

No. 410 West 23^d Street,
New York, March 22, 1876.
Hon. Edward Jordan.

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday, proposing a matter of business between the estate of Ernst Fiedler and the Government of Brazil.

Considering the fact that the Fiedler claim against Brazil has already been once presented and rejected, and considering further that my acceptance of your proposition would render it necessary for me to incur, entirely at my own risk, a large amount of expenses, — not to speak too specifically of time and labor and long voyages and perils by sea and land, — it seems to me that the offer of only one-third of the amount which I may (or may not) be able to recover, is hardly sufficient to justify me in undertaking the collection of the money alleged to be due.

Wm. W. Phelps
March 22, 1876.

Nevertheless, if, on condition that I succeed in effecting a satisfactory adjustment of the case, the parties chiefly in interest will agree to allow me an additional or extra sum of seven hundred dollars, I, on my own part, will agree to go to Brazil, in the course of four months from the date of the execution of the necessary papers, and will there use my best efforts to obtain a just and final settlement of the claim.

If, — as is quite possible, though, as I hope, not probable, — my mission should prove a failure, I would, in that case, have no right to make any demand whatever against yourself, nor against any one else, for compensation, nor for any part of my expenses, but would myself be the sole loser of all the time and labor and money which I had expended in prosecuting the claim.

On the other hand, I should, as a matter of course, expect not to be held responsible for any expenses, or other obligations, past, present or future, other than those incurred exclusively through my own option and my own actions.

Yours, very respectfully,

Winton Rowan Wells

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