

Mr. Bates is quite careful about his selection of Press Comments; using but four, one of which is an interview with Mr. Bates, himself, which had been copied by the St. Louis Post Despatch from the Enid Daily Eagle^{of} June 1, 1903. Mr. Bates selected his own interview to corroborate his claim that D. E. George wrote him a letter just before his death, which would establish a connection between John St. Helen and D.E. George. A connection which has only this and ^{the} ~~Mr. Bates'~~ identification of the body of George as St. Helen by Mr. Bates, although he had not seen St. Helen for twenty-eight years.

In the newspaper story just referred to is this statement. Bates (page 252):

"George, or Booth, committed suicide here January 13th last, and in his effects was found a letter directed to F. I. Bates, Memphis, Tenn., who came here at once and identified the body as that of John Wilkes Booth," Mr. Bates then says (page 253): "While I have never been able to secure the letter referred to in the last clipping--it having been taken from the body of the dead man as he lay in the morgue awaiting identification, by a mysterious man who claimed to have known George in life, and who disappeared before my arrival on the scene--still it was seen by two gentlemen of integrity and served the direct purpose of additional confirmation of the identity of the body as that of Booth. I presume that this letter was the basis of the telegram received by me about the 17th of January, 1903, asking me to come

came to Enid." And Mr. Bates, (page 253) himself, after quoting the four press reports, says, "I could fill this volume with press reports supporting the identity herein given, and these have merely been used for the secondary purpose of showing how I became advised of the suicide's death."

What a delightfully fine memory he has!

Mr. Bates claims he received the "wire" about January 17, 1903, (this was Saturday) and that he left there the same afternoon. On Sunday morning, January 18, the following story appeared in the Memphis Commercial Appeal.