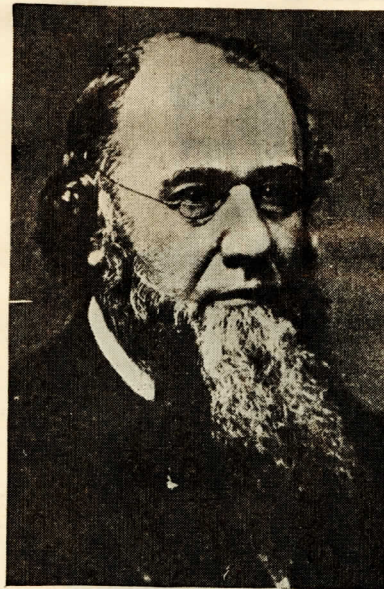


Foreign News—[Continued]

I wanted to find out how far they accord with your own. . . ."

Last week the fruits of the ensuing conversation resulted in a performance in which what has been called Lincoln's "noble humility" was played as though it



EDWIN M. STANTON

They lengthened his beard

were a cringing "inferiority complex." The cast, envisioned from the reports of horrified U. S. spectators:

President Lincoln. Smooth and sleek-faced as a well-fed Britisher, he spoke with the accent peculiar to Piccadilly Circus. He discussed the U. S. Civil War with a comfortable affability, an easy indifference, a polished negligence. To indicate that he had aged during the performance, he hooked on a fringe of whiskers running from ear to ear.

The Cabinet: 1) *Seward*, played by a self-important young man of 25, although supposed to be 60; 2) *Stanton*, equipped with a beard at least two feet long and portrayed with a stock "old man's shuffle" suitable to street mendicants; 3) "*Hook*" (Drinkwater's fictitious cabinet member), played as the chief character; browbeating the diletant President, transfixing him with the reproving stare of a Victorian "stage father."

General Grant. The General's notorious fondness for tobacco and whisky was emphasized. He smoked a cigar having an odor like that of burning cotton. He wilted, however, before Lee, who entered and surrendered with the air of a conqueror.

. . .

Australian Lincoln

Some weeks ago a plump little man entered the office of the U. S. Consul at Melbourne, Australia. Said he: "I am about to portray the role of Abraham Lincoln in Mr. Drinkwater's play of that name, which we are shortly to produce at the Melbourne Repertory Theatre. May I ask your advice as to the playing of the role?"

In the Consul's office is a man of suavity and tact. He showed his plump questioner a portrait of President Lincoln—a tall, full length portrait. He hoped it would sink in.

The actor crossed his legs. "I have my own conceptions of Mr. Lincoln's character," he said, "but