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Hartford, Connecticut

FORD MOTOR CO
DEARBORN

March



MAR 8 1926

Mr. J. L. Black,
Dearborn, Mich.

Dear friend:

Your letter accompanying the Lincoln number of the Independent just received.

I have discerned nothing about Wilson's theory. The Dr. Robert L. Rowley, examiner for the Phoenix Mutual, checked Wilson's statement about St. Helen stopping at Fresno, Cal. "Bob" wrote to their examiner at Fresno, asking for the name of the Hotel there in '67 at which and when according to Wilson, St. Helen registered with the Booth family.

The examiner turned the letter to the County or city

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2

historian. He found that Fucus was not even on the map till 1872 and then was nothing but a dung-hill. I had the letter in my desk till some time ago and one day when I was cleaning out the desk, re-read it and threw it away.

I had a patient who in the mid '60s was in the Navy. St. Helen - according to Wilson - crossed the gulf in the summer of '65 with Samuel Colonna as cabin-mate to Vera Cruz & Yucatan.

My patient - Mr. Thompson - told me, no coast-way shipping or trans-gulfian shipping was permitted by the

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government till November of 1865.

About New Year's, Wilfred Clark - a nephew of Booth - played in light comedy in Hartford. Remembering the Minneapolis Star's interview with Blanche de Bar and her statement of the incident in London when Wilfred was a boy, I tried to secure an interview with Mr. Clark but he would not grant it. What do you make out of her anyway? Her affidavit - a copy of which Wilson sent me - states she saw the corpse of St. Helen at Memphis and identified it as her uncle, yet in her interview she states she wished she might go to Memphis and see the body.

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4

Wilson told me Frank ^W Wagnalls were to publish his book after he had re-written three chapters. After waiting all summer for the book to appear, I wrote the firm asking when it was to be issued. I enclose the reply.

This interest however in the theory brought about one thing that I had desired for thirty-eight years.

I am an antiquary and have a number of very odd hobbies. But since I was sixteen years of age long before I went to college I have always taken an interest in things mysterious, especially college fraternities and most of all old Psi Upsilon. Altho a S.K.E. I always had the greatest regard for $\Psi\Upsilon$.

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5

This an interesting chain of events, I was invited to give a lecture of the suffrage of Booth before the Beta Beta chapter of $\Psi\chi$. Did co. Shore boys took kindly to me and I am sure since. I am one of their loyal friends at the present hour. And that is the thing I desired since I was sixteen years of age, in 1886. That friendship thus forgotten shall remain till life is over. Fred Hicks will tell you all about it.

I enjoyed all of your articles. But what has amazed me, and Fred and I have talked about the matter, is how a clergyman could let loose all this stuff, a $\phi. B. K.$ man at that, and try to make people believe it.

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6

You know as I do that Wilson's statements do not stand investigation. There is just one other statement I wanted to check up on and that was the item in Edwin Booth's diary of July 26, 1878. Wilson said Francis Wilson the actor told him he (i.e. Francis) was going to issue the memoirs of Edwin Booth in four volumes and he had found in looking over the diaries ~~found~~ under that date an account of a meeting in Paris of the assassin and the dramatist.

I wrote to Francis Wilson about the matter but he never replied. If I could get to Lake Maloja this summer I might see Francis Wilson, but what's the use?

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7.

Wilson is still planning to bring out his book. In a note about Booth and the Spirit of Lincoln written by Bernie — he states his theory about the escape of Booth to the true one.

I get a publication from Washington entitled "The New Voice" gratis. Wilson is the editor and now and then some mention is made of the book and in the last issue was the comment noted above.

Thank you for your interest.

Your friend,

Amos T. Harrington.