

WHO PLANNED THE ASSASSINATION

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The New York Tribune, of yesterday in an article with this caption, says:

In a former communication I stated that a plan had been submitted to the rebel war department by Colonel Margrave, who had been for a considerable time an emissary in the north, to kidnap President Lincoln and carry him to Richmond, or if it should be found impossible to escape with him to the rebel lines, to assassinate him. Owing to a change in the position of the armies about this time the plan proposed was rendered impracticable.

In the early part of November, and only a few days before he was sent north, Colonel Margrave submitted another plan, the details of which may be interesting to the reader. To give the plan in minutiae would occupy too much space, and a digest of it will prove quite intelligible.

One hundred and fifty picked men were to go secretly north and take quarters in Washington, Georgetown, Baltimore and Alexandria, so as to be able to communicate daily with each other, and, upon a day fixed by their leader, were to assemble in Washington for the purpose of making the seizure. The President, it was claimed, could be easily seized at a private hour at the White House, or in going to or returning from church, or on some other favorable occasion, and thrust into a carriage and driven off. The carriage was to be joined a few miles out of the city by 25 or 30 armed men on horseback. It was proposed to drive to Indian Point, about 25 miles south of Washington, on the Potomac - two or three relays of fleet horses being stationed on the way - where a boat was to be in waiting to cross the river, and land the captive a few miles south of Occoquan, when

it would be an easy matter for his captors to work their way with him through the woods by night into the rebel lines. To prevent pursuit, every bridge between Washington and Indian Point was to be mined beforehand, and blown up as soon as the captive and his captors had crossed. Huge trees were also to be ready cut and thrown across the road in various places, as soon as they had passed, by men stationed along for the purpose, who were afterward to separate and escape as best they could.

The Secretary of War thought this scheme might succeed; but he doubted whether such a proceeding would be of a military character and justifiable under the laws of war. He promised, however, to consult the President and Mr. Benjamin; but what conclusion was arrived at I am unable with certainty to say. About a week, however, after the plan was submitted, and the same day that Col. Margrave left for the north, I asked Mr. Wellford, who is familiar with all the secrets of the Department, if the plan had been adopted, and he answered, "You will see Old Abe here in the spring as sure as God." A few days afterward I was sent to Atlanta, and never returned to Richmond to hear about the matter.