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Letter (copy): Caleb J. Dilworth to J. McCan Davis, June 5, 1896

Dilworth, Caleb J.

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Letter from Caleb J. Dilworth.

(Copy)

(The following letter was written in reply to one from me detailing Busted's story and asking mine opinion Col. Dilworth's opinion about it.—J. McCan Davis.)


J. McCan Davis,
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 3d just received, and in answer I will say: I am satisfied that the almanac affair is an entire hoax; and as to Lincoln seeing the doctor the day before, that I know is a mistake because Mr. Lincoln was in my room the night before the trial commenced, and that is the first time that he had any idea of what the proof was to be. We had the witnesses present, and he and I interrogated them. They remained there until late in the night. The next morning early the case commenced, and he knew nothing about any theory of the slung-shot until it was presented during the trial. I never heard of the Tubby Smith affair. This, I believe, is all I know about the affair.

Yours, etc.,

C. J. Dilworth.

(Col. Dilworth must be mistaken when he says that Lincoln "knew nothing about any theory of the slung-shot until it was presented during the trial", because the indictment charged that death resulted from a blow inflicted with a slung-shot in the hands of Armstrong. He must mean that Lincoln knew nothing as to the character of the witness Allen's testimony concerning the slung-shot—though that is scarcely possible, as Allen gave the same testimony at the trial of Norris a few months before.—J. McC. D.)