

# THE ASSASSINATION.

## THE TRIAL ON FRIDAY.

### The Hon. Ben. Wood Implicated.

### He Receives \$25,000 from Thompson.

### An Order for Wood's Arrest Sent from Washington.

## ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, June 16, 1865.

President Johnson, in conversation, expressed his regrets that the conspirators had not been tried before a civil instead of a military tribunal.

Orders for the arrest of Ben. Wood were telegraphed from here this morning.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Friday, June 16, 1865.

Col. Tompkins, a member of the Court, was not present at the session of the Court to-day, on account of indisposition.

#### EXAMINATION OF ROBERT PURDY.

*By Judge-Advocate Holt*—Witness resided in Virginia, and had been in the Government service since 1861. A letter heretofore published, purporting to have been dated at South Branch Bridge, Va., April 6, 1865, addressed to "Friend Wilkes," and referring to certain oil speculations, and suggesting an escape by way of Thornton's Gap in case the party failed to get through on his trip after "striking lie," was shown to the witness, who stated that he had never seen it before. Witness testified that the allusions to Purdy contained in the letter had reference to himself; that the writer was known to him as a person by the name of Jonas McAleer, and that some of the assertions of the latter, especially that with reference to a difficulty with the girl spoken of, were untrue.

*Cross examined by Mr. Aiken*—South Branch Bridge is on a branch of the Potomac River, about twenty-two miles from Cumberland; letters are not usually mailed from South Branch Bridge, but from a little village known as Green Spring Run, just above; there is no post-office box at South Branch Bridge; there are no oil wells in that vicinity.

#### EXAMINATION OF D. L. EASTWOOD.

*By Judge-Advocate Holt*—Live in Montreal, Canada, am Assistant Manager of the Montreal Branch of the Ontario Bank; am acquainted with Jacob Thompson, formerly Secretary of the Interior of the United States, and with the account which he formerly kept with the Ontario Bank; the moneys deposited in that bank to his credit accrued from the negotiation of bills of exchange drawn by the Secretary of the Treasury of the so-called Confederate States upon their agents at Liverpool.

*Q.* State whether or not, in the course of the disbursements made by Jacob Thompson of the fund placed to his credit, this requisition was drawn on the bank—[exhibiting to witness a paper given below]? *A.* It was; it is in my handwriting.

*Q.* Please read it to the Court? *A.* (Reading the paper):

"Wanted, from the Ontario Bank, on New-York, in favor of Benjamin Wood, esq., for \$25,000 current funds, \$10,000 debit ex \$15,000."

The paper shows that the requisition was originally drawn in favor of Benjamin Wood, esq., and that the name of D. S. Eastwood was afterward substituted.

*Q.* State the exact condition of that paper? *A.* As it reads now it is a draft on New-York, payable to the order of D. S. Eastwood, that is, myself.

*Q.* State how that change in the requisition occurred? *A.* The name of Benjamin Wood, as it appeared originally, was erased at Mr. Thompson's request, and my name, as an officer of the bank, was substituted.

*Q.* That is the original paper, is it not? *A.* It is.

*Q.* Now look at this bill of exchange (another paper was exhibited to the witness) and state whether it was drawn upon that requisition? *A.* It was.

By request of the Judge-Advocate the witness then read the paper to the Court. It is dated Montreal, August 10, 1864, and is directed to the Cashier of the City Bank, New-York, and the wording is as follows:

"At three days sight please pay to the order of D. S. Eastwood, in current funds, \$25,000, value received, and charge the same to the account of this branch."

The indorsement on the bill directs the payment to be made to the Hon. Benjamin Wood or order, signed B. F. Wood.

*Q.* You state that the \$25,000 for which this bill was drawn, is the same for which that requisition was made by Mr. Thompson in the name of Benjamin Wood. *A.* It was.

*Q.* State whether or not the bill of exchange you have just read is the original one? *A.* It is.

*Q.* Where did you obtain it? *A.* I obtained it in New-York, from the cashier of the bank on which it was drawn.

*Q.* Does it bear the marks of having been paid? *A.* I am not acquainted with the usual marks of canceling in New-York, but I understood that it was paid.

The witness stated further that he was not acquainted with the Benjamin Wood referred to, but he supposed it to be the same who at the date of that transaction was a member of the Congress of the United States.

*Cross-examined by Mr. Aiken*—Did not recollect of having cashed any drafts or checks in favor of James Wallace, Leonard Montgomery, James B. Merritt, son Wallace, Richard Montgomery, James B. Merritt, or John Wilkes Booth; about the last of October Booth purchased a bill in the Bank at Montreal with which witness was connected; never heard the name of John H. Surratt mentioned before.

The Judge-Advocate exhibited to the witness a list of localities on which drafts had been made by the Ontario Bank, and requested him to give the dates and amounts of the drafts which, as shown by the paper, had been drawn in New-York.

The witness stated that the following were among the number of drafts drawn: On the 31 of October last, a draft for \$10,000 in gold; on the 11th of October, one for \$5,000 in gold; on Nov. 3, 4 and 8, bills for about \$6,000 in United States currency; on the 14th and 21st of March last, small drafts were also drawn.

#### EXAMINATION OF GEORGE WILKES.

*By Judge-Advocate Holt*—Am acquainted with Benjamin Wood of New-York, and know his handwriting. [The indorsement, "B. Wood," on the back of the bill of exchange given above, was exhibited to the witness, and the handwriting identified by him as that of Benjamin Wood of New-York.] Witness stated, further, that at the time at which the paper appeared to have been dated Mr. Wood was a member of the Congress of the United States, and he believed editor and proprietor of *The New York Daily News*.

#### EXAMINATION OF MR. ABRAHAM D. RUSSELL.

*By Judge-Advocate Holt*—Am acquainted with Benjamin Wood of the City of New-York, and know his handwriting. (The indorsement on the bill of exchange exhibited to the previous witness, was identified by this witness to be the handwriting of Mr. Wood.) At the time of the date of that bill of exchange, Mr. Wood was a member of the Congress of the United States, and editor and proprietor of *The New York Daily News*; witness had been in the habit of receiving letters from Mr. Wood.

RECE-S.

The Court then took a recess till 2 o'clock.

#### A SUGGESTION.

Upon reassembling, Judge Advocate Holt suggested that if the argument of the counsel for the defense was now commenced in the absence of Col. Tompkins, a member of the Court, who was indisposed, it would have to be read over to him during a subsequent session of the Court. He thought there would be no loss of time to the Court if an adjournment was taken until Monday.

ADJOURNED.

The Court accordingly adjourned until Monday, at 10 a. m.

#### Resume of Friday's Evidence.

WASHINGTON, Friday, June 16, 1865.

Several witnesses were examined this morning, among them D. S. Eastwood, employed in the Ontario Bank, Montreal, who testified as to Jacob Thompson keeping his accounts in that bank.

Witness said that Thompson originally made a requisition on that bank for \$25,000 in currency in favor of Benjamin Wood, but this was afterward changed by direction of Mr. Thompson in favor of D. S. Eastwood. The draft for this amount was dated August 10, 1864, and was drawn on the City Bank of New-York. The back of the draft is thus indorsed:

"Pay to Hon. Benj. Wood or order. D. S. Eastwood, B. Wood."

George Wilkes and Abraham D. Russell testified as to the signature of B. Wood, and that he was a member of Congress at the time, and is also proprietor of *The New York Daily News*. The Court then adjourned till Monday.

The Young Men's Christian Association of this city, for themselves and kindred associations throughout the country, to-day received a definite proposition from John T. Ford for the sale of his theater, in which President Lincoln was assassinated, the building to be used for public purposes by that organization. The price fixed is \$100,000. The association have until next Tuesday to decide whether they will accept the terms.