

BOOTH'S IDEA OF IMMORTAL FAME

(From the Cleveland Leader, April 17)

1865

We learn on the best authority that when Wilkes Booth was in this city, a year and a half ago, he remarked to a prominent citizen that "the man who killed Abraham Lincoln would occupy a higher niche of fame than George Washington." This demonstrates that his infamous deed was long premeditated.

(From the Chicago Journal)

A theatrical gentleman of this city informs us that in the early part of 1863, during an engagement of J. Wilkes Booth at McVicker's theatre, he made the remark one day, "What a glorious opportunity there is for a man to immortalize himself by killing Lincoln!" "What good would that do?" he was asked. He then quoted these lines:

"The ambitious youth who fired the Ephesian dome
Outlives in fame the pious fool who reared it."

"Well, who was that ambitious youth -- what was his name?" was then asked.

"That I don't know," Booth replied.

"Then where's the fame you speak of?"

This, our informant tells us, nonplussed him.

From this it would seem that the assassin has had the commission of this horrid crime in his mind for at least two or three years.

THE ASSASSIN OF THE PRESIDENT AN EXPERT WITH THE PISTOL

(From the Boston Advertiser, April 17)

1865

Booth was in this city no longer ago than last Monday, and on that day, and perhaps on previous days, visited the shooting gallery of Floyd & Edwards, in Chapman place, opposite the Parker House, and practiced with a pistol, firing with the weapon under his leg, behind his neck, and in other strange positions. He is represented as being a frequent visitor at the gallery during his stay in Boston, and as having been very expert with the pistol. At this time, we are told, he did not talk of politics, and spoke only of ordinary everyday matters.

From this city he must have gone directly to Washington to have arrived in time to complete the preparations for his fearful crime.