WAR DEPARTMENT

Office of the Judge-Advocate General,

Washington, May 13, 1898.

Mr. F. L. Bates,

Memphis, Tennessee.

Dear Sir:

I am collecting matter for a detailed account of the assassination of President Lincoln by J. Wilkes Booth; etc., etc.,; and seeing your letter to this Department concerning the evidence you therein state you possess, that Booth was not captured and killed by the Federal troops, I have been prompted to write to you, in my private capacity as a citizen and not as an employe of the War Department, and inquire if you will kindly give me for publication, if found available, such information on the subject as you may possess.

While I have not what may be styled direct or postive evidence that the man killed was Booth, I have such circumstantial evidence as would seem to prove the fact beyond a doubt. Still, I would be glad to examine any evidence to the contrary.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

John P. Simonton

Return if not Delivered in five days.

Mr. F. L. Bates,

297 - 2nd Street,

Memphis,

Tennessee