April 17, 1937

Dear Miss Rowley:

Thank you for sending me the copy of Benn Pitman's "Opinions on the Evidence." They are important and back up the opinion which I think many students of the testimony hold, that is that Mrs. Suratt was innocent. ... certainly the belief of the Washington authorities that Jefferson Davis and his associates were back of the assassination was utterly wrong.

As to publishing it. To make it effective it really should go in as a bit of new material in an article. Possibly some of your young historical people would like to tackle it. It would make a good article for the ~~xxxxx~~, although it must be remembered that Mrs. Suratt's case has been repeatedly exploited and the theory that the Confederates were back of Booth has been completely exploded. The interesting thing is that this young stenographer's judgment on the testimony he was taking corroborates what the best opinion has come to agree. As I understand it this was written at the time.

I am very glad to have this for my notes and thank you for your kindness in sending it.

It is very interesting about the new material on Timothy Alden. I hope Mr. Gull will write his book.

I am glad you are taking time to enjoy yourself a little, dear Miss Rowley. It sounds very festive to be driving to Cleveland and back to hear Grand Opera, but that is what the automobile has made possible.

With very best wishes, believe me

Ida M. Tarbell

Miss Edith Rowley
Allegheny College
Meadville, Pa.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library