January 12, 1928

Mrs. Mary E.S.Andrews
Onondaga, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Andrews:

I feel very guilty for not having thanked you for the generous letter you wrote me from Lake Placid, following my inquiry about Alice D. Shipman.

The truth is the letter came to me when I was overwhelmed with work, and then on the heels of that came Christmas and an ulcerated tooth. I am only just beginning to breathe freely again. And one of the first things I am doing since that moment has arrived is to write to Mr. Drane.

I am very much inclined to think that your suggestion that Alice D. Shipman may have been the wife of your father's brother Paul is right, for in one of Mrs. Lincoln's letters she speaks of a George D. Prentiss, with whom, you say, Paul Shipman was associated on the Louisville Courier Journal.

If it turns out to be so and something interesting comes out of it I shall pass it on to you.

What an interesting task you have in the life of Florence Nightingale. I get excited over every new subject for biographical work. What amazing things the lives of men and women are! Did you know that I, too, had a dip into the material of Henry Wing, of whose Drummer Boy you made such a beautiful story for the Saturday Evening Post. His friend, Mrs. John Sherman Hoyt, brought me a heap of material, begging me to try and do something with it, dividing of course with him.

The old man was living then only a dozen miles from my little farm in Connecticut, so that his last summer and winter I had several interviews with him, and out of it all made a couple of articles and finally a little book. I don't know that anything has ever given me more pleasure than to share 50/50 the checks. Mr. Wing died, to my regret, before the little book came out, but Mrs. Wing gets her mite from the little royalties.

I am telling you all this because I am not so sure that I would have done the work if Mrs. Hoyt had not told me of how you had divided. So, you see, your generous spirit has passed on to one who naturally is much less generous.

Thanking you again for the trouble you took in writing me so promptly, believe me Very sincerely yours

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