

Office of the United States Attorney

New York, April 13, 1898.

L. J. Weichmann, Esq.,

Anderson, Ind.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 8th inst. in which you say, "You were the Judge Advocate on the part of the Government in the collation of the testimony and examination of witnesses prior to the conspiracy trial of 1865. You have no doubt seen the recent story of John H. Surratt, as published in the newspapers, and I will now ask you to state, as a matter of justice to me and my honored name, if the charges of unkind and inhuman treatment and threats, as alleged upon the part of the War Department or any of its officers, are true."

In response I beg to say, by order of the Secretary of War early in April, 1865, I was assigned to the duty of investigating the facts as to the assassination of President Lincoln, and the attempted assassination of Secretary Seward and others, and arranging the order of the testimony for the trial of the conspirators. For that duty I was assigned an office in the War Department. There was taken in my presence and under my supervision by my stenographer, Mr. Benn Pitman, when you returned from Canada on April 29, 1865 the first statement made by you, I believe, of the facts within your knowledge; and I have to say that no threat or inducement of any kind was made to you on my part, or on the part of any official of the Government so far as I have ever had hint or information, to make such statement. You were simply appealed to to state the facts within your knowledge bearing upon the assassination of

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the President, and throughout the trial you conducted yourself and made your statements and gave your testimony in a manner that commended you to me as a truthful and upright man.

Very respectfully yours,

Henry L. Burnett.