

Mrs Cameron

Statement  
made up

I called on Mrs. Cameron in Chicago January 6, 1921 when I obtained the following statement. My maiden name was Josie Annetta Woniger and I was born in Memphis, Tenn. This was the second interview I had had with Mrs. Cameron, having called on her Monday, December 27th, 1920. She states that in 1900 she was playing in "The Woman in the Case" company in one of the Enid theatres and that while there she met a man by the name of John Walter Robison who represented the "Dramatic Mirror", as she saw him four or five times altogether, a couple of times in Enid and later in El Reno where they played after leaving Enid. That due to a fear of smallpox, an epidemic of which was in that section at the time, she left the company before they went to Guthrie, Okla., and that she understood, from other members of the company, that John Walter Robison called at Guthrie to see her and then wrote her the two letters which are, herewith, given. She says that Robison told her that she was too talented to play in the sort of production she was in and criticised her acting; also gave her a write-up in the Dramatic Mirror. She says he seemed to have plenty of money, was polished and a gentleman. She says Robison never coached her in any of her work. Merely complimented her and told her what a great actress he thought she was. He compared her very favorably with

Maxine Elliott and Julia Marlowe and she says that the next year Colonel Hamilton who owned "The Woman in the Case" show was planning on putting on "Shawdows of <sup>sin</sup> Den". Mrs. Cameron claims that she does not know whether Robison had anything to do with the writing of this play or not; that she does not know who wrote it. As far as Mrs. Cameron can remember "Shadows of <sup>sin</sup> Den" was a melodrama ~~surrounding the ~~wrecking~~~~ *the plot of which was the wrong done to* a lighthouse keeper's daughter and the revenge which her brother took upon the villian. She says that Robison and Colonel Thompson, the owner of the play in which he was taking a part when she met Robison both talked to her about a leading part in the new play, but that there was no intimation that Robison himself expected to take a part in it as is said in Mr. Bates's book, page 300. Mrs. Cameron said that the opening of the new play was to take place at Evansville, Ind., in the fall of 1902 and that she went to Evansville from Memphis, but did not appear in the play, because Mrs. Hamilton, the wife of Colonel Hamilton did not expect to be with the company as her chaperoness as had been the custom in the past. She says that the only correspondence between Robison and herself is the two letters following. Mrs. Cameron says that the way she came to connect John Walter Robison with David E.

George and John Wilkes Booth was in 1903 in Little Rock, Ark., when her husband read the George story in the St. Louis Post Despatch and said "Josie, this must be the man you knew in Enid". Sometime after that Mr. and Mrs. Cameron were in Memphis and Mr. Cameron saw Bates and told him about Mrs. Cameron's experience with John Walter Robison. Mrs. Cameron then sent Bates the Robison letters which Bates kept for a considerable length of time. Mrs. Cameron states that she was never sure that D. E. George was the same man as John Walter Robison, that she never saw the body of George, but that his picture looks something like Robison as she remembered him. Mrs. Cameron says she cannot understand how Mr. Bates, page 299 and 300, could have gotten the name J. L. Harris for John Walter Robison as he had had the two letters in her possession for a sufficient length of time to know better. She said she had never heard of the name J. L. Harris before that she remembers and is sure that it has never occurred in connection with her. Mrs. Cameron claimed that Mr. Bates approached her with the proposition to go along as part of the program for the exhibition of the <sup>body</sup> ~~finding~~ of D. E. George and suggested that she sing and that he would lecture. She said that she had told him that she absolutely would not consider this at all. Mrs. Cameron

claimed, on my first visit to her, September 27, 1920, that she had never read a copy of Mr. Bates' book. When I informed Mr. Bates of this he sent her a copy and was on my second visit when she made the comments on the chapter which concerned her.