

*Notes*

DR. MUDD'S STATEMENT RE BOOTH'S FRACTURE

"What kind of a fracture did Booth sustain?" we inquired, addressing the doctor.

X (Booth)

"Well," said he, "after he was laid down on that sofa and having told me his leg was fractured by his horse falling on him during his journey up from Richmond, I took a knife and split the leg of his boot down to the instep, slipped it off and the sock with it; I then felt carefully with both hands down along his leg, but at first could discover nothing like crepitation till, after a second investigation, I found on the outside, near the ankle, something that felt like indurated flesh, and then for the first time I concluded it was a direct and clean fracture of the bone. I then improvised out of pasteboard a sort of boot that adhered close enough to the leg to keep it rigidly straight below the knee, without at all interfering with the flexure of the leg. A low cut shoe was substituted for the leather boot, and between five and six o'clock in the morning Booth and his companions started off for a point on the river below."

"How did Booth's horse look after this long ride?" we inquired.

"The boy, after putting him up in the stable," the Doctor replied, "reported that his back underneath the forward part of the saddle was raw and bloody. This circumstance tallied with Booth's account that he had been riding all day previous from Richmond, and no suspicion arose in my mind for one instant that the man whose leg I was attending to was anything more than what he represented himself."

"You knew Booth before, Doctor?"

"Yes", replied the Doctor. " I was first introduced to Booth in November, 1864, at the church yonder, spoke a few words to him and never saw him afterwards until a little while before Christmas, when I happened to be in Washington making a few purchases and waiting for some friends from Baltimore who promised to meet me at the Pennsylvania House and come out here to spend the holidays. I was walking past the National Hotel at the time, when a person tapped me on the shoulder and, on turning round, I discovered it was the gentleman I was introduced to at the church about six weeks previously. He asked me aside for a moment and said he desired an introduction to John H. Surratt, with whom he presumed I was acquainted. I said that I was. Surratt and I became almost necessarily acquainted

from the fact of his living on the road travelled so often on my way to Washington, and having the only tavern on the way that I cared to visit. Booth and I walked along the avenue three or four blocks, when we suddenly came across Surratt and Welchman, and all four having become acquainted we adjourned to the National Hotel and had a round of drinks. The witnesses in my case swore that Booth and I moved to a corner of the room and were engaged for an hour or so in secret consultation. That was a barefaced lie. The whole four of us were in loud and open conversation all the time we were together, and when we separated we four never met again."

"You told the soldiers, Doctor, the course the fugitives pursued after leaving your house?"

" I did. I told them the route that Booth told me he intended to take; but Booth, it seems, changed his mind after quitting here and went another way. This was natural enough; yet I was straightway accused of seeking to set the soldiers astray, and it was urged against me as proof positive of implication in the conspiracy."