1) FOUND IN PITMAN BOOK.

a ~~chap~~ man by the name of
W. B. Matchett (Imp Ind 1189 – 1208
who made a business of
manufacturing evidence offered
to sell letters to Connecting Booth
and Johnson for $25,000.00 (p 1194)
this man was used by Ashley for gathering evidence.
Ashley had first met him when Matchett came to him in
an attempt to get a pardon for Conover
Ashley when examined Nov 23, 1867
admitted that he had (p 1195)
on July 22, of that year recommended
to Judge Holt that Mr Dunham {alias Sanford
Conover} be pardoned – at this
examination Ashley acknowledged
~~that~~ that he had had four, five or six
interviews since the previous January with Conover in jail at
which times he had promised ~~letter~~ to
furnish letters implicating both
Jeff Davis and Johnson with Booth x

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John I. Davenport, the private secretary of General Benjamin F. Butler immediately after the civil war

2) Ashley also acknowledged that Conover had furnished him a statement of the purported contents of the letters; and that he considered the statements claims — the statement so aggravated that he did not bring it to the attention of the assassination Committee.

which related to Johnson's supposed guilty knowledge of the assassination"

Ashley had talked quite freely about the amount of evidence he had to prove complicity but when pinned down at this examination acknowledged that it mainly consisted either of anonymous letters ~~and~~ or others "with fictitious names".

Attempting to get a ~~pard~~ pardon from Andy Johnson, the very man they expected to use him and in convicting

Ashley stated that he had numbers of men had come to him or been brought to him who claimed they could give important information but "when they made their statement," said Ashley, "it was worthless."

Pre examination showed that conover had lied to others with reference to connection with Ashley