in my absence. My office was entirely disrepped/by war conditions and I lost both of my young men and for three months was completely swamped attempting to attend to my private affairs and to do my best in response to constant calls for public work in connection with the various phases of war activities. I hope that these various matters may serve as grounds for my pardon for failing to reply to any previous letters.

Attendance on the Chicago Convention by me, I regret to say is entirely impossible and I fear that such would be the case for Mr. LeBlanc, though I have not had an opportunity to discuss the matter with him since receipt of your letter. The matter may be different with Mr. Clemens, though as to this I do not know.