Mr Oliver D Street Secy.

Dear Sir:

In answer to yours of June 6th, relating to J Wilkes Booth, I am desired to write for my wife (Clara Morris) -- who is slowly convalescing-- that she is no believer in the story of Mr Booth's substitution and of his only recent death.

At the time of the appearance of the last article in "Lincoln's Life" by Col John Hay, in the Century Magazine, I remember we were in Boston, and on a Sunday afternoon I read to madam the part wherein Col. Hay makes severe mention again of the assassin. Madam was quite worked up about it, and the editor of the Boston Herald happening to call, she expressed herself as hurt. The editor got her to give him an article for the Monday's paper, wherein she told of her acquaintance with Mr Wilkes Booth, of her having played but a few weeks before the assassination with him in "The Marbel Heart" in Cleveland -- of his sanity then and of his courtesy and kindness to all-- which was natural with him always. There came quite a flood of telegrams to her for her courage and her sincerity, and among them one from Edwin Booth, saying: "My heart felt thanks Clara-- I am so glad it was for you to say the first word of compassion for John Wilkes"

When madam's book appeared (Life on the Stage) wherein she gives a chapter to Wilkes Booth, a party from the South wrote to her, saying that he knew that Booth was alive and that she was the only one he would impart his whereabouts to That he would be in New York on a certain day and would like to call upon her. I answered his note by saying that the audience would be given--but no one appeared and there the matter rested to be disinterred recently. There are two actors here in New York that saw the body and one cut a lock of hair from Booth's head, that he has promised to Clara Morris. These men I have confidence in, and we take no stock in the occasional sensations pertaining to David George or others.

Respectfully,

F. C. Harriott

Riverdale on the Hudson, June 11th, 1903.