

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Southern Reactions

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

might hesitate to give him shelter openly, but he would facilitate his escape, or cover his retreat, if possible. Every incident of the assassination shows with what care the whole scheme was elaborated, and it seems idle to suppose that the arrangements for escape were not equally complete with those for the murder. We have never doubted that Booth might cross in a boat the negligently-guarded Potomac, and that once on the Virginia shore he would be hurried away into enemy's territory by guerrillas skulking near for that purpose. It is Southerners therefore, loyal, neutral, and hostile, who are to be tempted by great offers into surrendering Booth. We presume the spirit of Mr. Stanton's offer would include a delivery of the body of the criminal, dead or alive.

COMMISSIONERS OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

We print this morning an abstract of the Fifth Annual Report of this important branch of the public service. It will be seen that the affairs of the Department present a marked contrast to the state of things which prevailed when the Commissioners superseded the corrupt Board of Ten Governors. During the year past over 127,000 persons, embracing the indigent, the helpless, the sick and the criminal, have come under the care of the Commission, and the sum of \$729,543 has been disbursed for their relief. The Commissioners urge again the necessity of the amendment of the laws relating to the treatment of persons arrested for minor offenses; refer with pride to the success of their protracted litigation with the Emigrant Commissioners, by which the County of New-York will be reimbursed to a large amount, and ask that the Commission may be required to take care of their own patients sick of contagious or infectious diseases. A building is soon to be erected upon Ward's Island for the care of inebriates, in which it is hoped that the course of treatment to be adopted will go far toward restoring to society and their friends many persons now prostrated by intemperance. The necessity for an amendment in the course of Penitentiary discipline is urged; and various desirable reforms are recommended. Once more the evils resulting from wholesale and indiscriminate charity are dwelt upon, and other topics pertinent to the duty of the Commission are discussed.

Two members of the Board, Messrs. Draper and Grinnell cease their connection with the Commission in a few days, unless the Legislature should intervene. We regard their retirement from a position which they have filled with so much usefulness and credit as a public misfortune. Remembering what the Department was when they took charge of it, and considering how thoroughly and faithfully they have administered it, we cannot regard a change, at this time more especially, without apprehension and regret.

THE ASSASSIN MEN.

Sergt. J. M. Dye, Battery C, Pa. Ind. Artillery, stationed at Camp Berry, Washington City, in a private letter of the 15th inst. to his father, J. S. Dye, No. 109 Broadway, gives the following account of the conduct of Booth immediately before the assassination, which proves that he had a confederate on the ground, actively co-operating in his preparations for the bloody work. I learnt that they expected the President to leave the house at the close of the second act, and intent to have assassinated him between the door and his carriage:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., April 14, 1865.
"DEAR FATHER: With sorrow I pen these lines. The death of President Lincoln has deeply affected me. And why should it not, when I might have saved his precious life?
"I was standing in front of the theater when the two assassins were conversing. I heard part of their conversation: It was not sufficiently plain for an outsider to understand the true meaning of it; yet it apprised Sergt. Cooper and myself that they were anxious that the President should come out to his carriage, which was standing just behind us. The second act would soon end, and they expected he would come out then. I stood awhile between them and the carriage, with my revolver ready, for I began to suspect them. The act ended, but the President did not appear; so Booth went into a restaurant and took a drink, then came out and went into the alley where his horse was then standing, though I did not know that my horse was there. He came back and whispered to the other rascal, then stepped into the theater. There were at this time two police officers standing by them. I was invited by my friend C. to have some oysters, and we went into a saloon around the corner, and had just got seated when a man came running in and said the President was shot! This so startled us that we could hardly realize it, but we stepped out and were convinced. * * *
"Yours, J. M. DYE."

Mr. William Gowans, the antiquarian bookseller, advises us that the lines published in our last, which have been absurdly ascribed to President Lincoln, were written by a young Scotchman named Knox, who was regarded by Walter Scott as of great promise, but who early fell a victim to consumption.

Proclamation from the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, has signified his intention to personally attend the remains of the President while they shall lie within the limits of his State, and has issued the following proclamation:
A PROCLAMATION.
The remains of the murdered patriot, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, will arrive in the State on Friday evening next, on their way to the place of interment in Illinois. They will come from Baltimore to Harrisburg, thence they will, on Saturday, be conveyed to Philadelphia, and thence on Monday morning to New-York. I shall meet them at the State line, and take charge of them while in the Commonwealth. I recommend that all business be suspended during their passage through the State. Local authorities and people everywhere join the State authorities heartily in paying honor to the memory of the martyred statesman who has fallen a victim to the savage treason of assassins. By the Governor, A. G. CURTIN.
L. J. SHERIDAN, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The Richmond Whig on the Death of the President.

From The Richmond Whig of Monday last, which comes to us in the garb of mourning, we extract the following editorial:

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN!—The heaviest blow which has ever fallen upon the people of the South has descended. Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, has been assassinated! The decease of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, at any period, is an event which profoundly affects the public mind; but the time, manner and circumstances of President Lincoln's death render it the most momentous, the most appalling, the most deplorable calamity which has ever befallen the people of the United States.
The thoughtless and the vicious may affect to derive satisfaction from the sudden and irrevocable close of the President's career; but every reflecting person will deplore the awful event. Just as everything was happily conspiring to a restoration of tranquility, under the benignant and magnanimous policy of Mr. Lincoln, comes this terrible blow. God grant that it may not rekindle excitement or inflame passion again.
That a state of war, almost fratricidal, should give rise to bitter feelings and bloody deeds in the field was to be expected, but that the assassin's knife and bullet should flow the recent and best loved of the nation in their daily walks, and reach them when surrounded by their friends, is an atrocity which will shock and appal every honorable man and woman in the land.
The recovery with which the assassin or assassins pursued their victims indicates that there were but few accomplices in this heinous crime. The abhorrence with which it is regarded on all sides will, it is hoped, deter insane and malignant men from the commission of the infamy which attaches to this infernal deed.
We cannot pursue this subject further. We contemplate too deeply and painfully the terrible aspects of this calamity to comment upon it further.

The official return of the votes of the soldiers of New Hampshire, for members of Congress, show the following result:

Dist.	Union.	Democratic.
I. Marston.....	742	Marcy..... 41
II. Rollins.....	438	Clark..... 60
III. Patterson.....	629	Bingham..... 45

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION POSTPONED.—The opening of the International Agricultural Exhibition at Cologne has been postponed from May 15 to June 2, next.

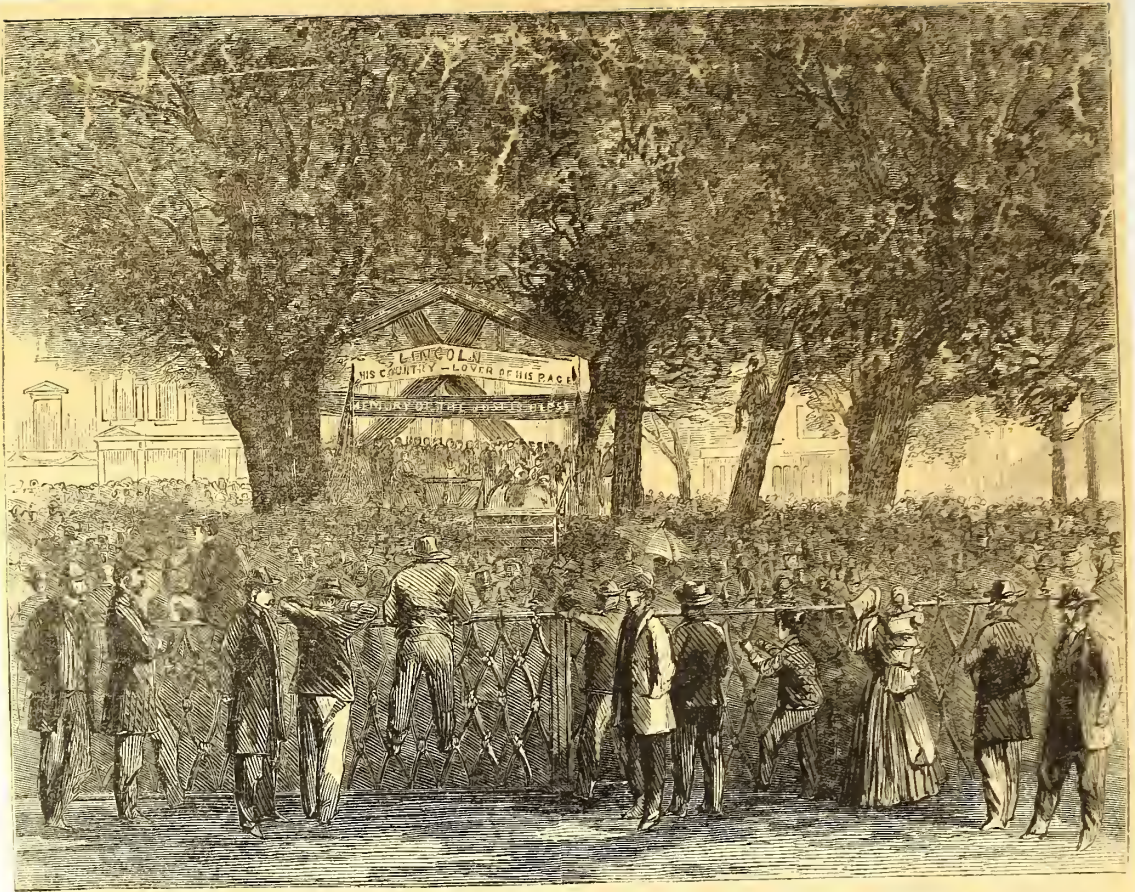
MATCH AT PIGEON SHOOTING.—Yesterday a match at pigeons, for \$300 a side, between John Taylor of Jersey City and Wm. Sead, better known as the Jersey Boy, came off at Greenville, near Jersey City. This is the third match that these well-known crack shots have contested, Taylor having been successful on the two previous occasions. There was a large attendance of spectators, and a good deal of money changed hands. The match was to shoot at forty double birds each. Mr. Taylor was the favorite \$100 to \$50, but his opponent, shooting with extraordinary precision and skill, won the match, Mr. Taylor resigning the contest after shooting at 31 pair of birds. The winner killed 58 out of 62 birds; the loser 45 out of the same number, thus losing the match by 13 birds.

RECORDED ?

—The Roman Catholic Bishop of Dubuque, Iowa, gives the following succinct account of a recent contemptible act from which he is suffering:—

"On last Wednesday morning, about 3 o'clock, my stable, coach house, splendid horses, grain, &c., were all burned down by the foul hand of some southern scoundrel, because I had, on last Sunday, strongly condemned the assassination of our late lamented and honored President. I forgive them, and may God forgive them. Loss about \$4000.

"CLEMENT, Bishop of Dubuque."



MEETING OF CITIZENS AT JOHNSON SQUARE, SAVANNAH, APRIL 22, 1865.—PHOTOGRAPHED BY READING & CO., SAVANNAH.
[SEE FIRST PAGE.]

LINCOLN'S TERMS OF PEACE.

N. Y. Sun.

1885

When the late Mr. Garrett, president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad company, wished for a little rest or recreation he was in the habit of causing his private car to be attached to one of the trains running west or south, and with his wife and perhaps another friend or two he made an excursion. At such times Mr. Garrett left his business behind, and, though deemed a man not given to much conversation, yet he then often narrated some of his experiences, especially of the time of the war and immediately subsequent thereto, in a manner that was absorbingly interesting.

Two years ago the writer met Mr. Garrett upon one of these occasions. The conversation turned upon the south, its risks and its losses entailed by inaugurating a civil war, and as some of Mr. Garrett's reminiscences have a special interest just at this time, I have written out from notes made soon after the conversation what he said. In speaking of Mr. Lincoln, President Garrett said:

"I never travel through the south without thinking what a dreadful climax, for the south President Lincoln's assassination was. During the war I often met Mr. Lincoln on business pertaining to our railroad, and in the latter part of his administration he used sometimes to speak to me of what ought to follow the return of peace, which he saw could not long be delayed. Had Mr. Lincoln been able to carry out his policy, and I think that the man who proved equal to that would have been equal to all that followed, there would have been real peace, and an early revival of prosperity in the southern states. It was a frightful retribution that followed the murder of Lincoln; but, after all, I think as I look it all over, that it was in one sense the result of the short-sightedness of some of the leaders of the confederacy. I mean that all that happened after Lee surrendered, including the assassination of Lincoln could have been avoided, had the confederacy not failed to make terms at the peace conference at Fortress Monroe. Every man of capacity in the south knew at that time of that conference what the inevitable was to be, excepting Mr. Davis. Now, I know it to be a fact, that when Mr. Lincoln was asked respecting the terms of peace that would be demanded by the federal government he just tore a sheet of paper in two, and wrote across the top of it just these words:

"On the part of the United States:

"The Union preserved.

"Slavery abolished.

Then pointing to the blank space beneath, he said: 'There, let them write their own terms underneath that.'

Mr. Garrett said that many of the southern leaders felt that the federal government could properly ask no less than that, and that the confederacy could ask no more for itself. Peace ought, they felt, to have been established then. Gen. Lee, with whom Mr. Garrett was on terms of special intimacy after the war, grieved greatly because the peace conference was a failure, for he could only look forward to useless shedding of blood after that. 'In fact,' said Mr. Garrett 'Gen. Lee, like Gen. Joe Johnston, realized, as a military man, that after the fall of Atlanta the end of the confederacy was near at hand. Like Johnston, and every other great general in the south, Lee understood that with the defeat at Gettysburg and the surren-

der of Vicksburg, the only military policy left for the south was that of defense long enough to obtain terms of peace that would not be humiliating. With the fall of Atlanta it was plain to Lee that the terms of peace would be just what the federal government chose to make them, and, as a military man, Gen. Lee told me that he often, though unofficially, protested to the civil authorities that further prolonging of the war meant only unnecessary loss of life and destruction of property. His pleas, however, were wholly without avail. Mr. Davis seemed to be convinced that the confederacy would succeed in establishing itself. There was much of the highest importance of the inner history of the last year of the rebellion that has been lost by reason of Gen. Lee's failure to write a history. In the very last interview I had with Lee he was a guest at my house in Baltimore. He had been telling me some of that inner history, showing, in his view, the war had been unnecessarily prolonged. I told him that he ought not to allow those facts to be lost to history, and that he ought at once to begin the preparation of an account of the war from his understanding of it that should be complete, and should, without hesitation, tell the whole truth. He told me that he fully intended to write such a book, but he thought that it was too soon then to do so. He had, he said, much valuable matter, many documents that would throw light, taken in connection with other facts that he personally knew, but which did not appear of record, on the last year of the war. I urged him not to lose a moment, but to begin the work at once, and before he left me he promised to set about it as soon as possible. It was not long after that he was stricken with his last illness.

"I don't think," continued Mr. Garrett, "that it was ever known how near Lee came to being arrested as one of the conspirators in the plot to assassinate President Lincoln and his cabinet. I know that Andy Johnson in some unaccountable way got the idea in his head that Lee was in that conspiracy. Somebody had told Johnson something, I have reasons for believing, that led him to think so. Johnson wanted Lee arrested at once, and I know that he proposed, if Lee was found guilty, to have him beheaded. Johnson told me that Lee couldn't be hanged, shouldn't be shot, and he would order him beheaded. A warm friend of mine and of Mr. Johnson's, who knew what was going on, came to me in great haste, knowing I had long been a personal friend of Gen. Lee's, and was also a warm friend of Gen. Grant. This gentleman said that Lee was in great danger of arrest, and that in the then excited state of the country it was hard to say what might happen. I at once telegraphed to Gen. Grant to meet me, and started for Washington. I met Gen. Grant a few moments after my arrival there. I told him what was in Johnson's mind. I have seen men black with anger, but I never saw such anger as Grant then showed. He was not passionate, but he was terribly angry. Said he: 'This is infamous—infamous! I will throw up my commission if there is the slightest attempt to do it, and if there be the shadow of a circumstance to justify even the faintest suspicion against Lee I throw up my commission, too. It's as impossible for Lee as for me.'

"I said, 'Can't you see President Johnson and his cabinet and tell them what you have told me.' He said he would, and he lost no time in doing so. He was very stern with Johnson. He said that if Lee was insulted by threat of

arrest he would throw up his commission at a moment's notice. 'Lee has given me his parole, sir,' said he to Johnson. 'You can trust every West Point officer who gives his parole.' Grant was so earnest and angry that Johnson was impressed, and he was a little frightened, too, by Grant's threat to throw up his commission. The matter was dropped, but there is no doubt but for Grant's action Lee might have been at serious peril. I myself told Lee about it afterward. He was deeply touched by Grant's conduct. Afterward, when Grant was president, Lee called on him at the white house, and was received with great consideration and courtesy by Grant.

"Gen. Lee had very many flattering and highly remunerative offers after the war, that I personally knew about; but he told me that he believed that he still owed a duty to the south. He believed that education was the great need there—an education, too, which should teach the young the duty of loyalty and love for the federal union, and he determined to devote the rest of his days to the simple work of a teacher. We had very great difficulty in inducing him to take the presidency of the branch road of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad built down into Virginia, for he feared that its duties might impair his usefulness at the college."

Beauvoir, Miss., August 31, 1889.

Major Walker Taylor:

My dear Sir: - Your attention has no doubt, been sometimes attracted to the revived, though baseless, accusation against me as having been connected with attempts to assassinate President Lincoln. As you were the only man who ever talked to me on the subject of his capture, or at least the only one who I believed intended to do what he proposed and was carefully guarded against any design to kill, the purpose being to get the advantage of possession alive, I thought I would write to you for such recollection as you retain of your proposition to capture and my declining to entertain it on the ground that the killing instead of bringing away the captive alive. It has been so long since I saw you that I may as well ask you how you are and how fares it with you. I am, as ever affectionately yours,

Jefferson Davis

Ry
From St. Matthews ^hBooster, April 17, 1930

HOW JEFF DAVIS RECEIVED THE NEWS OF LINCOLN'S DEATH. 1096

From the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

About April 13, 1865, I was sent under a flag of truce to Charlotte, N. C. Entering the town with E. M. Clark, a member of my company, as an escort, we were conducted to headquarters, a large upper room, evidently a school room, where the guard pointed out General Echols, a portly, fine looking man, commander of the post. Removing my hat I advanced to where General Echols sat, at one end of a long table, and laid my dispatches on the table.

"General Echols, I presume. These dispatches are from General Gillam. Shall I wait for an answer?"

"Please be seated," was all the general said.

Glauding around the room I saw sixteen or eighteen gentlemen, all, with one or two exceptions, in military uniform. Colonel Cal Morgan, who had been our prisoner a few months before, came to where I was sitting, and shaking hands said: "I believe you and I are not altogether strangers."

While we chatted a gentleman in a civilian Melton gray suit turned to address General Echols. The cold stare of a glass eye caught my attention and the features were not unfamiliar.

"Oh! Jeff Davis, and you here, pressed to the wall"—was by first thought. I saw, however, a much pleasanter faced man than our Northern papers had pictured. A soul of kindly impulses beamed from every feature.

A dispatch was handed to General Echols, who read and reread it with an anxious, earnest look upon his face. Half rising he passed the paper to Mr. Davis. General Echols sat at one end of the table with two gentlemen between him and Davis. Mr. Davis read it slowly and, handing it back, remarked, "Well, we have lost a generous enemy." I paid little attention to what Mr. Davis said, supposing one of our Northern generals had been killed or died. The dispatch went the rounds of all, finishing in Colonel Morgan's hands, who asked General Echols, if consistent, to allow me to read it.

"Oh, yes, give it to him," he said; when I read:

"Greensboro, N. C., April —

"Lincoln was assassinated the night of the 14th in Ford's Theatre. Seward was assassinated about the same time in his own house. Grant has marched his army back to Washington to declare himself military dictator.

(Signed) J. E. JOHNSON."

I cannot recall the exact date of the dispatch, but it necessarily traveled slowly, as we had cut all the telegraph wires, burnt bridges, torn up railroads and impeded travel all we could.

In laying down the dispatch in front of General Echols I remarked casually, "Pretty good pill, General, but too thickly coated." I presumed it was a doctored dispatch intended to encourage their men and dishearten ours.

It was not long until Mr. Davis left the room and several others followed. General Echols asked, "Mr. Thompson, where is Burbridge and his niggers?" "Just back of Lincolnton," I said. I was somewhat incensed and retaliated with "I see you have President Davis with you, General."

Looking around the room the general said, "No, Mr. Davis is not here."

"But," said I, "he was here a few minutes ago."

"Mr. Thompson, I am surprised at your asking any such question while here under a flag of truce," said the general.

"Oh, I beg pardon, General, you broke down that bar by asking about Burbridge and his niggers." General Echols, smiling, said: "Yes, President Davis is with us."

Soon after we partook of a hearty repast furnished by Mrs. General Echols and took our departure for our post.

A. H. THOMSON,

Late Lieutenant E Company, Twelfth Ohio Cavalry.

APR 1 1865

1 M PORTANT - CHICAGO

Grady, Henry W.

1 Grady: I will not be party to any bargain

A SOUTHERN TRIBUTE.

From Henry W. Grady's Address to the
New England Society.

"Great types, like valuable plants, are slow to flower and fruit. But from the union of these colonists, from the straightening of their purposes and the crossing of their blood, slowly perfecting through a century, came he who stands as the first typical American, the first who comprehended within himself all the strength and gentleness, all the majesty and grace of this republic—Abraham Lincoln. He was the sum of Puritan and Cavalier, for in his ardent nature were fused the virtues of both, and in the depth of his great soul the faults of both were lost. He was greater than Puritan, greater than Cavalier, in that he was American, and that in his homely form were first gathered the vast and thrilling forces of this ideal government, charging it with such tremendous meaning and so elevating it above human suffering that martyrdom, though infamously aimed, came as a fitting crown to a life consecrated from its cradle to human liberty. Let us, each cherishing his traditions and honoring his fathers, build with reverent hands to the type of this simple but sublime life, in which all types are honored, and in the common glory we shall win as Americans there will be plenty and to spare for your forefathers and for mine."

Wouldn't Bargain for Office.

While the convention that nominated Mr. Lincoln was in session he was somewhat nervous, but cool. "I haven't one chance in five hundred," he would say to me. I was always figuring out his chances, and this day I handed the figures to him. He replied, "Johnny, you are too liberal—far too liberal." In a few minutes a telegram came from Chicago asking him to agree to certain pledges and he would be nominated. He sat right down and wrote this telegram:

"I will not be a party to any bargains."
"A. LINCOLN."

—J. H. Littlefield.

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LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION

1823

Jeff Davis Thought it a Job Extra
Well Performed.

In the year 1886, Ben Perley Poore, librarian of Congress, contributed an article to the Boston "Budget", of which the following is an exact copy, from an old scrapbook: "The assassination of President Lincoln created a profound sensation in the south, where people believed it would bring upon them a weight of condemnation and severity of punishment they would not otherwise have been compelled to bear.

On the fifth day after the assassination, while Jefferson Davis was addressing a crowd of curious and panic stricken people from the steps of the residence of a Mr. Bates, in Charlotte, N. C., a dispatch was handed to him, as follows:

Greensborough, April 19, 1865.
His Excellency, President Davis:

President Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's theatre in Washington on the night of the 14th inst. Seward's house was entered the same night, and he was repeatedly stabbed, and is probably mortally wounded.

John C. Breckenridge.

Mr. Bates, whose guest Davis was at that time, later testified that Davis, after reading the telegram to the people, said: "If it were done it is better it were well done."

Soon after, Breckenridge, having come to see Davis at the Bates residence, expressed regret that Lincoln had been killed, as he thought it an unfortunate circumstance so far as the southern people were concerned. Davis replied: "Well gentlemen, if done at all I repeat it is well done, and if the same had been done to Andy Johnson, the beast, and to Stanton, the job would then be complete."

He Offered \$1,000,000 for Lincoln's Assassination

By HARLOWE R. HOYT

The recent offer of \$1,000,000 for the taking of Adolf Hitler proffered by the Carnegie Institute, while looked upon as a slaphappy idea, finds its forerunner proposition issued in the south during the Civil War. This is the first of two articles.

Reelection

The north was in a turmoil at the time of the reelection of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of the United States. The people were far from united in their approval of the conduct of hostilities. What had been looked upon as a 90-day affair had drawn out into a war of proportions never anticipated at the start. Every family had at least one member in the field or beneath it. The country was heartily sick of battle and asked only for a quick conclusion.

Added to this, the north was alive with spies and copperheads. There were many sympathizers who remained above the Mason and Dixon line, doing what they could to render aid and succor to their embattled southern brethren. The Knights of the Golden Circle were enlarging their scope and strength and it was indeed true that none could tell whether his next door neighbor was a supporter of the cause, as he professed, or a secret sympathizer doing his best to overthrow the union.

Nor did conditions improve materially as time went on. Evidences everywhere of treachery were so widespread that a goodly portion

of the territory about Washington lived in a state of constant jitters.

One of the most atrocious and, at the same time most daring of any plot was that to burn New York City. That this spot should have been selected was highly ironical since it was the city itself that first suggested withdrawing from the United States and this before the first shot was fired on Fort Sumter.

It was in November, 1864, that the scheme got under way. Robert C. Kennedy, one of the foremost actors, was captured and hanged. His story was that having escaped from Johnson's Island, he went to Canada, met with the Confederate representatives there, and with seven others was dispatched to New York City. The night chosen for the attempt was Nov. 25—that of the presidential election, when bar-rooms would be filled and streets alive with shouting partisans. Kennedy set fire to Barnum's Museum, Lovejoy's Hotel, the Tammany Hotel and the New England House. His associates contented themselves with starting blazes in their boarding houses. The effort proved pretty much of a fizzle but it did serve to arouse the fears of the metropolis as the truth became known.

But it was not until after the assassination of Lincoln in Ford's Theater on the night of April 14, 1865, the ensuing pursuit of John Wilkes Booth and the trial of the conspirators, that interest centered

upon the fact that the president had long been marked for abduction or death.

Volunteers

Long before August, 1863, a proposition was made to abduct Lincoln from Washington and deliver him to the Confederate cabinet at Richmond, Va. The volunteer was none other than Maj. Walker Taylor, nephew of Zachary Taylor, a cousin by marriage to Jefferson Davis himself, since Davis eloped with Zachary Taylor's daughter and made her his first wife. The offer was rejected and the reason given was that it was feared the president might undergo physical harm or even death in resisting attack.

In August, 1863, a Confederate soldier in camp near Fredericksburg sent a request to Secretary of War James A. Seddon, C. S. A., volunteering: "to take or slay persons who fill high places among our enemies." Seddon turned down the offer with the remark: "Duty requires all such schemes for deposing of those in high positions at Washington to be discouraged by the department and to be discarded by you. Laws of war and morality forbid use of such means of punishing even the atrocities of the enemy."

Yet despite this attitude, Davis and his associates were condemned as participants in the plot to slay Lincoln and denounced at the trial of the conspirators.

The offer of \$1,000,000 to kill the president played a big part in this.

Lincoln's Death Tragedy for South

Would Have Eased Reconstruction

Editor The Herald: Feb. 12 is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. As a teacher of American history, I have always stressed the fact that Lincoln was a real friend to the South and that his assassination was a terrible tragedy for the Southern people.

The war was over and the big question in everybody's mind was how the government was going to treat the defeated Southerners. Lincoln, in his second inaugural address a few weeks before his death, had said that their treatment should be "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

But there were certain members of Congress who were determined to punish the South. After Lincoln's death they were in control and put through the infamous Reconstruction Act which made the period one of the blackest pages in our history.

If Lincoln lived, he would have had a fight on his hands to carry out his program of leniency, but there is no doubt that he could have forced Congress to modify the severity of its measures.

The man who killed Lincoln thought he was doing the South a great service, but how wrong he was.

JOHN S. CUSTER

Had Lincoln Served His Term, South Might Have 2-Party System

By BOB CUNNINGHAM
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

IN THE LONG SWEEP of history conquering nations have not often given generous terms of peace to nations they conquered. Usually they have imposed harsh and ruinous treaties on the defeated.

The Federal Union after the War Between the States was no exception. It imposed on the conquered Southern states the Reconstruction Period, more than a decade of disenfranchisement, indignity and ruin.

But Reconstruction was forced on the South only after the South's best friend had been taken away. He was a friend on whom, it now seems, the Almighty had laid a sense of mystic powers. He had a program of statesmanship which would have given the South quick recovery and a not unhappy reunion with the sister states of the North.

If there are any "unreconstructed rebels" who doubt this, let Jefferson Davis himself speak. Fleeing Richmond after its surrender and with the pillars of the Confederacy falling in ruin about him, Davis said to Stephen Mallory, of his cabinet, after hearing of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln: "I am profoundly sorry. We have lost our noblest and best friend in the court of the enemy."

VERDICT OF HISTORY

That acknowledgment of the President of the Confederacy has become the verdict of history and of all objective biographers of both Lincoln and Davis.

It will always be an intriguing question over what effect the assassin's bullet had on the course of history. Had Lincoln lived could he have implemented his enlightened and healing policy—"binding up the nation's wounds"?

To accomplish his aims Lincoln would have had to heat down a group of powerful and willful men in Congress led by Thaddeus Stevens. But he had successfully overridden them before by the sheer justice of his aims.

These men were determined to treat the Southern states as conquered provinces. And after Lincoln's death they pushed through their Reconstruction measures, dividing the South into military districts. At the point of the bayonet the freed slaves were elevated to place and power, and the whites debased. Constitutional conventions and legislatures were elected with Negro majorities in some of the states. Meanwhile, out of the North swarmed adventurers—the carpetbaggers—taking over control of the freed slaves. They knew little of the uses of authority save its insolence. They passed obnoxious laws, imposed heavy taxes on which the war had left little to tax, voted huge bond issues and looted public treasuries. The states under such rule, slid into economic ruin and chaos.

\$400 MILLION FOR SLAVES

Contrast this state of affairs with the program of Lincoln. Even before the war he had advocated "gradual emancipation" of slaves with just compensation to their owners. He proposed a \$400,000,000 bond issue for that purpose. His Emancipation

ing. His youth was spent in grinding poverty.

Yet as he grew to manhood, somehow he developed the instinct of the student in the midst of affairs, and made himself a master of ideas, and of language as an instrument of that mastery. He devised for himself straight thrusts of speech that acted always like the application of light in dark places. He spoke like a swordsman who knew the temper of his blade and the seats of life which his sword could touch.

A prophetic event in Lincoln's career was the debate in Illinois with Stephen A. Douglas when both were candidates for the U. S. Senate. Douglas was the author of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, passed in 1854, which provided that the people of these territories could decide for themselves whether they would become free or slave states. It was known as the "doctrine of popular sovereignty."

In 1857 came the Supreme Court decision in the Dred Scott case in which the Court said that Congress had no power to bar slavery from territories.

"What," Lincoln asked of Douglas, "comes of the doctrine of popular sovereignty if the Dred Scott decision is accepted as law?"

Replied Douglas: "The territorial legislatures can hold back slavery, if not by actual prohibition, at least by hostile restrictions and impediments."

"Then," challenged Lincoln "a territorial legislature can do what Congress cannot do?"

DOUGLAS WAS STUMPED

And the country knew, and the Democrats whom Douglas led knew, how embarrassed Douglas had been for an answer. Lincoln led Douglas in popular vote, then lost the Senatorship in the legislature, 54 to 41. But Douglas' answers to Lincoln lost him the support of the South in his ambition to be President. And Lincoln's showing in the debate did more than anything else to make him the Republican nominee in 1860.

In the first Inaugural Address, with South Carolina already seceded, Lincoln said: "In your hands, my dissatisfied countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the Government while I have the most sacred one to preserve, protect and defend it."

On Nov. 19, 1863, Lincoln went to Gettysburg to dedicate the battlefield. The speaker of the day was the nation's most famous orator, Edward Everett. He spoke for more than two hours; and Lincoln, following, less than three minutes.

After the program William H. Seware asked Everett: "What do you think of the President's speech?" Everett replied: "I is not what I expected—I am disappointed."

Yet, a few days afterward, when Everett had studied the speech, he wrote Lincoln: "Your speech will live long after mine has been forgotten." To that appraisal the world has agreed.

SOUTH OFFERED HOPE

Daniel Boone not long after the battle, whereas many of Draper's accounts come secondhand from children or grandchildren of the participants.

In the appendix the compiler attempts to list the names of those in the fort during the siege but comes up with too many names, some of which, a few pages later, she explains could not have been there. I also found the miscellaneous biographical data in the appendix to be overly miscellaneous but interesting. Nevertheless, the compiler has collected some valuable narratives which both the serious student and the interested reader should find worthwhile.

This book may be ordered from the compiler at 2071 Greentree Drive, Richmond, KY 40475.

NEAL O. HAMMON

Shelbyville

When the Bells Tolted for Lincoln: Southern Reaction to the Assassination, by Carolyn L. Harrell. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1997. Notes. Bibliography, Index. Pp. 136. \$29.95.

Without question, few figures in American history have inspired as vast an amount of, historical literature as Abraham Lincoln. Indeed, Jay Monaghan's *Lincoln Bibliography* (1943) listed over 3,958 books and pamphlets. The years since the publication of Monaghan's work have seen the number of studies about Lincoln increase significantly.

With the recent publication of David Herbert Donald's Pulitzer-Prize-winning biography, some may wonder whether there is any facet of Lincoln's life left to be explored. In this respect, Carolyn L. Harrell, a writer from Houston, Texas, clearly breaks new ground with *When the Bells Tolted for Lincoln*. In the years after the conflict, few Southerners were candid enough to admit for posterity as did John S. Wise of Virginia that, "We greeted his death in a spirit of reckless hate and hailed it as bringing agony and bitterness to those who were the cause of our own agony and bitterness" (Curtis Carroll Davis, ed. *The End of An Era* [1965], 454).

Indeed, as Harrell points out, the few ex-Confederates who referred to the assassination in their published memoirs "were

generally reluctant to express any personal opinion regarding the murder of the President" (p. xi). While most came to regard Lincoln's death as a tragedy for the south, and others, including John S. Wise, repented of their hostility toward their fallen foe, "studied silence on the part of ex-Confederates," Harrell continues, "seemed to be the rule of the day" (x).

Although previous works, such as Michael Davis's *The Image of Lincoln in the South* (1971) and Thomas Reed Turner's *Beware the People Weeping: Public Opinion and the Assassination of President Lincoln* (1982), devoted chapters to the reaction of southerners, Harrell's work represents the first book-length treatment of the subject. Based on diaries, letters, and newspaper accounts, *When the Bells Tolted for Lincoln* offers a concise overview of the reactions of southerners to Lincoln's death during the Confederacy's final hours.

Harrell concludes that, overall, few southerners expressed genuine grief during the aftermath of the assassination. Nevertheless, most came to believe that the south would have fared better had Lincoln lived. However she also found evidence that reactions varied in intensity throughout the moribund Confederacy. The deep sorrow where slavery was strongest, the author contends, expressed token grief where Union bayonets held sway. Yet in Texas, one of the last Confederate bastions, most newspaper accounts exhibited "a maniacal glee" (103).

In the upper south, Harrell noted, "many reacted with shock and regret" (104). She found evidence of genuine sorrow in the border states which contained many Unionists. At the same time, Harrell found evidence of different reactions among various segments of southern society. For the most part, wealthy planters felt that Lincoln "got what he deserved," while the yeoman class appeared to react with relative indifference (105). In this respect, it should also be noted that southern women were just as prone to exult over Lincoln's death as their menfolk.

Although a well-written study of this long-overlooked aspect of Civil War history, *When the Bells Tolted for Lincoln* does not exhaust the subject. Students of Kentucky history will note that Harrell's newspaper sources do not include George D. Prentice's *Louisville*

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Although a well-written study of this long-overlooked aspect of Civil War history, *When the Bells Told for Lincoln* does not exhaust the subject. Students of Kentucky history will note that Harrell's newspaper sources do not include George D. Prentice's *Louisville*

Daily Journal—one of the most influential dailies in the nation. Indeed, the manuscript, newspaper, and secondary sources cited for the treatment of Kentucky might be regarded as a random sampling at best. While Harrell's bibliography is impressive, scholars may question whether her research was extensive enough to support some of her findings.

It is interesting to note that Harrell's work contains few references to how southerners viewed John Wilkes Booth. "Give Him a Sepulchre," a poetic tribute to Booth, reportedly circulated anonymously throughout the south after the assassin's death in 1865. Attributed to Alexander W. Terrell of Texas, the little-known work portrayed Booth as a fallen hero. In this respect, further treatment of how Lincoln's slayer was depicted in the south would have enhanced this work.

Although not an exhaustive study, *When the Bells Told* is a well-written, serious work that breaks new ground in Civil War scholarship. Harrell's work, it is hoped, will lead to further research on an aspect of Lincoln's life that has long been overlooked.

JAMES M. PRICHARD

Kentucky State Archives

John Uri Lloyd: The Great American Eclectic, by Michael A. Flannery. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1998. Contents, Index. pp. xviii, 234. \$34.95.

In this very well written biography of John Uri Lloyd, one of the key figures in the development of American pharmacy and the eclectic medical movement (c. 1875-1930), Michael Flannery ties together a number of divergent stories to help readers appreciate the changing business, pharmaceutical, and medical worlds of that era. Focusing on the communities of Cincinnati and northern Kentucky, the author describes a nation recovering from the horrors of the Civil War, prospering in a Gilded Age of laissez-faire business growth, and emerging into the new science of the early twentieth century. In an objective, evenhanded style Flannery traces Lloyd's rise from an uneducated rural life, through apprenticeship in an urban environment, to attaining the status of a highly respected figure in

American pharmacy and the acknowledged leader of the eclectic medical movement during the first quarter of this century.

Lloyd was raised in rural northern Kentucky by two well-educated parents who decided that their eldest son's strengths lay not in formal education but in the pursuit of a professional career in pharmacy. This lack of formal education, Flannery states, helped create Lloyd's lifelong inferiority complex and led him to strive to achieve respectability and the acceptance of his professional colleagues. After undergoing a rigorous four years of apprenticeship in two Cincinnati pharmacies, Lloyd's future was altered drastically when he accepted an offer by Dr. John King, a leading eclectic physician, to come work in H.M. Merrell's pharmacy and help develop and standardize new drugs for eclectic practitioners.

The author explains the nineteenth-century origins and growth of eclectic medicine, one of the many irregular medical sects which emerged because of the perceived failure of traditional medicine with its reliance on heroic therapies, such as massive bloodletting and potentially deadly drugs. The last sixty years of Lloyd's career found him championing eclectic medicine's cause of safer botanical drugs. Flannery clearly describes how this was a double-edged sword, as it provided much of the impetus for Lloyd's scientific and business creativity but also forced him to waste considerable time and energy, as well as some of his hard-earned reputation, defending eclectic medicine against repeated attacks by organized medicine.

After discussing Lloyd's life chronologically through his apprenticeships, Flannery organizes the remainder of the book to cover Lloyd's diverse career paths as a scientist, literary figure, bibliophile, political activist, and traditional head of his family. Making effective use of Lloyd's daily diary and his extensive correspondence, the author uses lengthy quotes to let Lloyd explain his views about society, the pharmaceutical business, and his goals in life, which included getting rich, building a great botanical library, and creating a large number of new botanical drugs which would be more effective and safer than those produced by regular medicine. His work in this latter area was well received by regulars and irregulars alike, as he received the highest awards given by the American

