

~~"one time told me that he had been all over Europe, and described very vividly a visit he had made with some Methodist Bishop, whose name I do not remember, to the hill upon which Christ was crucified, and told me about the discussion he and this Bishop had with reference to that event."~~

Mrs. Harper as reported by Mr. Bates: "He remained with the Simmons family three months and treated everyone with the greatest kindness and consideration. Never do I remember his mentioning the history of his past life or that he was other than David E. George until the time he thought he was going to die--that was about the middle of April, 1902.

"He had gone up town, but returned shortly and, entering the room where Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Bears and myself were seated, he made some remarks regarding the weather, which was unusually fine for the time of year. He then went to his room and in about fifteen minutes called for us, and said:

"I feel as if I am going to be very sick. He was lying on his bed

and asked me to get him a mirror. For some time he gazed at himself in the mirror.

"Mrs. Bears said she could see the pupils of his eyes dilate and believed that he had taken morphine. Being uneasy, she went out of the room and got him a cup of coffee and insisted until he drank it, but when she suggested sending for a physician he roused himself and in a peculiar and dramatic manner and voice said, while holding the mirror in front of his face:

"'Stay, woman, stay. This messenger of death is my guest, and I desire to see the curtain of death fall upon the last tragic act of mine,' which passionate utterance brought tears to our eyes. And when I turned to wipe the tears from my eyes he called me to his side and said:

"'I have something to tell you. I am going to die in a few minutes, and I don't believe you would do anything to injure me. Did it ever occur to you that I am anything but an ordinary painter? I killed the best man that ever lived.' I asked him who it was and he answered:

"'Abraham Lincoln.'

"'I could not believe it. I thought him out of his head and asked: 'Who was Abraham Lincoln?'

"'Is it possible you are so ignorant as not to know?' he asked. He then took a pencil and paper and wrote down in a peculiar but legible hand the name,

'Abraham Lincoln,' and said:

"Don't doubt it, it is true. I am John Wilkes Booth."

"Am I dying now?" he asked. "I feel cold, as if death's icy hand was closing my life as the forfeit for my crime."

"He then told me that he was well off. He seemed to be perfectly rational while talking to me. He knew me and knew where he was, and I believe he really thought in fact that he was dying, and asked me to keep his secret until he was dead, adding that if any one should find out now that he was J. Wilkes Booth they would take him out and hang him, and the people who loved him so well now would despise him. He told me that people high in official life hated Lincoln and were implicated in his assassination. He said that the suspense of possibly being detected preyed on his mind all the time and was something awful, and that his life was miserable. He said that Mrs. Surratt was innocent and he was responsible for her death as well as that of several others. He said that he was devoted to acting, but had to give it up because of his crime, and the fact that he must remain away from the stage, when he loved the life and profession of acting so well, made him restless and ill tempered. He said he had plenty of money, but was compelled to play the character of a working man to keep his mind occupied.

"In the mean time Dr. Arnold arrived and as a result of his efforts

Mr. George was restored. After this he was very anxious for weeks regarding what he had told me and questioned me concerning it. I answered him that he had told me nothing of importance, but he seemed to know better. One day he saw me looking at a picture of Lincoln and asked me why I was looking at it. I told him that I had always admired Lincoln.

"'Is that the only reason you have for looking at it?' he asked, regarding me with a fierce look. A peculiar expression came over his face, his eyes flashed and he turned pale and walked off.

"'One peculiar feature of Mr. George, or Booth's, face was that one eyebrow was somewhat higher than the other. I have noticed him limp slightly, but he said it was rheumatism. That Mr. George had a past we all knew, but what his secret was remains unknown except in so far as he may have communicated the truth to me."

In her sworn statement of January 21, 1921, describing D. E. George, Mrs. Young (Mrs. Harper) says: "He was ~~a~~ man five feet ten or eleven, of medium build, and walked with his shoulders well thrown back. He had very large deep blue eyes, his hair being sprinkled with gray; he dyed both hair and mustache. His eyes, as I remember, were perfect matches as were also his heavy dark, bushy eyebrows."

Bates (~~Page 240-241~~): "Leaving El Reno, Booth, or George, arrived at Enid on the 3d day of December, 1902, and registered at the Grand Avenue Hotel, under the

name of David E. George. In the meantime Mr. Harper and his wife had removed from El Reno to Enid, from which place she made the following statement:

"Enid, Oklahoma Territory, Jan. 23d, 1903.

"On the evening of January 13th, I was startled and surprised by reading in the Enid Daily News of the suicide of David E. George, of El Reno, with whom I first became acquainted in March, 1900, in El Reno, at the home of Mr. Simmons.

"Mr. Harper went down on Wednesday morning, the 14th instant, and recognized him, and told the embalmers of a confession that David E. George had made to myself, and that they had better investigate.

"I went to the morgue with Mr. Harper on the 15th and identified the corpse of David E. George as the man who had confessed to me at El Reno that he was John Wilkes Booth, and, as brevity has been enjoined on me, will reaffirm my former statement made in detail of David E. George's confession to me at El Reno, about the middle of April, 1900, as fully as if same were set forth herein.

(Signed)

"MRS. E. C. HARPER."

And now we will copy the full statement made by Mrs. Harper to Mr. Bates, and will italicize the words and sentences Mr. Bates omits to quote

Territory of Oklahoma)
County of Garfield) ss.

Mrs. E. C. Harper first being duly sworn upon her oath says; that the facts were written above by herself; that she knows the facts she has written and that the same are true.

(Signed) Mrs. E. C. Harper.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of January 1903

(Signed) A. A. Stratford

Notary Public

My Commission Expires Nov. 18th, 1906.