Form 1474

SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

2215 WASHINGTON CIRCLE.

Washington, D.C. April 5th, 1901.,

Mrs. Ida M. Tarbell,
c/o S.S.McClure Co.,
141-155 E.25th St.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Madam:--

Your letter of the first of April, informing me that you are gathering material for the history and condition of the Confederate disbandment at the close of the war, has been received.

The spirit in which you write is commendable in the extreme. Our story has been so imperfectly told, we have been so completely misunderstood and so maliciously assailed that we have almost dispaired of ever obtaining a fair audience before the bar of history.

If I can command the leisure I will take up the point upon which you desire information at some future day and endeavor to supply such facts as are truthful.

I am very respectfully,

s. William H. Payne

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