W A L D O N .

Holmesburg, (Philadelphia, Pa. ) December 30, 1898.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

"The Edward" 816 Fifteenth Street,

Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss Tarbell:---

I may bemistaken as to Senator Sumner being in the War office when I took the telegram there, announcing the capture of Mason and Slidell. If Mr. Welles sent a telegram over, he sent it subsequent to my going there, for at the time I went to the Secretary of War's office, I sent a copy of the announcement by messenger to Secretary Welles. Unfortunately, the note made at the time, corresponding to those notes I sent you, was mislaid some years ago, and I caanot verify the fact,--but I most undoubtedly and unquestionably heard Senator Sumner express just that opinion. It may have been at a later date, and I may have the times and places mixed. Senator Sumner may also have been in Washington that morning and in New York in the afternoon, before the public announcement of the capture had been made, and both myself and Pierce and Hale be correct. Perhaps the following construction, leaving out the name of Charles Sumner, would be better:--"When the telegram reciting the action of Captain Wilkes was handed to the Secretary of War, a number of prominent men, among whom was a distinguished member of the Seanate Committee on Foreign Affairs, were with him. The reading of the dispatch called forth loud,

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boisterous and prolonged applause from all present, with the exception of the calm, dignified Senator"--and "--but Mr. Lincoln's cool judgment being along the lines of the Senator's thought," etc.

I thank you very much for calling my attention to the matter, and if, at any time I find the notes to corroborate my statement about Mr. Sumner, I will be only too happy to communicate them to you.

Very truly yours,



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