

The Alexandria Gazette

SATURDAY-EVENING, APRIL 15.

APPALLING TRAGEDY.

This whole community was startled this morning, early, by reports from Washington, of the murder of the President of the United States, and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State and his son. So astounding was the intelligence, that the rumor was at first discredited. No one believed that such an awful tragedy did or could happen. The idea of such an occurrence, is abhorrent to the minds of the American people—assassination is foreign to the habits and disposition of our race. Not even the excitements of the fiercest political passions, not even the fires of civil or sectional war, can alter or change public feeling on such a subject. All felt and thought alike, in reference to such an atrocity. As the particulars became known, men gathered in groups—heard with wonder and amazement—and expressed their indignation. Nothing else was thought of or talked of. War, is what brave and good men, can and do enter into; actuated by honorable motives, and conducted in an honorable manner. But all good men—all brave men—all honorable men, abhor murder and assassination—cowardly and atrocious as they are.

MURDER OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE MR. SEWARD.

DESPATCHES FROM SECRETARY STANTON.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, APRIL 15 - 1 30 A. M.

Major General Dix, New York:

Last evening, at 10 30 P. M., at Ford's Theatre, the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Harris, and Major Rathburn, was shot by an assassin who suddenly entered the box. He approached behind the President. The assassin then leaped upon the stage, brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape by the rear of the theatre. The pistol-ball entered the back of the President's head. The wound is mortal. The President has been insensible ever since it was inflicted, and is now dying.

About the same hour an assassin, either the same or another, entered Mr. Seward's house, and, under pretence of having a prescription, was shown to the Secretary's sick chamber.—The Secretary was in bed, a nurse and Miss Seward with him. The assassin immediately rushed to the bed, inflicted two or three stabs on the throat, and two on the face. It is hoped the wounds may not be mortal. My apprehension is that they will prove fatal. The nurse alarmed Mr. Frederick Seward, who was in an adjoining room, and hastened to the door of his father's room, where he met the assassin, who inflicted upon him one or more dangerous wounds. The recovery of Frederick Seward is doubtful.

It is not probable that the President will live through the night.

General Grant and wife were advertised to be at the theatre this evening, but the latter started to Burlington at six o'clock last evening.

At a Cabinet meeting at which General Grant was present to day, the subject of the state of the country, and the prospects of speedy peace, were discussed. The President was very cheerful and hopeful, spoke very kindly of General Lee and others of the Confederacy, and the establishment of Government in Virginia. All the members of the Cabinet, except Mr. Seward, are now in attendance upon the President. I have seen Mr. Seward, but he and Frederick were both unconscious.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON D. C., April 15, 3 A. M.

Major General Dix, New York:

The President still breathes, but is quite insensible, as he has been ever since he was shot. He evidently did not see the person who shot him, but was looking on the stage, as he was approached behind.

Mr. Seward has rallied, and it is hoped he may live. Frederick Seward's condition is very critical. The attendant who was present was stabbed through the lungs, and is not expected to live. The wounds of Major Seward are not serious.

Investigation strongly indicates J. Wilkes Booth as the assassin of the President.—Whether it was the same, or a different person that attempted to murder Mr. Seward remains in doubt.

Chief Justice Cartter is engaged in taking the evidence. Every exertion has been made to prevent the escape of the murderer. His horse has been found on the road near Washington.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., April 15, 4 10 a. m.

Major General Dix, New York:

The President continues insensible, and is sinking. Secretary Seward remains without change. Frederick Seward's skull is fractured in two places, besides a severe cut upon the head. The attendant is still alive, but hopeless.

Major Seward's wounds are not dangerous. It is now ascertained with reasonable certainty, that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime—Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the President; the other, a companion of his, whose description is so clear that he can hardly escape.

It appears from a letter found in Booth's trunk, that the murder was planned before the fourth of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until Richmond could be heard from. Booth and his accomplice were at the livery stable at six o'clock, last evening, and left there with their horses about ten o'clock, or shortly before that hour.

It would seem that they had for several days been seeking their chance, but for some unknown reason, it was not carried into effect until last night. One of them has evidently made his way to Baltimore, the other has not yet been traced.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

\$10,000 REWARD.

HQ'RS. DEPT. OF WASHINGTON.

April 15, 1865.

A REWARD OF TEN THOUSAND

DOLLARS will be paid to the party or parties arresting the murderer of the President, Mr. Lincoln, and the assassin of the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, and his son.

C. C. AUGUR.

Major General, com'd'g Dept.

The Murder of President Lincoln.

We gather the following particulars of the dreadful murder of President Lincoln, from the Washington Chronicle:

At half past ten o'clock last night, in the front upper left hand private box in Ford's Theatre, while the second scene of the third act of "Our American Cousin" was being played, a pistol was fired, and Abraham Lincoln shot through the neck and lower part of the head. A second after the shot was fired, a man vaulted over the baluster of the box, saying "Sic semper tyrannis!" and, adding another sentence, which closed with the words, "revenge for the South," ran across the stage with a gleaming knife, double edged and straight, in his right hand. The man was of middle stature, well built, white faced and beardless, save that he wore a black moustache. His hair and eyes were black.

The murderer of President Lincoln was John Wilkes Booth, an actor, son of the celebrated actor Booth. His hat was found in the private box, and identified by several persons who had seen him within the last two days, and the spur which he dropped by accident, after he jumped to the stage, was identified as one of those which he obtained from the stable where he hired his horse.

A letter found in Booth's trunk identifies him as the murderer. He is supposed to have had a horse in readiness, at the back of the theatre, upon which he escaped.

The Chronicle says: "He has long been a man of intemperate habits and subject to temporary fits of great excitement. His capture is certain, but if he is true to his nature he will commit suicide, and thus appropriately end his career."

The President died this morning at 7 20 o'clock.

Mrs. Lincoln was sitting in the same box with the President, when he was fired upon. The ball entered about three inches from the opening of the left ear, in the cerebellum, or lower half of the head, and penetrated several inches into the brain. He was carried immediately to the house of Mr. Peterson, opposite the theatre, where he breathed his last. Who can paint the agony of his wife. Who can express the horror of the scene!

The Attempt to Assassinate Secretary Seward.

At 10 o'clock last night a man made his way into Secretary Seward's house, representing that he was the bearer of a medicine prescribed by Surgeon General Barnes, and which he was ordered to deliver to Secretary Seward in person.

Pushing into the Secretary's room, he seized him with one hand, and cut him with a dagger-knife on both jaws, then turned and forced his way into the hall, where meeting with Frederick Seward, the Secretary's son, he attacked him, and inflicted three wounds with a dagger-knife (probably the same) on the young man's head, breast, and hand. He also attacked Major