

MISS. CHARLES A. STEELE
842 ELK STREET
FRANKLIN, PENN'A.

December 14, 1938

Ida M. Tarbell,
120 E. 19th. St.
New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I am glad that you have undertaken the work you are doing because, so far as I know, no competent Biographer has written a life of John Wilkes Booth.

It just now occurs to me that Laura Keene, a prominent member of the caste playing "Our American Cousin" in Fords theatre on the night that Lincoln was slain, also had oil interests and spent some time in Tidicutte prior to her Washington engagement. It is possible that she was in Tidicutte while Booth was in Franklin and, if so, he would probably have known it and might even have communicated with her while she was there. But these are matters to be investiagted later if of sufficient interest to you.

I feel that my scant knowledge of Booth will be of little importance to you; nevertheless I want you to know that my time will be freely at your disposal while you are in Franklin, and that I look forward, with pleasure, to meeting you. I am,

Very Resp'y.,

Char. A. Steele