April
30th
1925

Mrs Madge D Bates
1234 Harbert Avenue
Memphis Tennessee

Dear Madam:

You ask on what basis we use copyrighted articles in our paper without the permission of the owner. I suppose you refer to the quotations we have made from Mr Bates' book in our fifth and sixth articles. Any good lawyer will tell you that another can use copyrighted material for the purpose of comment. If you will refer to Mr Bates' book, pages 94 to 105, you will see that he repeated a story from the Boston Globe, December 12, 1897; the story of Ray Standard Baker, pages 133 to 156, which was copyrighted in several magazines; and on pages 243 to 252, reprints from various newspapers. I do not think you will find that Mr Bates obtained permission to use this material. However, he had the same right to use it that we have to repeat anything he said for purposes of comment or refutation.

We are not in the least interested in the mummy of David George. If you will read our sixth and seventh articles in the April 25th and May 2nd issues, you will see that there couldn't be the slightest connection between George and Booth. There is really a stronger case from the standpoint of a broken leg, a scar on the back of his neck, education, and actions for the Rev James Glasgow Armstrong than for either St Helen or George. Booth had black eyes, George's were blue. There isn't the slightest resemblance between Booth's handwriting and George's. Furthermore, the Government had absolute proof that the man killed in the Garrett barn was John Wilkes Booth. This you will find in our seventh article. If we had the slightest doubt and were going to X-Ray people's broken legs, we would have the body of Dr Armstrong exhumed and start with him. Mr Bates had doctors examine George's legs and was satisfied that it was the right that was broken, about six inches above the ankle. Dr Mudd, who cut the boot off Booth's left leg, stated that the fracture was about two inches above the ankle. Even if David George's left leg had been broken, it wouldn't prove that he was Booth. There are too many other factors involved. Isn't this satisfactory proof to you?

Under no circumstances, do we want the mummy. We can buy cadavers in Detroit for much less.

Very truly yours
THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO
F L Black

FLB/L