

# THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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## IMPORTANT.

### ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

The President Shot at the Theatre  
Last Evening.

### SECRETARY SEWARD

DAGGERED IN HIS BED

BUT

NOT MORTALLY WOUNDED.

Clarence and Frederick  
Seward Badly Hurt.

ESCAPE OF THE ASSASSINS.

Intense Excitement In  
Washington.

SCENE AT THE DEATHBED OF MR.  
LINCOLN.

J. Wilkes Booth, the Actor, the Alleged  
Assassin of the President,

#### Details of the Assassination.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1865.

Washington was thrown into an intense excitement a few minutes before eleven o'clock this evening, by the announcement that the President and Secretary Seward had been assassinated and were dead.

The wildest excitement prevailed in all parts of the city. Men, women and children, old and young, rushed to and fro, and the rumors were magnified until we had nearly every member of the Cabinet killed. Some time elapsed before authentic data could be ascertained in regard to the affair.

The president and Mrs. Lincoln were at Ford's Theatre, listening to the performance of the American Cousin, occupying a box in the second tier. At the close of the third act a person entered the box occupied by the President and shot Mr. Lincoln in the head. The shot entered the back of his head and came out above the temple.

The assassin then jumped from the box upon the stage and ran across to the other side, exhibiting a dagger in his hand, flourishing it in a tragical manner, shouting the same words repeated by the desperado at Mr. Seward's house, adding to it, "The South is avenged," and then escaped from the back entrance to the stage, but in his passage dropped his pistol and his hat.

Mr. Lincoln fell forward in his seat and Mrs. Lincoln fainted.

The moment the astonished audience could realize what had happened the President was taken and carried to Mr. Peterson's house in Tenth Street, opposite to the theatre. Medical aid was immediately sent for, and the wound was

so deep that he could not live; but at half-past twelve he is still alive, though in a precarious condition.

As the assassin ran across the stage Col. J. B. Stewart, of this city, who was occupying one of the front seats in the orchestra, on the same side of the house as the box occupied by Mr. Lincoln, sprang to the stage and followed him; but he was obstructed in his passage across the stage by the fright of the actors, and reached the back door about three seconds after the assassin had passed out. Col. Stewart got to the street just in time to see him mount his horse and ride away.

The operation shows that the whole thing was a preconcerted plan. The person who fired the pistol was a man about thirty years of age, about five feet nine, spare built, fair skin, dark hair, apparently bushy, with a large moustache. Laura Keane and the leader of the orchestra recognized him as J. Wilkes Booth the actor, and a rabid secessionist. Whoever he was, it is plainly evident that he thoroughly understood the theatre, and all the approaches and modes of escape to the stage. A person not familiar with the theatre could not have possibly made his escape so well and quickly.

The alarm was sounded in every quarter. Mr. Stanton was notified and immediately left his house.

All the other members of the cabinet escaped attack.

Cavalrymen were sent out in all directions, and dispatches were sent to all the fortifications and it is thought they will be captured.

About half-past ten o'clock this evening, a tall, well-dressed man made his appearance at Secretary Seward's residence, and applied for admission. He was refused admission by the servant, when the desperado stated that he had a prescription from the Surgeon General and that he was ordered to deliver it in person. He was still refused, except upon the written order of the physician. This he pretended to show and pushed by the servant and rushed up stairs to Mr. Seward's room. He was met at the door by Mr. Fred Seward, who notified him that he was master of the house, and would take charge of the medicine. After a few words had passed between them he dodged by Fred Seward and rushed to the Secretary's bed and struck him in the neck with a dagger, and also in the breast.

It was supposed at first that Mr. Seward was killed instantly, but it was found afterwards that the wound was not mortal.

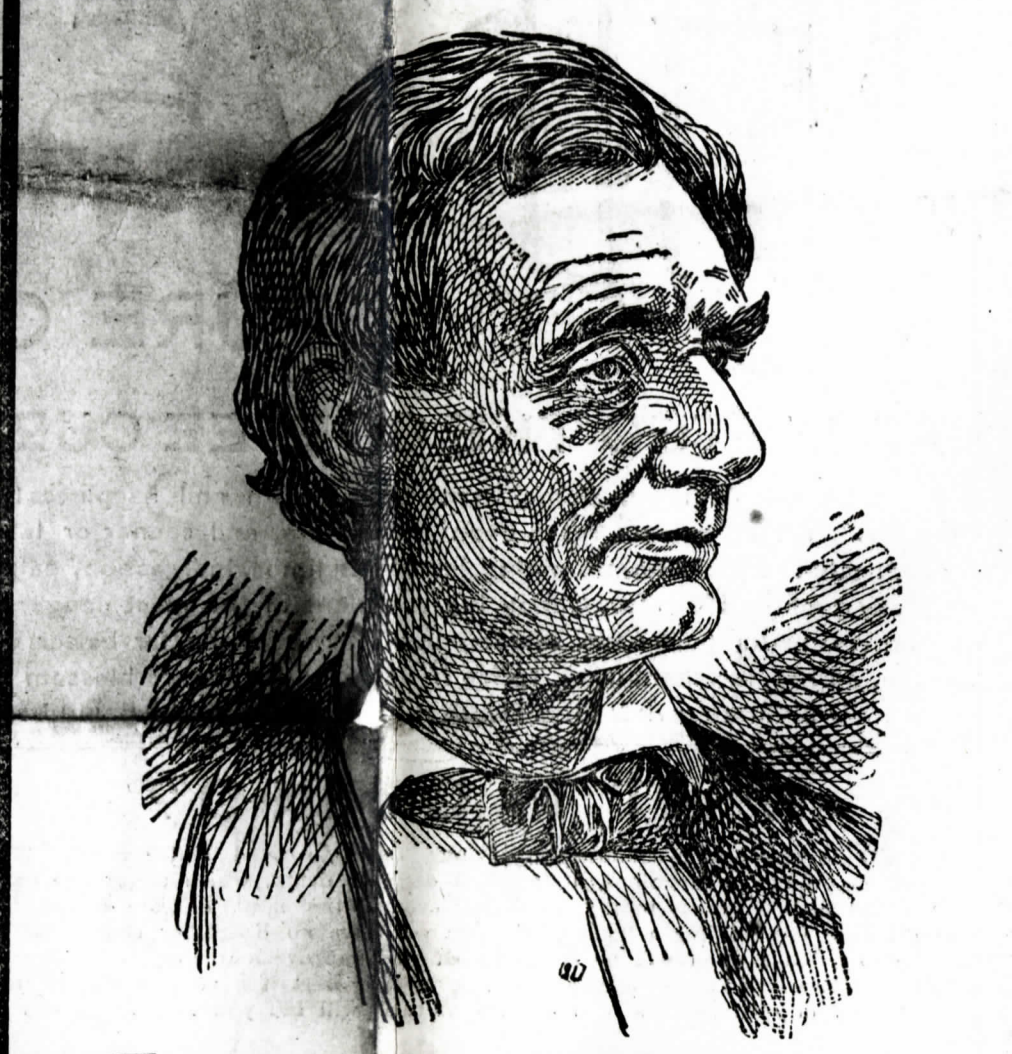
Major William H. Seward, Jr., paymaster, was in the room and rushed to the defense of his father and was badly cut in the side by the assassin, but not fatally.

The desperado managed to escape from the house, and was prepared for escape by having a horse at the door. He immediately mounted his horse and sang out the motto of the State of Virginia, "E Pluribus Unum," and rode off.

The theatre was densely crowded, and all seemed delighted with the scene before them. During the third act, and while there was a temporary pause for one of the actors to enter, a sharp report of a pistol was heard, which merely attracted attention, but suggested nothing serious, until a man rushed to the front of the President's box, waving a long dagger in his right hand, and exclaiming "Sic Semper Tyrannis!" and immediately leaped from the box, which was in the second tier, to the stage beneath, and ran across to the opposite side, making his escape, amid the bewilderment of the audience, from the rear of the theatre, and mounting a horse, fled.

The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed the fact to the audience that the President had been shot, when all present rose to their feet, rushing towards the stage, many exclaiming "Hang him! Hang him!"

The excitement was of the wildest possible description, and of course there was an abrupt termination of the theatrical performance.



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There was a rush towards the President's box, when cries were heard: "Stand back and give him air." "Has any one stimulants?"

On a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head, above the back of the temporal bone, and that some of the brain was oozing out.

He was removed to a private house opposite to the theatre, and the Surgeon General of the Army was sent for to attend to his condition.

On an examination of the private box blood was discovered on the back of the cushioned rocking chair on which the President had been sitting, also on the partition and on the floor. A common single barreled pocket pistol was found on the carpet.

A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed. An immense crowd was in

## EXTRA.

8:10 A. M.

New York, Saturday, April 15, 1865.

## DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT.

### Further Details of the Great Crime.

### ADDITIONAL DISPATCHES FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

## THE REBELS.

### JEFF. DAVIS AT DANVILLE.

#### His Latest Appeal to his Deluded Followers.

#### He Thinks the Fall of Richmond a Blessing in Disguise as it Leaves the Rebel Armies Free to Move From Point to Point.

### HE VAINLY PROMISES TO HOLD VIR- GINIA AT ALL HAZARDS.

#### Lee and His Army Supposed to Be Safe.

#### BRECKINRIDGE AND THE REST OF DAVIS' CABINET REACH DANVILLE SAFELY.

#### The Organ of Gov. Vance, of North Carolina, Advises the Submission of the Rebels to President Lincoln's Terms.

&c., &c., &c.

### JEFF. DAVIS' LAST PROCLAMATION.

VIRGINIA TO BE HELD BY THE REBELS AT ALL HAZARDS.

DANVILLE, VA., April 5, 1865.

The General-in-Chief found it necessary to make such movements of his troops as to uncover the Capital. It would be unwise to conceal the moral and material injury to our cause resulting from the occupation of our capital by the enemy. It is equally unwise and unworthy of us to allow our own energies to falter and our efforts to become relaxed under reverses, however calamitous they may be. For many months the largest and finest army of the confederacy, under command of a leader whose presence inspires equal confidence in the troops and the people, has been greatly trammelled by the necessity of keeping constant watch over the approaches to the capital, and has thus been forced to forego more than one opportunity for promising enterprise. It is for us, my countrymen, to show by our bearing under reverses, how wretched has been the self-deception of those who have believed us less able to endure misfortune than to encounter dangers with courage.

We have now entered upon a new phase of the struggle. Relieved from the necessity of guarding particular points, our army will be free to move from point to point to strike the enemy in detail far from his base. Let us but will it and we are free.

Animated by that confidence in spirit and fortitude which never yet failed me, I announce to you, fellow-countrymen, that it is my purpose to maintain your cause with my whole heart and soul; that I will never consent to abandon to the enemy one foot of the soil of any one of the States of the Confederacy, and that Virginia—noble State—whose ancient renown has been eclipsed by the still more glorious recent history, whose bosom has been hallowed to receive the main shock of this war; whose sons and daughters

A considerable amount of goods purchased by the State for distribution to the people, we regret to learn, had to be left behind. Also the state archives remained in the city, but we perceive no motive the enemy can have in destroying them, as they will no doubt endeavor to occupy the city permanently and establish a State government at Richmond under the federal Union.

### Lee's Army Supposed to be in a Safe Position.

(From the Raleigh Confederate, April 7.)

This is the time for rumor manufacturers who are engaged in a wholesale business. Sometimes they have it that whole brigades deserted in the last great battle, among others, Cook's brigade is selected as the bearer of this stigma. We are assured that such a statement has no foundation whatever; that no treachery induced the disaster at Petersburg; that our forces fought splendidly, and the enemy only succeeded by overwhelming numbers. We are convinced, too, from facts we cannot mention, that Lee's army is in a safe position, and that his future movements will be directed with the skill and energy which distinguished our great captain.

Having anticipated the probable loss of Richmond, and fully recognizing the importance of the disaster, we are, nevertheless, not of the number of those who give up the cause. In the Southern confederacy, this day, there is military strength of men, material and supplies to make independence certain. It is the people themselves whether they secure or lose their liberties.

### Rebel Particulars of the Battle of Petersburg.

(From the Raleigh Confederate, April 7.)

An officer who left Richmond at nine o'clock on Monday morning last, informs us that the time he left, the city was in flames from Clay to Canal streets. The Shockoe warehouse and other entrepots of supplies were burned. The bridges had also been fired.

No mob or violence of any kind had occurred up to the period when he left, so that the reports of a destructive mob on Sunday night are untrue. The enemy's cavalry entered the city as the train moved off that he came out in. The story of the mob, therefore, we hope is entirely erroneous.

This officer describes the fighting on Saturday as terrible beyond description. The enemy forced column after column of our works, tapping our lines on the extreme right. They came nine columns deep. Eight columns faltered and were broken by the obstinacy of our defence; but the ninth broke over our forces like a whirlwind. He says the destruction of the enemy was immense. Our loss, we think, consists mainly in prisoners taken by the enemy. All the prisoners whom we captured were drunk, having been prepared, according to the Yankee tactics, for the terrible ordeal. Lieutenant General A. P. Hill was certainly killed. General Fitz Lee was not killed as reported, or General W. H. F. Lee. No general officer from North Carolina was killed as far as he heard. On Monday, Sheridan attacked Fitz Lee and was handsomely repulsed.

### The Organ of Gov. Vance, of North Carolina, Advising General Lee to Submit to Mr. Lincoln's Terms.

(From the Raleigh Confederate, April 7.)

The Conservative occasionally seems to fall into very mysterious hands, and to come under the control of an incomprehensible influence. On the day before yesterday the paper availed itself of a period of extreme reverses and disaster to renew the attempt to cast odium on our own citizens, which has been a favorite policy with its politics leaders ever since the reverses began, and after it was no longer politic to claim that they "made the revolution." Yesterday it sends to the public a leader of still more extraordinary import. From what we comprehend of it, it seems to be a distinct proposition to submit and surrender upon the terms proposed by Lincoln. This has never yet, as we can recollect of, been more distinctively proposed, even by journalists whose loyalty has been called in question. The Conservative says: "It is nonsense to propose to treat with the North with any expectation of concession that the confederacy is a government," and hence says the Conservative, "our authorities are determined to force this con-

