



Wassett Hicks

The widow of old Simon Antoine Ratiwille, Princess Marie, is going to Petrolburg to beg for your approval of her late husband's will. Prince Antoine was not only a cherished & trusted servant of my deceased grandfather as his Adjutant & Adjutant General, but also a faithful & beloved personal friend to him as well as to my late beloved father & to me. His winning ways & his gay nature as well as his chivalrous character won him friends wherever he was, & your grandfather & father have both always cherished him. His wife was the intimate long-life friend of my late mother, & has been made testamentary by her husband for his will. The whole future of her children & family rests on the fact of your kind approval of the will, & I venture

preparations & even want your language & will in no way be of any hindrance to your generals, as he is a quiet man, as the army is large & powerful I think that it does not matter if he goes, so I venture again to ask whether you can permit him to go.

With excuses for bothering you with all these matters, but they are better arranged between myself & best love to Alice

Fareyou

Ever your most aff^{ate} - cousin & friend

Wally