

THE ASSASSINS

THEIR PROBABLE HIDING-PLACE

Prince George, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties, Md., Indicated.

THE AUTHORITIES VIGILANT

Reported Accident to Booth.

HIS LEG PROBABLY FRACTURED.

Interesting Incidents of the Assassination

The Latest About Booth.

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1865.

Circumstances which have come to the knowledge of the Government, render it nearly certain that Booth's horse fell with him on Friday night (14th inst.), and, it is believed, caused a fracture of one of his legs. It is also reported that he has divested himself of his mustache.

The likeness of Booth published in *Harper's Weekly* is said to be correct. The attention of surgeons and the public is called to these circumstances. If Booth is lying concealed and wounded, the rewards offered and the detestation of his crime by all loyal citizens, will soon bring him to light.

Official.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 22, 1865.

Major-Gen. JOHN A. DIX, New-York: The counties of Prince George, Charles and St. Mary's have during the whole war been noted for hostility to the Government and their protection to Rebel blockade-runners, Rebel spies and every species of public enemies; the murderers of the President harbored there before the murder, and Booth fled in that direction. If he escapes it will be owing to Rebel accomplices in that region.

The military commander of the department will surely take measures to bring these Rebel sympathizers and accomplices in murder to a sense of their criminal conduct. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Suicide of a Supposed Accomplice.

From The Washington Star.

On Wednesday night a man who made several attempts at different points to pass the outer line of pickets around the city, was placed in the guard-room at Fort Thayer for examination, and there deliberately committed suicide by cutting the jugular vein on each side of the neck with a penknife. He was about five feet ten inches high, light curly hair and beard, small feet and delicate hands, was evidently educated, had on a new fine officer's fatigue coat, grey pants and vest, new under clothing, in double, and fine calf boots.

On him was found three hundred and twenty dollars, a penknife, two conflicting army discharges of the same date for George B. Love, a receipt from H. Stockbridge, of Baltimore, for two hundred and fifty dollars, from George B. Love for legal services, and a watch and chain.

The evidence seems to indicate that he was concerned in the assassination plot.

Card from Manager Ford.

As my name has been unhappily associated with the deplorable tragedy which has plunged the nation in sorrow, a brief statement is due the public—especially to those with whom I am personally acquainted.

Entertaining the highest respect and reverence for President Lincoln, I long ago placed the State box in my theatre in Washington at his command whenever he might see fit to attend the exhibitions; and of this privilege he has occasionally availed himself. On Tuesday, April 11, impetuous filial duty constrained me to go to Richmond, and I had, and could have no connection, either in general or detail, with what transpired in Washington from that time forward.

John Wilkes Booth, the assassin, was not a member of my company, and had no engagement with me for over a year. As any actor who had attained some prominence in his profession, and was not suspected of evil intent would have had, he had the *entrée* of my theater; and of this privilege he availed himself to perpetrate the infamous crime which no one less suspected, with which no one had less sympathy, which no one would have done more to prevent, which no one more deeply deprecates than I; yet that it should have taken place in a building under my control will always add poignancy to the regret which I feel in common with my countrymen.

I have been surprised and pained to learn that since this event some persons, to whom my unwavering loyalty must be well known, have yet sought to place an unjust construction upon the fact that a Rebel band had played at my theater in Baltimore. That band came to me in Baltimore accredited as prisoners who had taken the oath of allegiance, and had performed at the War Department and at Grover's theater in Washington. Before receiving them I conferred with the military authorities, and engaged the band with their knowledge and full concurrence. They were instructed to play, and did play, the national airs, and played no Southern air or tune which could be construed as expressive of Southern sentiments or sympathies, except "Dixie," which our now lamented President had just proclaimed a "captured tune." It was designed but as a spectacle of captive musicians presenting a "captured tune," and as a gratification to loyal citizens. With such I have always acted, and to such this brief explanation, made at the earliest possible moment after my arrival home this morning, is due. Such can partially appreciate (I pray they may never fully know) the painful embarrassment in which this foul crime has placed me.

JOHN T. FORD.

Baltimore, April 18, 1865.

Statement of an Actor.

From the Chicago Post, April 20.

Mr. William J. Hawke of this city, who resides at No. 254 State-st., has received a letter from his son Harry, who is a member of Laura Keane's theatrical company, who were playing "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington on the night of the horrid tragedy. He gives some new facts in reference to the assassination and the assassin. We are permitted to publish the letter, which is as follows:

WASHINGTON, April 16, 1865.

This is the first opportunity I have had to write to you since the assassination of our dear President on Friday night, as I have been in custody nearly ever since. I was one of the principal witnesses of that sad affair, being the only one on the stage at the time of the fatal shot. I was playing Asa Trenchard, in the American Cousin. The "old lady" of the theater had just gone off the stage, and I was answering her exit speech when I heard the shot fired; I turned, looked up at the President's box, heard the man exclaim, "See *semper tyrannis*!" saw him jump from the box, seize the flag on the staff, and drop to the stage. He slipped when he gained the stage, but got upon his feet in a moment, brandished a large knife, saying, "The South shall be free!" turned his face in the direction I stood, and I recognized him as John Wilkes Booth. He ran toward me, and I, seeing the knife, thought I was the one he was after, ran off the stage and up a flight of stairs. He made his escape out of a door directly in the rear of the theater, mounted a horse and rode off.

The above all occurred in the space of a quarter of a minute, and at the time I did not know that the President was shot; although if I had tried to stop him he would have stabbed me.

I am now under \$1,000 bail to appear as a witness when Booth is tried, if caught.

All the above I have sworn to. You may imagine the excitement in the theater, which was crowded, with cries of "Hang him!" "Who was he?" &c., from every one present.

In about fifteen minutes after the occurrence the President was carried out and across the street. I was requested to walk down to the police headquarters and give my evidence. They then put me under \$1,000 bonds to appear at ten o'clock next morning. I then walked about for some time, as the city was wild with excitement, and then I went to bed. At 3½ o'clock I was called by an aid of the President to go to the house where he was lying to give another statement before Judge Carter, Secretary Stanton, and other high officials assembled there. I did so, and went to bed again. On Saturday I gave bail.

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