

# The Centre Democrat.

SHUGERT & FORSTER, Editors.

"EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL MEN, OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL."—Jefferson.

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## The Centre Democrat.

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S. T. SHUGERT and R. H. FORSTER, Editors.

Thursday Morning, July 7, 1881.

### THE COUNTRY'S PERIL.

#### ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT.

#### Story of the Crime and the Criminal's Capture.

#### Condition of the President Still Critical but a Reasonable Hope of Recovery.

On Saturday morning last the country was horrified with the startling announcement by telegraph from Washington that President Garfield had been shot. It was an appalling dispatch, and many were at first inclined to doubt its truth, but, alas, subsequent information only proved that it was too true! Whilst waiting at the depot of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad, in the city of Washington, whither the President had gone in the early morning for the purpose of taking a train for his contemplated journey North, he was suddenly stricken down by the hand of an assassin, and has since lain in an extremely dangerous condition in the narrow confines which separate life from death.

Well may the country stand terrified in the presence of this monstrous crime. It was a deed of atrocious wickedness; for it there can be no excuse or palliation, and the life of the miserable and desperate wretch will be but a poor penalty for the calamity he sought to bring about. Thank God, there is still a ray of hope which gives assurance that the stricken President may yet survive his injuries, and not only throughout the length and breadth of our own land, North and South, East and West, but throughout the entire civilized world, there is but one sentiment among good people—that of profound sympathy for him in his suffering, and of earnest and sincere desire for his speedy and permanent recovery.

#### Late Telegrams.

On Tuesday afternoon ex-Gov. Curtin received the following dispatch from Philadelphia:

PHILADELPHIA, July 6, 1881.  
EX-GOV. CURTIN: Attorney General wires the following condition of the President: "Very encouraging and every one feels quite hopeful of his recovery."

The following were received at telegraph office yesterday:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 6—4.45 A. M. Garfield's recovery is said to be sure.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 6—8 A. M. President Garfield sleeping quietly and breathing naturally. Pulse 100.

LATER.  
At 2 P. M., yesterday, Governor Curtin received the following from Philadelphia:

PHILADELPHIA, July 6, 1881.  
President's condition growing more favorable.

#### The Story of the Crime.

President Garfield was shot on Saturday morning, at 9.20 o'clock, in the Baltimore and Potomac Depot in Washington. The President was about leaving for a trip to New England. He and Secretary Blaine were driven to the depot. There were fifty or sixty friends of the President in the depot waiting to see him off. Among them were the Postmaster General, Secretaries Hunt and Windom and their families. Col. Rockwell was there in advance with his son and Harry Garfield, the little son of the President. The President and Secretary Blaine entered the depot together. As they were passing through the main reception hall Chas. Guiteau, a disappointed office-seeker and pronounced by some to be insane, stepped up to the President and fired. He had a large California revolver, known as a "bull-dozer" and carrying a ball of large calibre. The ball entered the President's shoulder, although aimed for the heart. This wound was not dangerous. He immediately fired again, aiming for the stomach. The bullet entered the President's body between the tenth and eleventh ribs, on the right side of the spinal column, and passed down-

ward into and through the lower end of the right lobe of the liver and finally lodged in the anterior portion of the abdomen. The President fell to the floor, bleeding profusely. The would-be assassin turned and attempted to pass out by the B street entrance to a carriage which he had in waiting, but was stopped by Officer Kearney. "Arrest that man!" shouted the crowd; he killed the President!" and the officer fell upon him. "Yes, I have finished Garfield," he cried. "Arthur is President now. I am a stalwart of the stalwarts." And then he was hurried off to jail. Secretary Blaine at first rushed towards the assassin and then returned to the prostrate President. The Presidential carriage, still outside, was quickly dispatched for Dr. Bliss, who found the President in a very weak condition.

#### TAKEN TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

The excitement was intense. The news traveled all over the city in an incredibly short space of time and in a few minutes the depot was surrounded by thousands of people. The President was conveyed to an upper room, where he vomited. This made him so weak that the gravest doubts were expressed for his recovery. An ambulance was sent for and drew up to the door, and at quarter past ten the victim of fanaticism was borne mournfully from the depot, while the thousands without stood with uncovered heads. It might have been in the quiet recesses of some old forest, so respectfully and tenderly quiet was the assembly. Before the ambulance they gave way to the street above. Once on the smooth asphaltum of Pennsylvania avenue the ambulance team was urged to a gallop, and surrounded by mounted police, the cavalcade swept clattering up the street toward the White House. The waiting public had just begun to understand that the President was still alive. There was a great commotion along the avenue. Word was passed from mouth to mouth with much greater rapidity than a horse could fly that the President was being removed from the depot to the White House. The crowds rushed to the curb and awaited the approach of the procession. First came a mounted policeman, on a gallop, about sixty yards in advance of the police ambulance. In front of and surrounding the ambulance were eight other mounted officers. The vehicle was drawn by a pair of gray horses, which, under the lash of the driver, went at full gallop up the south side of the avenue. Col. Corbin, of the Adjutant General's office, sat on the seat by the driver, and three or four men on the steps in the rear. Several physicians preceded the cavalcade in carriages, and the rear was covered by four mounted officers. The gates at the east entrance of the White House grounds, south of the Treasury building, were thrown open as the ambulance approached, and the mournful procession entered. The crowds of people on foot who ran at full speed behind the escort were prevented from entering the ground by the closing of the gates, and policemen were stationed at every entrance to prevent people from invading the grounds. The ambulance was driven to the south entrance of the building and the wounded President was carefully carried to the northwest chamber on the second floor. Before the removal was effected the Secretary of War had ordered four full batteries and a mounted battalion numbering 150 men on duty, the first as infantry and the latter as cavalry. The gleam of bayonets shone around the Baltimore and Potomac depot within a few minutes and glistened over the green award about the Executive Mansion. When the Deputy United States Marshal tendered his assistance to the Secretary of War Mr. Lincoln gravely said: "I have charged myself with the public peace." He was very moody and much affected by the unhappy tragedy which so terribly reminded him of the death of his father by the hand of an assassin. Another military provision was the ordering of the District Militia to guard the District jail, where the prisoner Guiteau had been taken.

Once at the White House the President was made as comfortable as possible. Half a dozen of the best physicians in the city were called in. At first the news was given out that the wound was not necessarily fatal, and the President, who had never once lost consciousness, dictated a note to his wife at Long Branch. It was this: Mrs. GARFIELD, Elberon, Long Branch: The President wishes me to say to you from him that he has been seriously hurt. How seriously he cannot yet say. He is himself and hopes you will come to him soon. He sends his love to you.

#### A. F. ROCKWELL.

As the afternoon wore on the President's symptoms grew worse and it was telegraphed all over the world that there was but very slight ground for hope. The President conversed freely with those about him and was very anxious for the arrival of his wife. She left Long Branch shortly before 1 o'clock on a special train, placed at her disposal by the Pennsylvania Railroad. The distance is about 200 miles and she reached Washington in less than six hours. From Gray's Ferry to Bay View, a distance of 96 miles, the train traveled in 100 minutes. What a journey that was to one sorrowing, grief-stricken woman! She was accompanied by a special agent of the railroad and members of her own family. From Long Branch to Philadelphia the distance was made with but a single stop. She was shown no dispatches at Philadelphia. Members of the party, with trembling hands, received a dispatch saying the President's condition was encouraging, yet what hope could be

given her where all was uncertainty even to the President's physicians? Mrs. Garfield arrived about half-past six. The President was conversing with Secretary Hunt and others around his bedside and his quickened ear caught the sound of the carriage wheels below. "That is she," he said, turning his face with a glad smile toward his watchers, and so it was. Attorney General MacVeagh assisted Mrs. Garfield to alight and conducted her upstairs to her husband. She was weeping. Her eyes were red and swollen, but she bore herself with much fortitude. "She is a plucky little woman," said the President, when he was questioned as to the propriety of her being shown to his bedside, and so she proved herself. She took off her things as she went up and going to the bedside spoke cheerfully and hopefully of his recovery. Dr. Bliss had said: "You have one chance of recovery." "I embrace that chance," replied the President. Mrs. Garfield smiled through her tears and spoke sweetly of his dearness to her and the impossibility of her being called upon to lose him in such a way and hour as this. All through the interview she showed herself strong and self-reliant, as if she had effectually schooled herself to bear the worst. Mrs. Blaine, Mrs. MacVeagh and all members of the Cabinet were present, besides the attendant physicians.

#### THE SCENE AT NIGHT.

A large crowd assembled outside the grounds early in the day and throngs of excited and anxious people paraded up and down all the afternoon, catching greedily at every rumor that came from within the gates. The crowd was greatly augmented at night and the anxiety increased with each report of his condition. Up in the White House offices assembled a large body of special correspondents, some about the doors of the Private Secretary, in whispering groups near the great windows, and writing out their notes at various official desks. Reports of the situation came out every minute or two and were greatly conflicting. The most hopeful took their cue from Dr. Bliss, who appeared to be the most sanguine of those in attendance. He thought the President improving. A number of prominent Washington ladies and the ladies of various high official households sat in the ante-rooms below stairs waiting to hear various bulletins as they came from the wounded President's chamber. Of all these people watching and waiting not one was as cheerful and self-possessed as the wounded President. He bore his suffering without a murmur, had a word and a smile for every man who entered and a joke for the ladies. Mrs. Garfield sat at his bedside, "as lively as a cricket," as Mr. Blaine put it. In the library was a remarkable group. Around the colored-globed lamp on the round table sat Mr. Blaine, dictating dispatches. On the opposite side was the Postmaster General, who, with Robert Lincoln, enjoyed their cigar while waiting for returns from the sick room. Secretary Windom could be seen through the open folding-doors, pacing slowly and meditatively up and down the corridor. Attorney General MacVeagh, the small figure in the group, stood looking on with hands folded behind his back. There was Mrs. Hunt on a sofa on one side, talking in whispers to Mrs. James, while on the opposite side, over against the wall, sat the Secretary of the Navy alone with his cigar. Young Harry Garfield stood looking into the lamp without a word. It was a group for an artist, and all the while all eyes sought the open door of the wounded President's chamber. All remained until a late hour and retired with a more hopeful feeling.

#### THE ASSASSIN.

Charles Guiteau, the man who shot the President, is a man of no character whatever. When taken to the jail he had this letter in his pocket:

JULY 2, 1881.

TO THE WHITE HOUSE: The President's tragic death was a sad necessity, but it will unite the Republican party and save the republic. Life is a flimsy dream and it matters little when one goes. A human life is of small value. During the war thousands of brave boys went down without a tear. I presume the President was a Christian and that he will be happier in Paradise than here. It will be no worse for Mrs. Garfield, dear soul, to part with her husband this way than by natural death. He is liable to go at any time, anyway. I had no ill will toward the President. His death was a political necessity. I am a lawyer, a theologian and a politician. I am a stalwart of the stalwarts. I was with General Grant and the rest of our men in New York during the canvass. I have some papers for the press which I shall leave with Byron Andrews and his co-journalists, at 1420 New York avenue, where all the reporters can see them. I am going to the jail.

#### CHARLES GUILTEAU.

This showed that the crime was premeditated, and on the way to the jail Guiteau said he went to Long Branch to kill the President there, but the condition of Mrs. Garfield awoke his sympathies. He sent a letter to General Sherman, stating that he had shot the President and was going to jail. Byron Andrews declares that he knows nothing about Guiteau. He is a native of Illinois, about forty years of age, and has been known in Chicago for the past ten years as a shyster lawyer. He was always considered as "strange," to say at least. For several months he has been in Washington and was a persistent applicant for a Consulate. At one time he tried to lecture and was looked upon with West as a dead beat. He was a fanatic on temperance. The office he wanted was the Consulate to Marseilles.

#### Guiteau, the Assassin.

#### HIS BROTHER'S ACCOUNT OF HIS LIFE.

Boston, July 2.—Guiteau's brother, in this city (John W. Guiteau), in giving an account of the assassin's early history, says: Charles Julius was born in Freeport, Illinois, in 1841 or 1842. He was one of the children of L. W. Guiteau, late cashier of Second National Bank, of Freeport, Illinois. Mr. Guiteau, Sr., died recently, aged seventy years, and was one of the oldest and most esteemed citizens of the place. As a youth Charles Julius is reported to have been a good, tractable boy, with nothing to mark him as either better or worse than the average of his associates. Several years before he became of age while preparing for college at the University of Michigan he conceived the idea of joining the Oneida Community and did so. He dwelt there for some years, and subsequently left because he could not live up to the restrictions of the order. Full of anger he threatened to issue a publication exposing the peculiarities of the Community, but was prevented from doing that by an article written by John H. Noyes, the recognized head of the Community. Immediately afterward he entered upon the study of law in the office of Geo. Scovill, a brother-in-law, in Chicago. He was admitted to the bar in that city about eighteen years ago, but is said to never have had other than small office practice in way of bill collecting and such like small work. It is reported that he was prosecuted and fell into bad odor in that city on account of collecting sums of money which he failed to turn over to owners. He eventually had to leave town.

The assassin has been traveling more or less for a year or two past throughout New England as a lecturer, and assuming the title of lawyer and theologian. He once claimed to be an honorable, and his brother telling him that he had no claim to such title, having never borne political honors, he replied that any lawyer was an honorable, and he knew a lawyer in Chicago who had been in the State Prison who advertised himself as an honorable. This and the matter of numerous unpaid board bills in Boston led to a wordy controversy, which resulted in Charles being expelled from his brother's house, and subsequently violently ejected from his office, as he would neither take advice nor mend his evil ways and fraudulent practices. This was about fourteen months ago. Charles has been in jail in New York for debt. He has been shown up by Chicago and New York papers for irregularities and has sued them in return for libel, with no favorable result to himself. At one time he formed a scheme to buy the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* and asked the president of the Second National Bank of Freeport, Ill., to loan him \$25,000 with which to purchase it, promising the president of the bank as an inducement that he would secure his election as Governor of Illinois. The project was not entertained. In numerous places Charles Julius has lectured to very small audiences, advertising himself as Charles J. Guiteau, the celebrated Chicago lawyer of eminence and ability, etc., and skipping out without paying his hotel and other bills. The brother above quoted says that he never knew that Charles was a drinker or given to any ruinous species of dissipation; that he has seen little of him for twenty years, but has often heard from, or, rather, of him; that he has long considered him crazy and expected sooner or later, if he lived, that he would bring up in a lunatic asylum or meet a worse fate.

#### Telegrams.

Secretary Blaine cabled the news to the American Minister at London, with instructions to inform our ministers in Europe.

Telegrams of condolence were received from all quarters, among them the following:

NEW YORK, July 2.  
TO J. G. BLAINE, Secretary of State:

Your 6.45 telegram is very distressing. I still hope for more favorable tidings and ask you to keep me advised. Please do not fail to express to Mrs. Garfield my deepest sympathy.  
C. A. ARTHUR.

#### GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, N. Y.

TO GEN. W. T. SHERMAN, Washington: I trust that the result of the assault on the life of the President to-day may not have fatal consequences and that in the interests of the country the act may be shown to have been that of a madman. Thanks for your dispatch and for your promise of further information.  
W. S. HANCOCK.

The following dispatch has been received by Secretary Lincoln from Gen. Grant:

ELBERON, N. J., July 2.  
TO SECRETARY LINCOLN, Washington:

Please dispatch me the condition of the President. News received conflicts. I hope the most favorable may be confirmed. Express to the President my deep sympathy and hope that he may speedily recover.  
U. S. GRANT.

MAYOR KING TENDERS THE SYMPATHY OF PHILADELPHIA.  
SECRETARY BLAINE:

The people of the city of Philadelphia are profoundly grieved at the news of the attempt to assassinate the President and the hope is universal that his wounds are not mortal and that his life may be spared. They await with deep anxiety intelligence of the condition of the President and I trust you may be able to send to them some assuring word to that effect.  
SAMUEL G. KING,  
Mayor of Philadelphia.

At 7 o'clock last evening, the Mayor, who had remained at his office, received the following reply to his telegram:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 2—6.30 P. M. SAMUEL G. KING, Mayor of Philadelphia. Secretary Blaine is with the President, whose condition is very grave and critical. The members of the Cabinet express the high appreciation with which the kind words of sympathy of the city of Philadelphia have been received.

#### WALKER BLAINE, Private Secretary.

#### SYMPATHY FROM ENGLAND.

Sir Edward Thornton and Mr. Victor Drummond called upon the Secretary of State, who was in attendance upon the President at the Executive mansion, between four and five o'clock, and delivered to him a copy of the following dispatch, with many expressions of deep sorrow at the great tragedy:

#### LONDON, July 2, 5 P. M.

WASHINGTON, July 2.—Is it true that President Garfield has been shot at? If so, express at once great concern of Her Majesty's government and our hope that report he has sustained serious injury is not true.  
EARL GRANVILLE.  
FOREIGN OFFICE, LONDON.

The Secretary of State has received from Sir Edward Thornton, the British minister, the following telegram, dated London, 10:25 P. M.:

TO SIR EDWARD THORNTON, British Embassy, Washington:

The Queen desires that you will at once express the horror with which she has learned of the attempt upon the President's life and her earnest hope for his recovery. Her Majesty wishes for full and immediate reports as to his condition.  
LORD GRANVILLE.

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, July 4.—The Secretary of State furnishes the following with a request that it be given the widest possible circulation:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
WASHINGTON, July 4, 11 P. M.

#### To the Press:

On behalf of the President and Mrs. Garfield I desire to make public acknowledgement of the very numerous messages of condolence and affection which have been received since Saturday morning. From almost every State in the Union, from the South as bountifully as from the North, and from countries beyond the sea have come messages of anxious inquiry and tender words of sympathy in such numbers that it has been found impossible to answer them in detail. I, therefore, ask the newspapers to express, for the President and Mrs. Garfield, the deep gratitude which they feel for the devotion of their fellow-countrymen and friends abroad in this hour of heavy affliction.  
JAMES G. BLAINE,  
Secretary of State.

#### Hopes and Fears.

VARYING REPORTS FROM THE BESIDE OF THE WOUNDED MAN.

Special Dispatch to the Philadelphia Press.

WASHINGTON, July 4, '81.—Varying reports of the President's condition were given between the official bulletins. The news was very unsatisfactory. Dr. Hamilton had said in the morning that if the pulse of the patient did not rise he should regard his chances of recovery favorable. The next bulletin showed the pulse had gone up from 108 to 110. It was difficult to obtain satisfactory information from the physicians. They talked both ways and hoped for the best. The members of the Cabinet, except Mr. MacVeagh expressed themselves with great hope and confidence of the President's recovery. Mr. James in particular was very sanguine. "He is not going to die," said the Postmaster General. "I never had believed he would die, and I am more convinced now that he will get well than ever before. There is a fighting chance for the President and he will win." Secretary Kirkwood at 3 P. M. said: "The President appears to be doing as well as could be expected. He is not growing worse, and in my judgment that is much in his favor. Every hour that passes now is important, and if he does not fail it seems to me he must be doing well."

SECRETARY WINDOM may lock the report showing the fraudulent doings in his department in his desk, but he was too late in doing so. Public curiosity had already been too much excited by the developments given, and the public interests are too closely identified with honest administration, to rest satisfied with Windom's stifling process. John Sherman was seriously smirched, his subordinate were shown to be robbers and thieves, and the Department a mere rendezvous from which to disperse their plunder to the initiated ringsters. These things were made too prominent for the Secretary to cover up as a hidden mystery under the key of his desk. His continuing to do so will add strength to the belief already existing that it only requires a brief service of four years in the Treasury Department to convert a poor man into a millionaire.

SENATOR JOHNSON, of Virginia, reports the prospects of the Democracy in the Old Dominion, as very flattering. He says the party were never in better condition, or more certain of success. From advice in his possession, from all parts of the State, he claims a Democratic majority of from thirty to forty thousand.

THE expressions of sympathy and condolence that reach President Garfield in his great affliction are not bounded by sectional lines. The entire people of the South are as fervent and sincere in their sorrow, and detest the hateful crime of which the President is the victim, as the people of the North.

THE Pennsylvania Railroad Company are still extending their lines. On Friday last the company assumed control of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore road, which gives them an unbroken connection between New York and Washington.

IT is not a pleasant thing to contemplate Vice President Arthur in the White House. This fact gives fervency to the hope that President Garfield may recover.

THE Albany contest for Senator still continues in a dead-lock without affording much hope to any of the present contestants of a successful issue. It has already been fruitful of sufficient scandal to prove that the Legislature of New York is composed largely of a dirty set. The last scandal places ex-Senator Platt in questionable association with lewd company, discreditable to him certainly, but not more degrading or mean than the means used by the half-breeds to degrade him, even if it were not a set-up job of their own. Their job, or espionage into the private habits of the ex-Senator, which ever it be, was effectual however in driving him out of the contest. He withdrew.

THE canvass of aspirants for the next Speakership of the House of Representatives is assuming considerable activity amongst the Republican Statesmen. The most prominent candidates spoken of are Hiscock, Barrows, Judge Kelley, Robeson and Kassar. It might, and it is not unlikely that it may occur, that Republican Statesmen will not have exclusive control in the election of Speaker in the next Congress. Party lines closely draw, will not admit of much bragging on either side.

GOV. FOSTER, on a late visit to Washington, is reported as having expressed doubt of Senator John Sherman's sincerity in favor of his re-election as Governor of Ohio. It certainly would be strange, and show a degree of meanness that would be difficult to credit to Sherman, if the Governor's suspicion is not well founded. After the treachery of which he was a victim at Chicago, Sherman would be more than mortal if he failed to embrace a favorable opportunity to resent it.

A PARTY of Hungarian miners, it is said, were recently poisoned in Wilkesbarre by lurching on bologna sausage, and washing it down with bad whiskey. It might be worthy of inquiry by some of our temperance statisticians, whether it was the bologna or the bad whiskey that poisoned the party. It is reported that five of the thirteen composing the party died from the mixed dose.

JUDGE BRIGGS, of Philadelphia, is receiving very severe and apparently just criticism of his course in a late trial of a pair of ballot-stuffers. If these strictures upon his official integrity and fitness to administer impartially the laws for the punishment of crime, are warranted by the facts in the case, they are certainly, to say the least, not flattering to judicial decency in Philadelphia.

OF the twenty-five persons placed upon the pay rolls of the last legislature as employes of the State, from the city of Philadelphia, it is said that only nine discharged the duties in person. The balance either employed substitutes at low figures in compensation, or failed to perform any of the services for which the State paid them.

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