May
14th
1925

Dr A B Sanford
87 Union Avenue
Mamaroneck N Y

Dear Dr Sanford:

Your letter of May 9th to the Editor has been referred to me.

I have had in the past some correspondence with Dr Clarence True Wilson regarding his interest in the Booth matter and have sent him the articles, but so far have received nothing from him as to his reaction. I have also talked over the situation with mutual friends such as Dr William Stidger and Stanley High, who are somewhat familiar with Dr Wilson's claims. Unfortunately, as far as I can learn all of Dr Wilson's evidence is merely circumstantial and based primarily upon Mr Bates' material. I do not doubt in the least Dr Wilson's honesty but, as you learned from our story of April 25th, Mr Bates' statements cannot be relied upon under any circumstances.

I am sorry that you have not read the May 2nd issue. This you may have missed due to change we have made in the size of the magazine and the consequent delay in getting it out. A copy is being mailed to you under separate cover. I am quite sure a comparison between the material given under oath at the Conspiracy Trial, Surratt Trial, and Impeachment Investigation, is worth far more than the legendary stories which do not correlate. One set of them will show Booth in Palestine, Mississippi, Texas, Island of Ceylon and half a dozen other places at the same time. He was a preacher, teacher, saloon-keeper, gold miner, etc.

I started out on this thing four years ago with a firm conviction, after reading Mr Bates' book but not examining his "proof", that Booth had escaped. I got my first tip that something was wrong when I found a left boot cut from his foot in the archives of the War Department.

Mr Bates had emphatically stated that the Doctors who had examined his mummy had found a broken right leg and then wove this into the alleged confession of St Helen.

Dr Wilson will have to get some definite documentary proof in addition to that supplied him from the Bates' estate in order to make out any sort of case for the story of Booth's escape. If we could have found any such proof in our various investigations, we would have been just as glad to give that side of the story as we were the other. All that we have printed is thoroughly documented and if it seems antagonistic to material in possession of Dr Wilson, it is because the documents do not support his claims.

I would be delighted to hear from you further and assure you that I am quite anxious to have any new light on the Booth matter that can be supplied.

Very truly yours

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO

F L Black

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