MAR 23 1925

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Sh Matthews S.C.
March 19-1925.

My Dear Mr Black: I am especially interested in your John Wilkes Booth Myth work and investigations. I was born on the Northern Neck of Virginia, and, though some distance from the scene of the capture and killing of Lincoln's slayer, heard all about it in my early boyhood. I have no doubt you will finally put at rest all the myths regarding it.

During a recent visit to Columbia I was fortunate enough to be a guest of the "Cosmos Club", of that city, a literary society of some pretentions. The leading paper of the evening was on this very subject. The wife of the gentleman who read it was the daughter of one of the men at whose house Booth was sheltered

during his flight. The paper was very well done, and exploded satisfactory any possible theory that Booth was not killed. During the general discussion that followed in the "Cosmos Club", Dr Stanhope Sams, chief Editorialist of "The State," said he knew Dr Armstrong well, and that he never claimed to be Booth; but just as you say, was flattered by the stories concerning him, and rather lent himself to furthering their continuance.

When you are done with this work why not take up that other myth regarding Lincoln — that Calhoun was his father. This has been considerably written about recently; but it is still universally believed by the very best people in the upper part of South Carolina. Morrison, late Professor of History at Clemson

College, I am told, practically taught it in his classes. Mr Earle Sloan, whose father for Col. J. E. B. Sloan, knew Mr Calhoun well, told me years ago that his father said "he personally knew that Calhoun was Lincoln's father." Everybody in Pendleton and that section of the State believes it, and in one way and another profess to "know" it to be true. Do you not think there is also a story in that worth the writing? My apology for writing is my interest in your present work. I gathered the impression from Earle Sloan that Calhoun believed himself Lincoln's father. Mr Sloan is still alive

Very truly,

John Marshall

P.S. I have some more original documents in the Sapiro-Cotton Co. Op. marketing matter that I will forward with comments at an early date.