

**Appalling News from Washington—Reception of the Intelligence of the Murder of the President and Attempted Assassination of the Secretary of State and the Younger Seward.**

From Our Special Correspondent.

RALEIGH, N. C., April 17, 1865.

Gen. Sherman and staff left the Central Depot at 8 o'clock this morning, with an engine and two cars, for Durham Station, to meet Gen. Johnston. None but his staff accompanied him.

The train which bore Gen. Sherman to the front to receive the surrender of Johnston's army had been gone less than an hour, when the telegraph flashed to Gen. Howard's headquarters the horrible and astounding news of the assassination of the President of the United States, and the fatal wounding of Mr. Seward and his son. For the greater part of the forenoon, the dreadful tidings were suppressed, and only known to a few persons immediately about headquarters; but by degrees it began to circulate in whispers through the town, and though generally disbelieved, created a profound feeling of horror and alarm. A courier was immediately dispatched with the news to Gen. Sherman, who had already arrived at Durham Station, and was in conference with Johnston when the messenger arrived. Officers hurried into town from the camps to learn the facts, or to verify the report. It was too dreadful to be believed. Crowds of officers and soldiers met and discussed in suppressed breath the probabilities of its truth, and it was not until noon that the report could be traced to a trustworthy source—the telegraph operator and officers at Gen. Howard's headquarters, fearing the effect of the news upon the soldiers, kept it quiet. A feeling of awful suspense, of horrible foreboding, spread over city and camps. Officers met and passed in silence, scarcely daring to break the dreadful secret to each other. Universal gloom settled like a pall over the place. Sad faces were everywhere, all hearts were heavy, all minds appalled by the dreadful news of this triple murder. At Gen. Schofield's headquarters and other places I have seen officers and men in tears, as if mourning for the loss of a father or beloved friend. A sorrow like that which fell upon Egypt when the angel of death smote the first born broods over all minds. Others with clenched fists and firm-set teeth were calling for vengeance upon the whole race of traitors, from Jeff. Davis down. A people who could conceive of such transcendent wickedness, and every one who can apologise for or excuse it, say they, ought to be blotted from the face of the earth.

The whole current of feeling in the army has been changed by this crowning act of villainy—this final fiendish stab at the nation's life. Brave and noble men who but yesterday were reading the God-like plea of Mr. Beecher for pardon and conciliation for the Rebels, and were half consenting to a general amnesty to the bad men who have bathed the land in blood, and brought so much woe upon us, to-day cry with trumpet tongues for justice. Gen. Johnston on hearing the news declared it was the heaviest blow which has ever fallen upon the Confederacy. He appeared very much troubled by the intelligence.

Among intelligent officers this is regarded as only the beginning of a reign of terror which has been long maturing—the opening of a bloody drama to be enacted by hired assassins, in obedience to a deeply-laid conspiracy. That now, beaten in the open field, honorably defeated in war, they intend to adopt the assassin's last resort; and that our chief public men, and even our generals, are marked as victims of the bullet or the knife. This is the natural fruit of rebellion—the appendix to the May mob and the firing of New-York hotels.

The officers and soldiers everywhere speak in terms of the highest admiration of the great and good man who has fallen. He seems to have been spared by a kind Providence to witness the fruit of his long and

wearisome labors for the salvation of his country, and then, has mingled his blood with the thousands who have fallen in the struggle, in a manner to show to the world as no other event could teach, the fiendish spirit which has animated these enemies of liberty, of the country, and of mankind. I hear nothing but words of the most affectionate eulogy of the departed President, and earnest prayers ascend from many thousand hearts that God would disappoint the assassins, and yet spare the precious lives of Mr. Seward and his son.

**PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PRESERVE THE PEACE.**

APRIL 18.—Fearing some outbreak when the troops should be made acquainted with the facts of this horrible patriicide, Gen. Stiles, the Commandant of this city, doubled all the guards last night, and took every precaution to forestall riotous or disorderly demonstrations among the troops.

**GEN. SHERMAN'S ORDER ANNOUNCING THE SAD EVENT.**

The Progress of this city contains the following order from Gen. Sherman, following the announcement from Secretary Stanton:

WASHINGTON, April 12—p. m.

Major-Gen. SHERMAN: President Lincoln was murdered about 10 o'clock last night in his private box at Ford's Theater, in this city, by an assassin who shot him in the head with a pistol ball. About the same hour Mr. Seward's house was entered by another assassin, who stabbed the Secretary in several places, but it is thought he may possibly recover, but his son, Fred., may possibly die of wounds received from the assassin. The assassin of the President leaped from the box brandishing a dagger, exclaiming, *Sic semper tyrannis*, and that Virginia was revenged. Mr. Lincoln fell senseless from his seat, and remained in that state until 7:22 this morning, at which time he breathed his last. Vice-President Johnson now becomes President and will take the oath of office and assume the duties to-day.

E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

**GEN. SHERMAN'S ORDER.**

HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, IN THE FIELD, RALEIGH, April 17, 1865.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDER, No. 50.—The General commanding announces, with pain and sorrow, that on the evening of the 11th inst., at the theater in Washington City, his Excellency the President of the United States, Mr. Lincoln, was assassinated by one who uttered the State motto of Virginia. At the same time the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, whilst suffering from a broken arm, was also stabbed by another murderer in his own house, but still survives, and his son was wounded, supposed fatally.

It is believed by persons capable of judging that other high officers were designed to share the same fate. Thus it seems that our enemy, despairing of meeting us in manly warfare, begins to resort to the assassin's tools. Your General does not wish you to infer that this is universal, for he knows that the great mass of the Confederate Army would scorn to sanction such acts, but he believes it the legitimate consequence of Rebellion against rightful authority. We have met every phase which this war has assumed, and must now be prepared for it in its last and worst shape, that of assassins and guerrillas; but woe unto the people who seek to expend their wild passions in such a manner for there is but one dread result.

By order of Major-Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,  
L. M. DAYTON, Major and Assistant Adjt.-Gen.

There is much evident anxiety among the citizens on account of the changed feeling in the army, and the crisis is now a most painful one, which is greatly aggravated by the delay in the surrender of Johnston's army. Should anything go wrong now, and negotiations fail, we to North Carolina when this army resumes its march—we to Rebels everywhere.

Gen. Sherman went back to Durham Station at 8 o'clock this morning to resume negotiations. There is no difficulty about the surrender of the Rebel army, but there are other and collateral questions on a settlement of which Johnston insists, and which Gen. Sherman hesitates to approve. It is supposed to cover some guarantee for the lives or pardon of Jeff. Davis and the chief traitors, which it is doubtful if he obtains. I give this only as rumor—not as official. Pending negotiations there is, properly, much reticence at headquarters. I have arrangements for giving you the fullest and quickest news of the result.

The great and overshadowing calamity, however, will chill all enthusiasm over the event, and I doubt if we hear a single cheer upon the occasion from the troops.

E. S.