

THE ASSASSIN SEEN.

Sergt. J. M. Dye, Battery C, Pa. Ind. Artillery, stationed at Camp Berry, Washington City, in a private letter of the 15th inst. to his father, J. S. Dye, No. 100 Broadway, gives the following account of the conduct of Booth immediately before the assassination, which proves that he had a confederate on the ground, actively cooperating in his preparations for the bloody work. It seems that they expected the President to leave the house at the close of the second act, and meant to have assassinated him between the door and his carriage:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15, 1865.

"DEAR FATHER: With sorrow I pen these lines. The death of President Lincoln has deeply affected me. And why shouldn't it, when I might have saved his precious life?

"I was standing in front of the theater when the two assassins were conversing. I heard part of their conversation: It was not sufficiently plain for an outsider to understand the true meaning of it; yet it apprised Sergt. Cooper and myself that they were anxious that the President should come out to his carriage, which was standing just behind us. The second act would soon end, and they expected he would come out then. I stood awhile between them and the carriage, with my revolver ready, for I began to suspect them. The act ended, but the President did not appear; so Booth went into a restaurant and took a drink; then came out and went into the alley where his horse was then standing, though I did not know that any horse was there. He came back and whispered to the other rascal, then stepped into the theater. There were at this time two police officers standing by them. I was invited by my friend C. to have some oysters, and we went into a saloon around the corner, and had just got seated when a man came running in and said the President was shot! This so startled us that we could hardly realize it, but we stepped out and were convinced. * * *

"Yours, J. M. DYE."

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