



# National Defense Association.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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T. C. LELAND, Chairman, 201 East 71st Street, New York.



New York, March 18<sup>th</sup> 1879

Hon. S. S. Cox,

Sir: I hand you herewith a blank form of the petition, signed by 70,000 citizens, praying for the repeal or modification of the U. S. Postal Law of 1873, commonly called "The Comstock Law." The petition was prepared by Gen. B. F. Butler, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary, and reported adversely by them, and now lies on the table. There has never been any action in the House on that petition, and my object is to ask you to call the matter up for such action or re-commitment as the case may demand.

I understand that statements were made by Mr. Anthony Comstock before the Committee on Judiciary to the effect that many names on the petition were forgeries. To answer that charge I hand you the affidavits of E. B. Foote, M.D., Editor of the "Health Monthly," of D. M. Bennett, Editor of the "Truth Seeker," and of others, H. W. Mercer, J. M. Miller, Mayor, W. R. Shiras, Clerk of the Court, C. C. Goodale, Co. Auditor, U. A. Knight, Co. Treasurer, S. T. Ratliff, Sheriff, all of Madison County, Iowa, who gathered 1071 names, and of David Jenkins of Hannibal, Mo., who gathered 700 to 1000 names, and of William F. Bartley of Mount Pleasant, Pa., who collected 420 names. Many others might be sent you, but these may be taken as samples. And I also say that many of the signed petitions were addressed to my care, and were handed over to the care of Mr. Bennett who made up the whole into one roll. I gathered several hundred names in this city, nearly every signed of whom was personally known to me, and signed in my presence.

If it is deemed advisable this Association will send some one to Washington who will give you further information or whatever aid you may wish in this matter.

I addressed a note to you at your residence in this city, and received from Mrs. S. S. Cox for answer that you were in Washington.

Yours, Respectfully  
A. L. Rawson  
Pres. N. D. A.