Madame,

Your endorsement, evidently as representative of the Editors, gives to parts of the "Detective Story" of the capture of Booth, and the disposition of his body, an authority to which they are not entitled. You state, over your signature, that "we believe that Mr. R. S. Baker's article is not only historically accurate, but x x such as would be impossible save from one who had received his information first hand from one of the leading actors." Regarding the incident relating to the landing of Booth's body at the grounds of what was then called Washington Arsenal, I have no personal knowledge, but after that time, from actual observation and participation, I am prepared to prove that the sensational description of taking the body in the darkness of night to Gersdorff's Point, returning with it to the Penitentiary, and finding a hole in the solid masonry close to the mate's edge, and passing thereby into a convict cell, is entirely

[Signature]

Bridgeport, Conn., May 8th, 1897
Bridgeport, Conn., May 8, 1867

Then in a huge stone slab room with the fettering of many a prisoner, of finding under it a shallow grave dug only a few hours before, and of the two officers coming back to their boat and returning to Washington, are Basely's fabrics. A dream, the figments of fancy and invention.

I speak by the card because I was at that time the Medical Officer stationed at the Arsenal, and was the only commissioned officer who was present when the body of Booth was secreted by the orders of Secretary Stanton and I can testify that neither Col. Baker nor adjutant Baker were present when the ceremony was performed and that the body was not carried to nor burned in a prisoner's cell as described in The McClure article or as originally told and depicted in Col. L. C. Baker's Book, p. 331 et seq.

The body was placed in a boat to the shore in the afternoon before dark and was landed at the little summer or boat house near the grounds of the Commanding Officer, placed under
The immediate guard of a sentinel, with orders for not to permit anyone to approach, remained there until midnight, was then removed and temporarily secreted, and as far to my knowledge has yet correctly described the exact locality in which it was stored.

The absurdity of the "game" of entering the convicts' cells of the Penitentiary by plopping through a "hole in solid masonry close to the crater's edge," is exposed by the fact, that the landing, at that time, was by quite a long walk, a half-jutting into the Potomac, backed by a sea wall behind this a broad drive way and yard before reaching the administrative part of the building—a distance between one and two hundred feet—behind this part another section of the building—then stored with supplies for the ordnance department and finally the oak proper for the reception of convicts—the entire distance from three to five hundred feet from the crater's edge.

This tunnel, according to Mr. Bakes's
The article was excavated in the evening, and when his uncle rowed up at midnight, with his guns some burden, was guarded by an officer, but in reality only existed in the mind's eye of the ingenious manufacturer. The fairy tale to the mariners, annuality however also throws doubt upon the accuracy of other statements, especially those made regarding the dramatic experience of the mean Colonel Baker straying through the lonely roads of Virginia, alone guarding the valuable prize, for which a nation in anxiety waited, and finally leaving it for a time to the custody of an unknown ruffian. This reasonable pinnaculinity is intensified moreover by the fact that in the account published by Col. Baker himself in his book United States Secret Service - page 330 - he states that "all the way from the capture to the Potomac - associate with the x x court Harrow." I appreciate the unfortunate position in which you have been placed, and would
regard to you this once, in order that you may have the first opportunity to withdraw or modify your endorsement, and also to give my statement as prominent and wide profession as that which the article by Mr. Bar-
key enjoyed. He had evidently been
so much informed as not of personal history
and
but of entitled to reliable proof. Each
particular act in the great tragedy should be
definitely and accurately established, for by
minor incidents is history solidified, and
No personal narratives contribute to this de-
spirable object, if they rest upon the statement
of those, who depend upon memory for their
 misinformation, and upon imagination for
their facts. I enclose the order, by direction of
Secretary Stanton, by which I exercised medical super-
vision over the prisoners arrested and charged with
complicity in the conspiracy, which resulted in the
assassination of President Lincoln.
I have the honor to remain respectfully,
Geo. L. Porter.
Sir,-

By direction of the Hon. Secretary of War you will report to General Washburn, U.S. Vols., for the daily inspection of prisoners under his charge. Should medical attendance be required, in any instance, you will give it. While engaged in this duty, you will be careful not to answer any questions addressed to you by the prisoners nor allow them to make any remarks not connected with your professional duties (to you).

The fact of these inspections will not be communicated to anyone, and your daily official report will be made direct to General Washburn, who is in command at the Penitentiary, Arsenal Grounds, Washington.

Very respectfully, Your ob'd serv.

By order of the Surgeon General

(Signed) C.H. Crane, Surgeon U.S. Army

Asst. Surgeon G.L. Porter

U.S. Army

U.S. Arsenal, Washington, D.C.