

ALBERT PROCTOR AND ZUMA SIMPSON

read it, for I am going to ask, what I consider one of the most serious questions ever put to a lady, and you are the first one I ever asked such a question. Miss Zuma I love you and will you be my wife. I have been thinking about you most all day, whether or not I must write this letter to you.

This is something I have been studying for several weeks, but could not muster up courage to ask you untill [sic] now. I am aware of the fact that you know very little about me. I am poor as you know, and have to labor for my living, so I cannot promise you many luxuries, but think I can make a support for you if I keep my health and strength. My family name is good. The people in Jackson are not very refined and society is not as good as I have seen, but they are honest and clever. Now you may want to know why I write about the people well it is because my interest is in Jackson and I may make that my home for life and I wanted to tell you something about the people.

I am not very sentimental and do not know how to write what is called a love letter. I can only say I love you and want to know if you will love me in return and if so I want yours for a partner during life I leave this for you to decide.

There are many trials and troubles to overcome in this world of ours and I feel that I need [sic] some one to comfort me and help me overcome them, and have selected you for that one of all others, I want you to consider the question well and see if you think we can climb the hill of life together. I am tolerably high tempered, but not overly hard to get along with, but do not claim to perfect by any means whatever. I have no assurance whatever that you care anything for me more than a friend but hope you do, I have loved you almost from the time I first became acquainted with you.

I have never fully given my consent to marry untill [sic] this year because I consider this a serious business. I fear I could treat a wife as she ought to be treated but have concluded as others, marry and do well why not I also. Miss Zuma you can take time to decide this question, but I will ask of you to write to me immediately and give me some hope if you can.

If we can do nothing more I want us to still be friends. I saw Miss Hellen Wall & Miss Julia Ross¹ today, they are well. I go to Russelville tomorrow. If you get this by next (read at top 1st Page) Friday write to Gus. If not direct to Leighton. Write immediately cannot say when I will be back. Yours in hope Albert G.P. My ink is bad please excuse blotches. [sic]

A postscript was written as follows: "Monday morning. Be sure and write to me immediately whether you answer my question fully or not, for I want to hear from you in some way. Yours &c. Albert."

¹Helen Wall was the daughter of Dr. Alexander Alfred Wall and his wife Mary (McLeod) Wall. Julia Ross was a relative of Dr. Wall's first wife, Amanda M. (Ross) Wall.