

S. REID SPENCER

JUN 29 1929

110 Martense St.

JUN 23 1929

BROOKLYN, - NEW YORK

Dear Madam:

More power to you in your splendid writing on the unspeakable prohibition situation. But that is only incidental as to my main object in addressing you. I have heard a great deal and read ditto as to your authoritative position as to the life of Lincoln. Some time ago I got hold of a book published by a man named Bates, in which he claims that Booth escaped, another man was shot in the barn by Boston Corbett, and that Booth made an utter get-away and died about the year 1904 down in Oklahoma, after a lifetime of wandering and remorse, committing suicide by taking poison. I suppose you are familiar with the book, and the novel Mrs. Babcock wrote with it as a basis. Of course, even if the Bates book is true, a lot of the material in Mrs. Babcock's book is imaginary, unless the Booth family gave her confidences withheld from everybody else. What do you think of the story of Booth's escape, even if a lot of the Bates book, of secondary importance, is incorrect? I suppose you are very busy, and I concede that I would be presuming if I asked you for a lengthy reply. But I would be glad to know whether you deem the Bates book right or wrong in its salient and basic statements.

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours,

*S. Reid Spencer.*