Harpers

BOARD OF TEMPERANCE, PROHIBITION AND PUBLIC MORALS

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Clarence True Wilson, General Secretary
110 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C.
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Mr Finis L Bates
Memphis Tenn

Dear friend:

You were kind enough to reply to a recent telegram which enabled me to go out and see the body of Booth. I took my wife, little girl and Mr. Robert H. Hughes, head of the Methodist Book Concern of Chicago, and though the body was not on exhibition I got Mr. Gordon, of 521 E 63rd Street, to take us around and let us see it. I am thoroughly convinced that it is John Wilkes Booth. He has a niece who used to be on the stage with him living in Minneapolis by the name of Blanche Booth. She is seventy-five but still recites at public gatherings and she is very eager to have a chance to see that body. Says she would recognize her Uncle at sight.

At last I have your article in the hands of Mr. Hartman, Managing Editor of Harper's Magazine. He is giving the matter a full consideration and wants us to get up a thoroughly authenticated document regardless of length and will put the whole thing into one magazine. I have loaned him your book, and told him that if he does not want to publish both that he may have yours as the pictures go with it and that I could not permit the pictures to be appropriated to go with mine unless yours should be published. I gave a lecture recently at Wilmington and there was a little note in the paper which I am enclosing. The week before I gave it on Sunday night in the big church at Delaware, Ohio, and showed the pictures. I got all the Booth pictures back but some one slipped

your picture and so I haven't a good copy for Mr. Hartman. I wish that you would send me your photograph at the earliest possible moment so that I can furnish it if Hartman uses the article.

Have you ever gotten a trace of Mrs. St. Helen and her daughter? She recently appeared here in Washington, went to see the Lincoln collection and told Mr. Oldroyd that she was the own daughter of John Wilkes Booth and that she had come from Oklahoma, I think from the town of Hydro. I have also learned that Jack Garrett, the boy who got up and gave Booth his bed to sleep in, is still living and has recently been the pastor of the Court Street Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Virginia. I have not gotten into personal touch with him yet.

Certainly you have put into my hands the best subject for a popular lecture that I have ever had or heard of. The people will listen for two hours at a time breathlessly and wherever you give it dozens of men will come up who had been in the Army, and say: "I never believed the story of the soldiers getting Booth and always thought it was a fake of L.C. Baker's to palm the wrong body off and get the money."

Wishing you the best of success and hoping that some time that body may be brought here to Washington, Baltimore, Wilmington, and Philadelphia, where I think there would be a great interest in it, I remain,

Very truly yours

(Signed) Clarence True Wilson,
General Secretary.