

1911-1915 Newspaper Accounts of
Barnes' Capture

DRAWER 13A

ACCOUNTS OF BARNES' CAPTURE

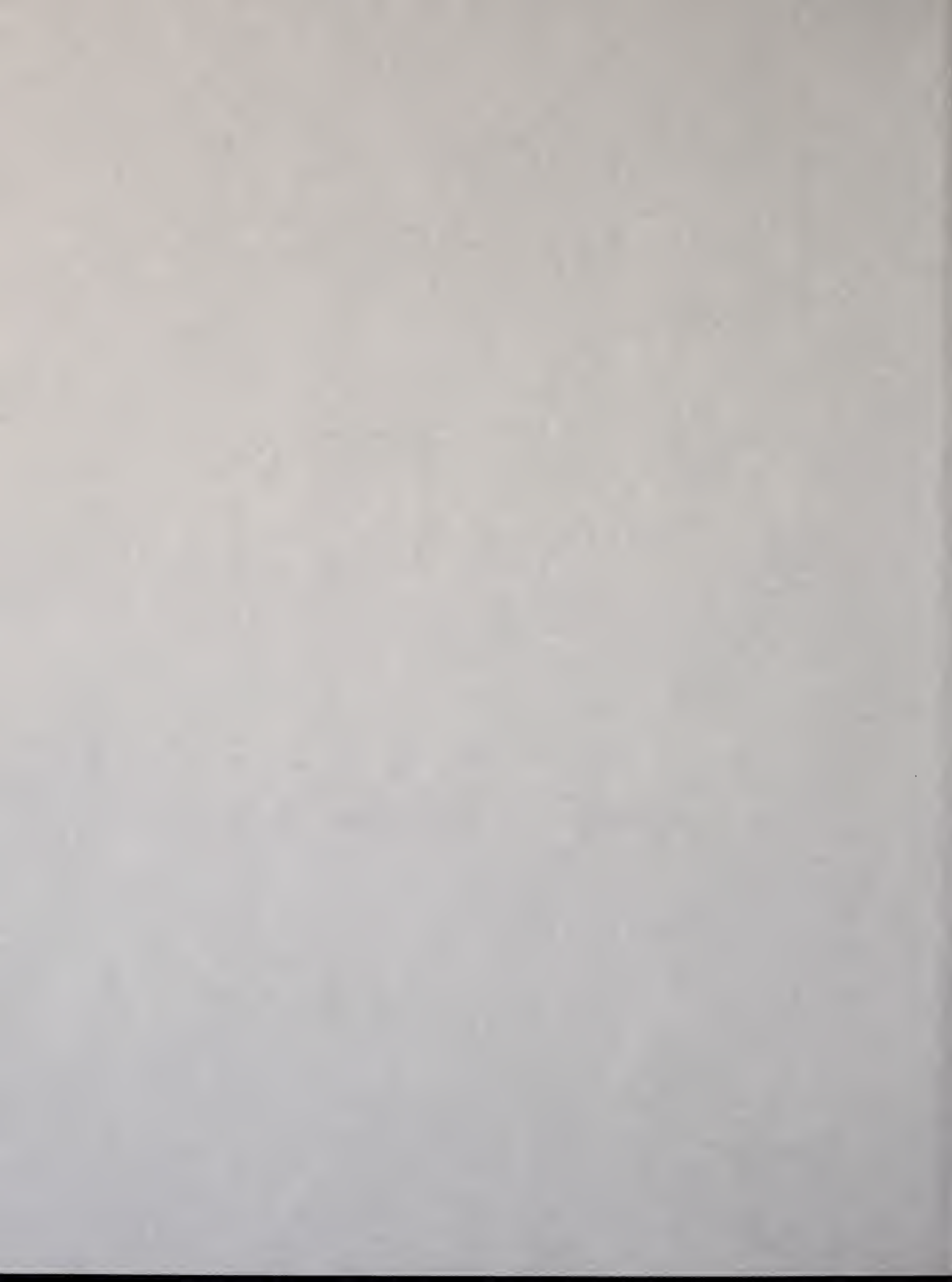
7 2001.085 03269

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

April 1865 Newspaper Accounts of Booth's Capture

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

Booth, the Assassin, in Pennsylvania.

HE IS RECOGNIZED AT READING.

His Friend Conceals His Presence Until his Departure.

READING, Pa., April 19, 9 o'clock P. M.—Booth, the murderer of the President, it is supposed was on the passenger train that left here at 8 o'clock for Pottsville. A gentleman noticed him on the train before it reached here, spoke to him and shook hands with him. During their conversation Booth colored up several times and appeared annoyed and desirous of avoiding observation. The gentleman is positive that it is Booth, he having known him for several years. Why he did not give the alarm at once or before the train left here, I do not know, but just as the train left he notified several of the officers of the road.

An extra train was immediately sent in pursuit of the train.

Telegrams were sent to all points upon the line of the road. The result is unknown as yet.

WASHINGTON.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE INQUIRER.]

WASHINGTON, April 19.

The Late President's Remains.

This afternoon the programme for the departure of the funeral train was changed, and it was determined to go direct to Springfield; but later in the evening it was decided to go to New York and then direct, but at a still later hour it is uncertain. It is highly probable, however, in any event, that it will pass via Philadelphia.

Visit to the President.

The committee of citizens of New York, Moses Taylor, chairman, had an interview with the President this morning. Mr. Taylor presented an address, signed by the committee and other citizens of New York, promising him confidence and the support of all classes and interests in the city of New York in the discharge of his high and responsible duties.

The President's Speech.

The President replied to the committee at considerable length. He thanked them for their expressions of good will, which were especially grateful to him at this juncture. He spoke of the fact that the vacancy left by the sad and sudden death of the late President had been filled so quietly and without interruption of the functions of the Government, as showing that our political system resting on the affections of the whole people, was the strongest possible system for emergencies such as those through which we had passed.

Treason to be Punished.

While he could lay down no positive policy for the future he said that the people had undoubtedly come to the determination that it should be shown that treason was to be punished. He said that the future administration of public affairs must be governed and regulated by events as they transpire. The remarks of the President met the heartiest approval and entire confidence of all the members of the Committee.

Arrests.

At the request of the Secretary of War, we refrain from sending any details of arrests made in connection with the late murderous assassination; and though some other papers refused to aid the Government, and sent everything correct and incorrect, we still decline to say anything until the proper time comes.

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a title or header.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or footer.

BOOTH'S APPEARANCE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Reading, Pa., 20th. Have just seen Lyon, a U. S. detective, from whom we get the following relative to the Booth affair. The report that Booth came to Reading in the train is correct. He was in Reading all day. The man that recognized him informed detective Lyon of his being in town, and that he knew it was Booth. Lyon immediately, in company with Miller, another detective, proceeded to trace him. They finally traced him to the depot, and ascertained that the man answering his description had got in a train which had just left.

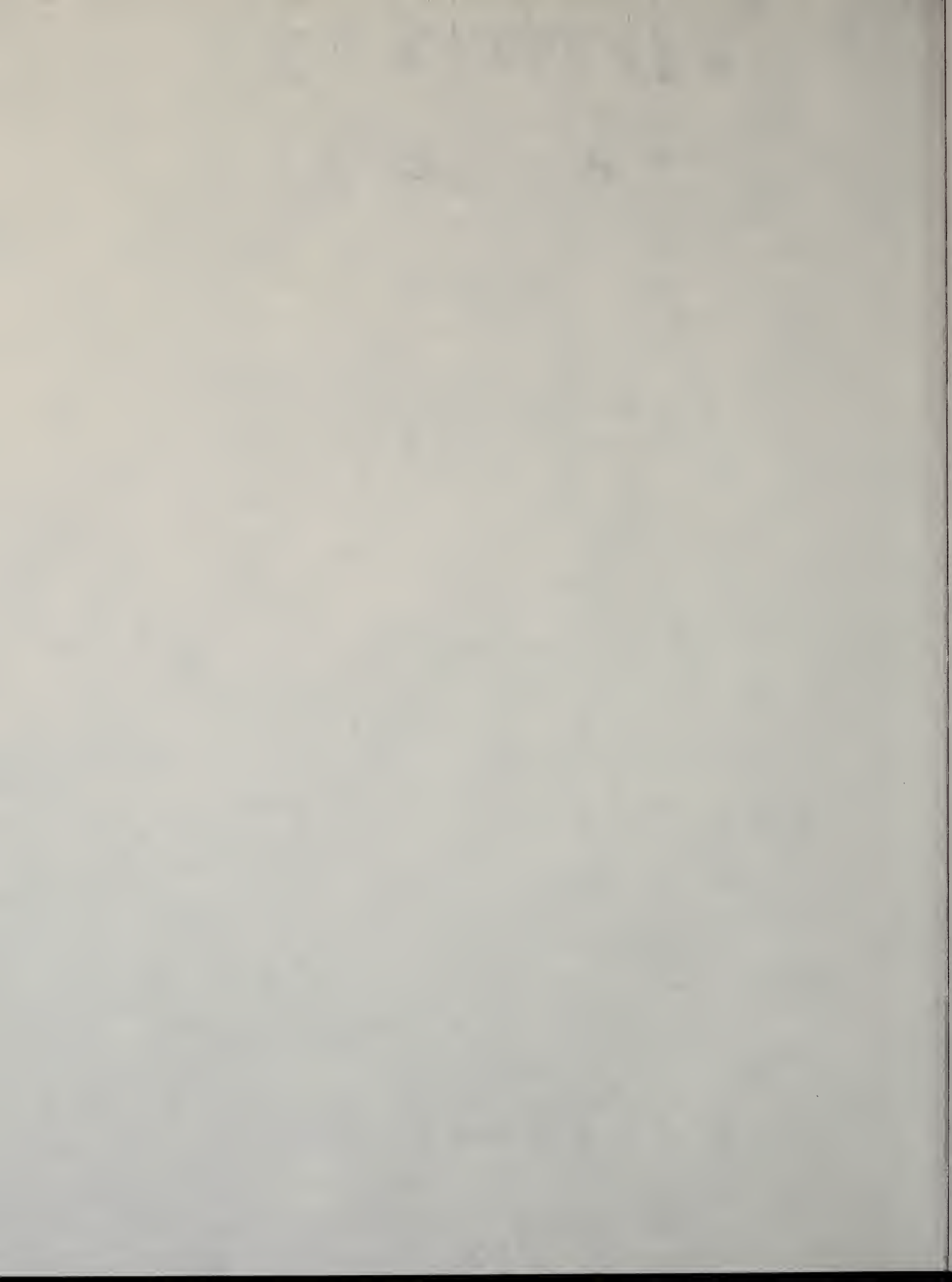
The facts were immediately made known to Mr. Nichols, the Superintendent of the Road, and efforts were made to telegraph to Port Clinton, but the operator not being about, an engine was fired up, and Messrs. Lyon and Miller together with the man who had seen Booth, proceeded at full speed to overtake the regular train. They did not overtake the train, but at Port Clinton were informed that the man described had got off there, but whether he went to the Cattaraugus train or not they could not ascertain. A despatch was sent to Salamanca to the conductor of the train, and in the meantime Port Clinton was searched. Upon the arrival of the train at Salamanca, the conductor telegraphed as follows: "The man is on the train."

Another despatch was sent to the next station for further information with orders for his detention. This forenoon at 8 o'clock Lyons received a telegram from Conductor Bright, dated Catawassa saying "no such man came through in my train."

Mr. Lyon states he is satisfied the man is Booth.

The measures being taken for his arrest are kept private for obvious reasons. The following is a description of the party on the train: "About five feet eight inches high, black eyes, black hair, short and inclined to curl, short black moustache, hair cotton in both ears, wore white felt hat, had a piece of crape on his left arm, wore a Lincoln badge on the right breast, and had on a black frock coat, with common military blue pants."

4/29/65



THIRD EDITION.

BY TELEGRAPH

TO THE

BOSTON DAILY EVENING TRANSCRIPT.

OFFICIAL.

THE PRESIDENT'S MURDERERS
CAPTURED.

J. WILKES BOOTH SHOT DEAD.

HARROLD SECURED ALIVE.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, 9.20 A. M., April 27, }

Major-Gen. Dix:

J. Wilkes Booth and Harrold were chased from the swamp in St. Mary's county, Maryland, to Garratt's farm, near Port Royal, on the Rappahannock, by Col. Baker's force.

The barn in which they took refuge was fired. Booth, in making his escape, was shot through the head and killed, lingering about three hours.

Harrold was captured.

Booth's body and Harrold are now here.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

PARTICULARS OF THE AFFAIR.

Washington, 27th. Yesterday morning a squadron of the 16th N. Y. Cavalry traced Booth and Harrold to a barn between Bowling Green and Port Royal, near Fredericksburg, Virginia. The barn was surrounded and a demand made for their surrender, which Harrold was in favor of doing, but upon Booth calling him a coward he refused to do so.

The barn was then set on fire, when its getting too hot Harrold again presented himself, and put his hands through the door to be handcuffed.

While this was going on Booth fired upon the soldiers, upon which a sergeant fired at him. The ball of the sergeant took effect in the head of Booth, killing him.

The party was under the command of Lieut. Edward Dougherty.

Booth was on a crutch. He lived two hours after he was shot, whispering blasphemies against the Government, and sending a farewell message to his mother.

Harrold was taken alive, and he and Booth's body brought to the Washington Navy Yard last night.

Booth was discovered in the barn by the cavalry. He declared his intention never to surrender, and said he would fight the whole squad, consisting of 28 men, if they would permit him to place himself 20 yards distant.

At the time he was shot it is said he was leaning on his crutch and preparing again to fire upon his captors.

THE PRESIDENTIAL FUNERAL CORTEGE

Passage Through New York State.

Utica, N. Y., 26th. At Herkimer 36 ladies dressed in white with black sashes, each holding in her hand a draped National flag, were ranged near the train. At Little Falls a large cross and a wreath of flowers was laid on the coffin of the President. Music and minute guns greeted the train on its arrival here. There have been appropriate demonstrations of respect and sorrow everywhere along the route thus far.

Syracuse, 26th. The funeral cortege arrived at Syracuse at 11.50. Thus far no accident has occurred. Although it is raining, there are at least 35,000 people witnessing the passage of the train at the place. The firemen are drawn up in line and their torches and the numerous bonfires light up the scene solemnly. Bells are tolling and cannon booming.

Lafayette, N. Y., 27th. The President's remains arrived here this morning, receiving ovations all along the route.

Lafayette, N. Y., April 27. Governor Fontenay was unable to accompany the funeral train from Albany, owing to the Legislature being on the eve of adjourning.

After leaving Albany, along the entire route to Schenectady, emblems of mourning were seen, and people stood by the wayside quiet but sad observers.

At Schenectady the people had gathered in large numbers. The station and private residences were draped. A military company was in line on each side of the track.

At Amsterdam was another large concourse with emblems of mourning, and bells tolled.

At Fonda similar marks of respect were paid with minute guns. At Palatine Bridge was a very large collection of people, and the depot was elaborately draped. Minute guns were fired and a dirge performed by a military band.

At Fort Plain were emblems of mourning. The scholars of the Academy were ranged in line.

At St. Johns-ville were 22 young ladies dressed in black skirts with white waists and black scarfs on the left arm. They were permitted to pass through the funeral car to see the coffin.

At Little Falls was a large concourse listening to a dirge by a band, blended with the village bells tolling and minute guns. A beautiful cross and wreath made of flowers was presented by the ladies of the place and laid on the coffin.

At Herkimer the crowd was very large and ranged on both sides of the road were 36 young ladies representing the States, dressed in white with black sashes; on their heads they wore wreaths of flowers. The effect was beautiful.

At Utica the depot buildings were draped and flags at half mast. There were minute guns, dirges, and tolling of bells. At least 25,000 people were gathered here. The train moved on amidst the solemn music of the bands.

At Oriskany and other places the people had gathered, and at Syracuse the depot was loudly elaborately and tastefully draped. In addition to gas lights, locomotive lamps illuminated the building.

The bells were tolled and minute guns fired. A band of music performed dirges and 100 voices chanted appropriate hymns.

THE WAY IN WHICH COL. BAKER'S DETEC-
TIVE FORCE went to work to smoke out the as-
sassins of President Lincoln deserves high com-
mendation. They fired the barn in which the as-
sassins had hid. They determined to drive them
from their coverts or destroy them where they were.
This method of dealing with these murderous ruf-
fians was exactly suited to the enormity of their
crimes.

POSTSCRIPT!

QUARTER TO FOUR, P. M.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

BOOTH'S CAPTURE AND DEATH.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

THE ASSASSIN'S DAGGER AND PISTOL
STILL IN HIS POSSESSION.

THE EFFECTS FOUND ON HIS PERSON.

His Desperation to the Last.

[Special Despatch to the Transcript.]

WASHINGTON, April 27th.

The body of Booth has arrived at the Navy Yard. He had crossed the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers, and reached a point near Port Royal on the Rappahannock.

He had with him his accomplice Harrold. Both of them were concealed in a barn, to which they were traced by a squad of twenty-six men of the 16th N. Y. cavalry.

The cavalry were under the command of Lieut. Dougherty. With them were two of Col. Baker's detectives.

The pursuing force arrived at the barn at 8 o'clock in the morning. It was too dark to see any object inside the building.

They called upon Booth and Harrold to surrender, which they refused to do. After parleying with them for an hour and a half the barn was fired.

As soon as there was sufficient light to see any thing Sergeant Boston Corbett of the 16th cavalry, quick as thought, shot Booth through the head.

Booth at the same instant sprang for his arms. He had two revolvers, one of which was a Spencer seven-shooter.

He had also a large dagger,—the same which he had in Ford's Theatre, and brandished on stage immediately after he had shot President Lincoln. The blood was still on the blade.

Booth fell the moment the shot was fired by the Sergeant, and died in about two hours. He begged that his life might be ended at once.

Harrold, just about the time the barn was fired, came out and surrendered himself, and tried to get Booth to do the same.

Booth talked desperately, and offered to fight the whole party if they would give him a chance.

His leg was bandaged. He said he fractured it when he jumped from the box in the theatre.

He had a few dollars in money, a £60 note drawn by the Ontario Bank in Canada on a Bank in London.

The last words of Booth were—"Tell my mother I died for my country." KAPPA.

PROGRESS OF THE FUNERAL CORTEGE.

[Continued from Third Edition.]

At Warner's, Memphis, Jordan, Weilsport, Port Byron, Savannah, Clyde, Lyons, and Newark, demonstrations similar to those already noted took place. On entering Rochester, minute guns were fired and bells tolled. The 6th regiment, together with the Reserve, Hospital soldiers and a Battery were in line. The Band played dirges. The streets are filled and the houses draped.

At Batavia Ex-President Fillmore joined the party in the train, besides other prominent citizens.

The train was met at Buffalo by a large concourse. The funeral party were entertained by the city authorities. A procession formed between 7 and 8 o'clock and marched to St. James Hall. The coffin was deposited in the hall beneath a crane canopy. The Buffalo St. Cecilia Society, an American music association, as the remains were brought into the hall, sang with deep pathos, "Rest, spirit, rest." The Society then placed a beautiful heart composed of white flowers at the head of the coffin. The public were then admitted.

TRANSCRIPT EXTRA!

FIVE O'CLOCK.

Latest by Telegraph.

MORE PARTICULARS OF THE PURSUIT OF BOOTH AND HIS ACCOMPLICE.

The Occurrences at the Place to
which They were Tracked.

Washington, 27th. The Star's account of the capture of Booth shows that he was traced by information from a negro, that the assassin crossed the river at Swan Point, paying \$300 for a boat. Lieut. Dougherty and a squad of cavalry discovered Booth and Harrold in Ganett's barn well armed. They surrounded them and in order to capture them alive, set fire to the barn, which had the effect to cause the latter to surrender.

While an officer was placing handcuffs on Harrold, Booth fired, which was returned by Sergeant Boston Corbett, the bullet striking Booth in the neck. Before dying, Booth said "Tell my mother I died for my country." He was shot about 4 and died at 7 o'clock in the morning. He was compelled to use crutches, which were found in the barn. Booth had some bills of exchange, but only \$175 in treasury notes.

It appears that Booth and Harrold left Washington together, on the night of the murder of the President, passed through Leonardtown, Md., and concealed themselves in the vicinity until an opportunity was afforded to cross the river at Swan Point. The man who hired Booth the boat was captured, but afterwards escaped.

Port Royal is a village in Caroline Co., Va., on the right bank of the Rappahannock, twenty miles below Fredericksburg.

EXCITEMENT IN PHILADELPHIA.

THREATS TO LYNCH INGERSOLL.

Philadelphia, 27th, 3 P. M. The arrest of Ingersoll caused much excitement. A large crowd collected around Spring Garden, where he was confined, and threats were made to lynch him.

Ingersoll's friends are endeavoring to take out a writ of habeas corpus, but so far have not succeeded in finding the Alderman by whom he was committed.

ARREST OF BOOTH'S SURGEON.

New York, 27th. The Post's Washington despatch says Dr. Mudd, who set Booth's broken leg, has been arrested.

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 27, 1865.

THE DEATH OF BOOTH, instead of his capture, may disappoint expectation; but it seems to us that it is most appropriate that the hunted assassin should meet his death by the hands of the officers of the law on his trail. He could or would have told nothing which cannot better be elicited from his accomplices, and the public is spared the spectacle of a melo-dramatic trial, with passionate declamations from paid advocates, bringing forward a plea of insanity, and ending in a defiant speech from the criminal, claiming a proud place among the killers of tyrants. Having done the deed of a devil, it was better that he should die the death of a dog.

PUBLIC OPINION. It is an easy and threadbare remark to make, whenever any sudden change takes place in public opinion in regard to popular men, that public opinion is ungenerous, unjust and ungrateful. But this remark, at such a crisis as this, has very little force, in view of the steadiness shown by the loyal people, in their adhesion to principles. That the multitude is capricious, is a trite saying. The multitude may be governed by mere impulses, led astray for a time by passionate excitement. "The people are not always right" said an English statesman. "The people, my Lord, are not often wrong," was the reply. Understand the intelligence of the people of the North, and it may be safely asserted that they can seldom be long deceived as to their judgment of men or measures. On some questions these judgments are instinctive and instinctively correct.

Such has been the case to a marvellous extent ever since the Slave-Power treason committed its first overt act. The persistent consistency of the best popular sentiment—with hardly an episode of lukewarmness or depondency,—in the free States has been a wonder almost to itself. That sentiment has insisted that rebellion should be treated as rebellion, that its armed hosts should be conquered, that its leaders should be treated as traitors, that its causes should be rooted out, and that democratic institutions should be saved in their integrity to the entire republic, without the abandonment of a particle of our nationality or an inch of our territory.

In its adhesion to this grand programme, popular sentiment has put aside all secondary considerations. Officials who have adhered to it have been sustained, though personally not favorites. Officials who have swerved from it, however idolized, have been put aside as false to the paramount duty of the hour. This has seemed, to prejudiced minds—loving persons more than principles—minds themselves awayed by passions and partialities incompatible with a clear-sighted, steadfast patriotism, like caprice.

There is no caprice about it. It is fidelity to convictions; such fidelity as makes men, however exalted in position, however splendid in genius, however successful in exploits on particular fields, as nothing,—when they weakly, wickedly, recklessly, or blunderingly violate its behests. The only heroes of the people, in a crisis when all the people hold dear is imperilled, are those who serve the cause of popular sovereignty, freedom and humanity—and the Union, for the sake of securing the supremacy of that cause. To abandon in whole, or in part the view the people take of the rebellion, and the policy they would have sternly carried out in dealing with it, is reason enough for censure of the greatest man on the continent—wherever, at any precise moment, he may be.

Whenever such a man yields anything to treason, it is himself, not the popular breath that dims the lustre of his laurels, that stains his hitherto unspotted fame. His grand achievements, as evidences of special abilities, will not cease to be admired. The good he has done will not be forgotten. But when he brings his mighty successes to throw them at the feet of the country's enemies, to purchase an ignominious, dishonour-

able peace, he throws, by his own act, himself headlong from his lofty place. Twenty millions of people cannot and will not stultify themselves, or ruin themselves as mere hero-worshippers. The universal condemnation, sad, but instantaneous, by men of all parties, of the negotiations in North Carolina, is a proof of this; and it is puerile in the extreme to talk of that condemnation as ingratitude or caprice, or forgetfulness of past victories.

GEN. SHERMAN AND THE ASSASSINATION. It has been questioned, in some quarters, whether Gen. Sherman knew of the assassination of President Lincoln, when he made the humiliating agreement with the rebel officials. The following order, dated April 17th, sets this matter at rest, as the disgraceful compact was not signed until the day following,—the 18th inst.:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF
THE MISSISSIPPI IN THE FIELD,
RALEIGH, April 17.

Special Field Order, No. 50.—The general commanding announces, with pain and sorrow, that on the evening of the 14th instant, at the theatre in Washington city, his excellency, the President of the United States, Mr. Lincoln, was assassinated by one who uttered the State motto of Virginia. At the same time, the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, whilst suffering from a broken arm, was also stabbed by another murderer in his own house, but still survives, and his son was wounded, supposed fatally. It is believed by persons capable of judging, that other high officers were designed to share the same fate. Thus it seems that our enemy, despairing of meeting us in manly warfare, begin to resort to the assassin's tools. Your general does not wish you to infer that this is universal, for he knows that the great mass of the confederate army would scorn to sanction such acts; but he believes it the legitimate consequence of rebellion against rightful authority. We have met every phase which this war has assumed, and must now be prepared for it in its last and worst shape, that of assassins and guerillas; but woe unto the people who seek to expend their wild passions in such a manner, for there is but one dread result.

By order of
Maj.-Gen. W. T. SHERMAN.
L. M. DAYTON, Maj. and Asst. Adj. Gen.

Albany Evening Journal
April 27, 1865

FIRST EDITION.

THREE O'CLOCK P. M.

BOOTH SHOT!

He and His Accomplice Chased From a Swamp.

They Seek Refuge in a Barn.

The Barn Fired.

Booth Killed and Harrold Captured.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 27—7:20 P. M.—
To Major-General Dix: J. Wilkes Booth and Harrold, were chased from the swamp in St. Marys county, Md., to Garrett's farm near Port Royal, on the Rappahannock, by Col. Baker's force. The barn in which they took refuge was fired. Booth was shot and killed, and Harrold captured. Booth's body and Harrold are now here.

E. M. STANTON, Sec. of War.

LATER AND FULLER.

Particulars of the Capture.

BOOTH FIRES UPON THE SOLDIERS.

HE IS SHOT BY A SERGEANT.

WASHINGTON, April 27th.—Yesterday morning a squad of the Tenth United States Cavalry traced Booth and Harrold to a barn between Bowling Green and Port Royal, near Fredericksburg, Va. The barn was surrounded, and a demand made for their surrender, which Harrold was in favor of doing, but upon Booth calling him a coward, he refused to do so.

The barn was then set on fire, and upon its getting too hot Harrold again presented himself and put his hands through the door to be handcuffed.

While this was going on, Booth fired upon the soldiers, upon which a Sergeant fired at him. The ball took effect in the head of Booth, killing him. Harrold was taken alive, and he and Booth's body were brought to the Washington Navy Yard last night.

Booth was discovered in the barn by the cavalry. He declared his intention never to surrender, and said he would fight the whole squad, consisting of twenty-eight men, if they would permit him to place himself twenty yards distant. The scouting party was under

the command of Lieut. Edward Dougherty.

Booth was on a crutch, and was lame. He lived two hours after he was shot, whispering blasphemies against the Government, and sending a farewell message to his mother.

At the time he was shot, it is said he was leaning on his crutch and preparing to fire again upon his captors.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The Star has the following particulars of the capture of Booth:

To Lt. Col. Baker, Special Detective of the War Department, and his admirably trained detective force, and to the Sixteenth N. York cavalry, active participators in the capture of the criminals, the country owes a debt of gratitude for this timely service.

It seems that a detachment of the Sixteenth New York Cavalry, numbering about twenty-five men, was dispatched from this city on Monday, under the direction of Col. L. C. Baker, Special Detective of the War Department, in command of Lieut. Dougherty, accompanied by some of Col. Baker's officers, captured and killed Booth, and captured Harrold, one of his accomplices, alive.

The cavalry, after leaving here, landed at Belle Plains in the night, and immediately started out in pursuit of Booth and Harrold, having previously ascertained from a colored man that they had crossed the river into Virginia at Swan Point, in a small boat hired by Booth from a man for \$300.

THE SHOOTING OF BOOTH. We find the following statements in the National Intelligencer of yesterday.

The orders direct to the cavalry were that Booth should not be shot, but should be taken alive if possible. Col. Conger found it necessary to knock down several men, in order to prevent them from leaving the ranks to go to the barn and shoot Booth. The excitement was intense, and it was with great difficulty that the men were restrained. Sergeant Boston Corbett left the ranks without orders, and placing the muzzle of his pistol through a crack of the barn, fired, and shot Booth through the neck. It is a singular coincidence that Booth was shot almost in the same place in which he shot President Lincoln, and that he died at twenty-two minutes past seven o'clock, the same hour and minute at which President Lincoln died.

THE PURSUIT OF JEFF. DAVIS.

MEDICAL THEORY OF BOOTH'S DEATH.

THE OTHER DESPERADOES.

New York, 29th. The Herald's Washington despatch says intelligence has been received that Jeff. Davis at last accounts was in South Carolina, and it is thought he will be intercepted before reaching the Mississippi.

The post mortem examination of Booth's body showed that the ball did not touch the brain, but striking the spinal column produced immediate paralysis. The opinion of the Surgeon is, that he must have died a horrible death, the brain being active and consciousness complete up to the very moment of his death.

Nearly all the parties directly implicated are now in custody. Payne, the would-be assassin of Secretary Seward, is a brother of the St. Albans raider. There are six brothers, all reckless and daring fellows. Two were with Walker in Nicaragua.

Edwin Booth arrived here today to ask for his brother's body. The request will not be granted.

