October 20, 1938

Miss Melrose Pitman
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Miss Pitman,

Miss Haight, Mrs Walsh, and Mr. Leslie arrived at our college library this morning. Miss Rowley and I enjoyed meeting them and we had a delightful visit for more than an hour. Naturally I had a good many questions I wanted to ask Miss Haight and appreciated the opportunity of talking to her. I received some good suggestions from her and answers to my questions.

While everything is fresh in my mind from the conversation, I wanted to bother you again for some information on points that came up in connection with our morning talk. Miss Haight suggested that I write you about some of these points. I know you are very busy with other work, but I certainly would appreciate it if you could send me whatever information you can on the following points:

1. Do you have any letters written by your father which might contain any remarks, observations, or allusions to his experiences during the trial or letters written written about the matter later on in his life?

2. Do you have any letters written to your father by friends or other persons which contain any information relating to the trial?

3. If you know of no letters or papers as in #1 and #2, are there letters and papers of your father in any library in the country?

4. What became of any letters or papers of Mr. Pitman relating to the trial or the subsequent events?

5. Do you know of any book or pamplet written by your father in 1900 which might be called his "Recollections?" I have had reference made to his "Recollections" by one student of the Lincoln trial, but I can't locate the thing in any catalogue. Miss Haight thought it might be one of the many pamphlets your father wrote.

6. In the article by Miss Neely, your father speaks of taking his notes of the trial, having your mother help him, and transcribing them for publication. Do you know where these original notes might be now? Were they preserved? If they are, would it be possible for me to have access to them?

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I wondered if he destroyed the notes from which he transcribed the testimony for his published volume?

7. Did your father speak very often about his connection with the trial and the innocence of Mrs Surrat or was he so absorbed in his art work that he hardlyever mentioned it.

8. Did he ever write verymuch in the wayof articles for newspapers or magazines on the trial or Mrs. Surrat? (I recentl discovered an article written by him in 1893 on the innocence of Mrs. Surrat.)

9. Are there anyof his old-time friends living in Cinaannati or elsewhere, who might have heard him talk frequently about the trial or Mrs. Surrat? I was think of more intimate friends, friends of long standing.

10. Did he ever lecture or speak upon the trial etc in his later years?

Miss Haigh gave me two or three names of persons to whom I might write for specific information and I shall try to do that shortly.

Again I am aware that this list of questions may not be easily answered, but I shall be verygrateful for whatever aid you may give.

Sincerely yours,

Paul H. Giddens
Professor of History and Political Science

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Melrose
Miss Pitman

Oct 27. 1935

1. No letters by Pitman to –
2. None to his father
3. Dont know of any letters elsewhere.
4. Might have gone to Washington – + most likely destroyed
5. ~~No book~~ No knowledge of book or pamphlet written by father in 1900?
6. No knowledge of where P notes are from which transcribed.
7. Never s/he of connection with trial or innocence of Mrs S– only when called on by group or audience.
8. Never wrote very much in way of articles –
9. Old time friends. [No answer].
10. Never lectured a s/he on trial in later years.

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