The Press.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1865.

THIS DAY,

THE OBSEQUIES

OF THE

LATE PRESIDENT,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

A Ceremonial will take place on this day at Washington, which will be marked by the greatest and most profound grief that any nation has ever felt—a grief which has for the last few days quenched our pride in the deepest tribulation, and rendered us apathetic even to the last triumphs which have written themselves in our history.

The Obsequies of the late Chief Magistrate of the United States, the victim of a dastardly assassination, will be attended to-day by thousands who visit Washington with the sole view of doing honor to his memory and appeasing their own overwhelming sorrow. And thus closes the last impressive scene, after the end of the mortal life of one whom we conscientiously believe to have been the purest, most genuine, and straight-forwardly unswerving man who has ever filled the chief position in our Government.

That he had faults we care not to deny. Who is there that can lay claim to complete spotlessness in the eyes of the Almighty? But these faults were errors of judgment that in other men would well nigh take rank as virtues. They were chiefly caused by his largely-benevolent kindness of heart and amiability of disposition. As a ruler and statesman his singleness of character and upright honesty of purpose make him only second—if, indeed, he be second—to GEORGE WASHINGTON in the whole history of State-craft and Government.

These two men stand alone, and we seriously question whether the mournfully atrocious character of ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S death will not give him the first place in the great national memory which, without distinction of party or political creed, has pronounced unhesitatingly his eulogium.

He was most emphatically "our father," and has died a Martyr for his children and that Union which is at the same time our dearest inheritance and our greatest blessing.

Standing now in the presence of his Maker, he will present as clear and blameless a record as human ruler has ever laid before that God. The errors which he may have had, but to which his pre-eminent excellence blinds our eyes, will ask for that mercy which will not be refused him, as he stands, conscious of them, yet hopeful, before the Eternal Throne.

MURDER WILL OUT.

Public and ostentatious as was the murder of the President of the United States and its savage accompaniment at the residence of Secretary SEWARD, it is, nevertheless, shrouded with a strange, and, as yet, almost impenetrable mystery. If it be true that the leaders of this carnival of blood have been taken, much remains to be discovered before we can see the ramifications of what really appears to have been a most carefully-digested and cold-blooded conspiracy, to which modern history furnishes no parallel, and which the darkest ages, even with the aid of the exaggerations of romance, have never surpassed. In this case the objects which the victims had aimed at were decidedly of the highest and purest. They were identified with the sublimest struggle for true civilization and regulated liberty, and in the effort to maintain these bulwarks of human happiness they were forced to resist the infuriated assaults of another and an antagonistic system, based upon the right to hold man in bondage. It was doubtless because this resistance had been or was about to be successful, that the wretched criminals undertaken to remove the representative men of the Republic. These considerations added immensely to the interest awakened by this awful transaction, and sharpen the desire that all concerned in it may be brought to judgment. That this will be, their fate we do not entertain a doubt. Even if they are permitted to roam for a time undetected, they will only be a prey to a remorse from which there is no *living* refuge or rescue. As we peruse the melancholy details we are reminded of a chapter in our own history which may now be recalled, because it is a picture in some respects of the Satanic deliberation and calculation of these bad men, and also a startling argument to show that however crime may for a period hide itself from justice, it is at last sure to be overtaken and punished. We refer to an extract from the speech of DANIEL WEBSTER, on the trial of JOHN FRANCIS KNAPP for the murder of JOSEPH WHITE, of Salem, Massachusetts, on the night of the 6th of April, 1830. MR. WHITE was a wealthy merchant, 82 years of age, and was found by his servants, in the morning, dead, and drenched with blood. The murderer had entered the window from a back yard, and had inflicted thirteen deep stabs, and a heavy blow on the left temple of the venerable man. This frightful deed was committed in a populous and central part of the town. The house had contained many valuable articles, money inclusive, and yet nothing was taken. A great effort was made to arrest the criminals, when, by a providential circumstance, they were discovered. In the midst of the popular excitement it was announced that a heavy robbery had been committed by three foot-pads on JOSEPH J. KNAPP, Jr., and JOHN FRANCIS KNAPP, on the evening of the 27th of April, while they were returning from Salem. This unusual robbery was published, with the editorial remark that "these gentlemen are well known in this town, and their respectability and veracity are not questioned by any of our citizens." The robbery proved to be a fabrication, and was only reported for the sake of baffling and diverting public inquiry. After a close investigation the two KNAPPS were arrested, and a man named CROWNINSHIELD, their instrument, who was the murderer of the aged Mr. WHITE, and who, before trial, committed suicide in his cell. The object of JOHN KNAPPS was to destroy the will of Mr. WHITE, who had devised to the mother of the wife of one of them—to whom he was related—a legacy of fifteen thousand dollars, whereas she would inherit his whole estate if he died intestate. Although they were not the actual murderers, both were convicted and executed—the one for being accessory before the fact, and the other for being constructively present as an aider or abettor of the murderer. DANIEL WEBSTER prosecuted the KNAPPS, and in the course of his remarkable argument employed language which we reprint because of its singular appositeness to the case which is now being discussed in every household. We subjoin it:

"The deed was executed with a degree of self-possession and steadiness equal to the wickedness with which it was planned. The circumstances now clearly in evidence spread out the whole scene before us. *Deep sleep had fallen on the destined victim, and on all beneath his roof.* A healthful old man, *to whom sleep was sweet*, the first sound slumbers of the night held him in their soft but strong embrace. The assassin enters, through the window already prepared, into an unoccupied apartment. With noiseless foot he passes the lonely hall, half lighted by the moon; he winds up the ascent and reaches the door of the chamber. Of this he moves the lock, by soft and continued pressure, till it turns on its hinges without creaking, and he enters and beholds his victim before him. The room is uncommonly open to the admission of light. The innocent face of the sleeper is turned from the murderer, and the beams of the moon, resting on the gray locks of his aged temple, show him where to strike. The fatal blow is given, and the victim passes, without a struggle or a motion, from the repose of sleep to the repose of death! It is the assassin's purpose to make sure work, and, he plies the dagger, though it is obvious that life has been destroyed by the blow of the bludgeon. He even raises the aged arm, that he may not fail in his aim at the heart, and replaces it again over the wounds of the pollard. To finish the picture, he explores the wrist for the pulse. He feels for it, and ascertains that it beats no longer! It is accomplished! The deed is done! He retreats; retraces his steps to the window, passes out through it as he came in, and escapes.

"He has done the murder. No eye has seen him, no ear has heard him. The secret is his own, and it is safe! Ah! gentlemen, that was a dreadful mistake. *Such a secret can be safe nowhere. The whole creation of God has neither nook nor corner where the guilty can bestow it, and say it is safe.* Not to speak of that Eye which pierces through all disguises, and beholds everything as in the splendor of noon, such secrets of guilt are never safe from detection, even by men. True it is, generally speaking, that 'murder will out.' True it is, that Providence hath so ordained, and doth so govern things, that those who break the great law of Heaven by shedding man's blood seldom succeed in avoiding discovery. Especially in a case exciting so much attention as this, discovery must come, and will come, sooner or later. A thousand eyes turn at once to explore every man, everything, every circumstance, connected with the time and place; a thousand ears catch every whisper; a thousand excited minds intensely dwell on the scene, shedding all their light, and ready to kindle the slightest circumstance into a blaze of discovery. *Meanwhile the guilty soul cannot keep its own secret. It is false to itself; or, rather, it feels an irrepressible impulse of the conscience to be true to itself.* It labors under its guilty possession, and knows not what to do with it. *The human heart was not made for the residence of such an inhabitant.* It finds itself preyed on by a torment which it dares not acknowledge to God or man. A vulture is devouring it, and it can ask no sympathy or assistance, either from Heaven or earth. *The secret which the murderer possesses soon comes to possess him*; and, like the evil spirits of which we read, it overcomes him, and leads him whithersoever it wills. *It feels it beating at his heart, rising to his throat, and demanding disclosure. He thinks the whole world sees it in his face, reads it in his eyes, and almost hears its workings in the very silence of his thoughts.* It has become his master; it betrays his discretion; it breaks down his courage; it conquers his prudence. When suspicions from without begin to embarrass him, and the net of circumstance to entangle him, the fatal secret struggles with greater violence to burst forth. It must be confessed, it will on confessed; *there is no refuge from confession but suicide, and suicide is confession.*"

Mark the striking resemblance between the manner in which the assassin approached MR. SEWARD in his sleep and MR. LINCOLN from behind. The fancy of SHAKSPEARE never produced such a scene as this from real life, but it is in the last passage—that which refers to the inevitable discovery and punishment of the murderers—that we may read the sure and awful doom as well of the principals as of the confederates in the direful tragedy of the night of Friday, April 14, 1865.

The Tomb of Abraham Lincoln.

It is suggested by the New York *Times* that the remains of our late and beloved President should be deposited at Mount Vernon at the side of those of the great man whose untiring energy and wisdom wrought out the Independence of this Nation. We most heartily endorse this idea. Where so fitly should ABRAHAM LINCOLN, whose tenacity and unswerving fidelity of purpose to this Union has preserved it, rest as at the side of him who first bound it together? The love of the country for him will undoubtedly desire that this shrine of our constant pilgrimage should thus be rendered doubly sacred to us and to our children.

The Conspiracy.

There cannot be much doubt, if any, that the murder of President LINCOLN was the result of a well-planned and deliberate conspiracy. It is certain, from the simultaneous action, that the bloody proceedings at Secretary SEWARD'S, and the deep tragedy at Ford's Theatre, *must* have been executed by two persons, at least. One of these, namely, the brutal murderer of Mr. LINCOLN, certainly was JOHN WILKES BOOTH, a fanatic (who proudly claimed to be a Southern man, although some of the city press claims him as belonging to the North)—a man of the strongest rebel want of principle, who is now reported to have been in the frequent habit of using threatening language against the President. He has been identified as the man who entered Mr. LINCOLN'S box, committed the murder, jumped on the stage, knife in hand, and thence, with a knowledge of the theatre, behind the scenes, which none but a professional person could have attained, rushed out of the house, through a door which had been purposely left unlocked and only on the latch, and thus effected his escape, almost before the audience at Ford's were aware that the beloved Chief Magistrate had even been wounded. Of BOOTH'S identity there is no doubt whatever.

The manner in which his retreat and that of his associate in guilt has been covered and concealed shows that all had been prepared beforehand. There was great danger, it is true, to the person who shot Mr. LINCOLN and to his associate, who literally ran a muck, in the Malay fashion, against every person whom he saw at Mr. SEWARD'S. But it was probably calculated that the unexpectedness of the double crime, aided by the active movements of the criminals, afforded a chance of escape during the confusion. The wretches effected their escape, and it appears almost certain that they were aided, once out of Washington, either with fresh horses to convey them away, or, which is just as probable, into some place of concealment, already provided by the conspirators, so near Washington as, from that very contiguity, likely to be unsuspected.

The design, still arguing on what is possible from the little that yet is known, must have been not only to deprive the country of its constitutionally-elected Head, but to involve other leading officials. It had been announced that General GRANT, as well as President LINCOLN, would visit the theatre on Friday evening. Circumstances induced him to snatch time to pay a flying visit to his family at Burlington, and it was Mr. LINCOLN'S infinite good nature which prompted him to attend, contrary to his own personal desire, in order that the public should not be disappointed by his absence as well as by that of General GRANT. It was also expected that Mr. Secretary STANTON would be present, and that Vice President JOHNSON might also be there. Who can say what preparations may have been made to destroy these leading officials, had they been all present? BOOTH, no doubt, had devoted himself to the assassination of Mr. LINCOLN—who can say how many others were pledged, prepared, and present to murder GRANT, JOHNSON, and STANTON? Mr. SEWARD, confined to his bed by a dangerous accident, was separately dealt with by another assassin. God grant that the details of the conspiracy may be developed. The South is suspected of being deeply, indeed, exclusively involved in it, and, after the St. Albans raid and murder, and the attempt to burn the New York hotels, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to remove that suspicion. Indeed, where else can it attach?

It would be easy to cite examples of rulers who have been murdered. HENRY the Fourth of France was murdered by the fanatic, RAVAILLAC, two hundred and fifty years ago; JOHN DE WITT, Stadholder of Holland, was massacred, nearly two centuries since, during a sudden outbreak of the populace; and GUSTAVUS the Third of Sweden was assassinated, in 1792, by ANKARSTROM. But to the horrible organization whose plots have culminated in the murder of that just man, President LINCOLN, there is scarcely a parallel. The only one at all resembling it was the Cato-street conspiracy, at the commencement of the reign of GEORGE the Fourth, and that was directed, not against the ruler's life, but against the lives of his Ministers. Twenty-four to thirty disaffected men entered into a secret organization, the object of which was to assassinate Ministers, when assembled at a Cabinet dinner, and, in the confusion, seize the Bank of England, overthrow the monarchy, and establish a republic. The plot was revealed to the Government by more than one conspirator, and, at the moment that the blood-thirsty ruffians were about issuing from their haunt in Cato street, to execute their fell purpose, they were arrested by the police and the military, and the five ringleaders were convicted and executed. But the unhappy difference is that the conspiracy against the ruler's ministers was detected before it could accomplish its hellish purpose, while the plot, in this country, has swept away one of the noblest and best of men, and all but deprived the nation, also, of the distinguished statesman who has so ably and successfully conducted our relations with foreign Powers.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, April 18, 1865.

It was my good fortune to know much of the sacrificed sage whose mortal remains are to-morrow to be borne from the Presidential mansion in Washington to the cemetery of his family in Illinois. Although he knew that, like many thousands of Democrats who looked upon Stephen A. Douglas as the ideal of the fearless protest against that policy of Buchanan which hatched secession into rebellion, and rebellion into war, I had voted for that lamented statesman in 1860, this very fact made him apparently more confidential and kind. Never having met him until he came here to be inaugurated, he received and treated me like an old friend, and the relation so begun continued without break or pause to the hour of his murder. It was Abraham Lincoln's utter indifference to prejudice and his fervent love of justice that so soon fitted his otherwise inexperienced mind for the rough responsibilities of the Presidency. It was his rare temper that made him strong to smoothe the rugged natures of politicians, and to calm the unwritten storms that frequently disturb the counsels of the constitutional advisers of the Executive. The vexations that puzzled the sincerest and the wisest he promptly and easily composed. On graver and greater subjects he was equal to the ablest, and was deferred to by the most learned. Without the slightest assumption of superiority, he was never nervous at the complications born of our national strife, and demanding the nicest discrimination to unravel. As the war was of the most stupendous dimensions, and for the largest objects, it called out and taxed the strongest intellects of our age and time. But it never induced Abraham Lincoln to despond or grow weary. I can never forget, and have often narrated, an incident which took place in New York, when Judge Douglas became a candidate for re-election to the Senate, and when he was opposed by the Republicans and by the whole force of the Buchanan Administration. It was in the spring of 1858 when I called on the Judge, who was then staying, with Mrs. Douglas, at the St. Nicholas Hotel. He was preparing for his canvass with great zeal, and knew that he had a hard struggle before him. The intelligence had just reached him that his Republican competitor would be Abraham Lincoln. While realizing that this fact only added to his own doubts of the result, he seemed to be flattered that his opponents had put forward their best man. Holding Mr. Lincoln's well-known, and, for a long time, much-abused, but not the less prophetic, speech in his hand—that speech in which he shocked the slave-despots by declaring that this nation must be "all free or all slave"—with this remarkable production in his hand, he proceeded to pay a high tribute to Mr. Lincoln. He said he was the leading mind of his party, the most difficult man to meet and match on the stump, and the most skilful and thoughtful statesman of his school. It is unnecessary to do more than refer to the resulting debate between these two intellectual wrestlers. If it ended in making Douglas Senator, it placed in bold relief before the nation the future President of the United States. Hardly had Mr. Lincoln been seated in the Presidential office before the seed so carefully sown by his predecessor began to flaunt its bloody blossoms. The successful rival of Mr. Lincoln in 1858 and the defeated candidate for President in 1860 became one of the most earnest friends of the Lincoln Administration in 1861. Had he survived to this sad hour he would be among the sincerest mourners at the bier surrounded by a bereaved and stricken people. Douglas left a legacy that has been jealously cherished and nobly employed by his hundreds of thousands of friends. With few inconsiderable and some infamous exceptions, the great Douglas Democracy has been a most faithful and undeviating element of the Union party, against which, as against an adamantine wall, Mr. Lincoln could rest his measures, and from which he could repel his assailants. There is not a free State, nor, indeed, a slave State, in which this mighty mass of citizens have not been equally true, disinterested, and patriotic. And now that the noble chief whom they sustained in his troubles and trials has gone to meet their own great leader, they must see that both fell in the same cause and by the same great enemy. The assassin that struck them both was Human Slavery. Although Douglas did not fall by the murderer's hand, he died of the disease contracted in boldly fighting the Disunionists. Nothing but the fact that the tiger of slavery had not yet tasted Northern blood saved Douglas from the assassin in 1860. The men who followed his standard will not be insensible to his counsels now, when the grave has closed over Abraham Lincoln, and when another President, of Democratic antecedents, needs their support. It is true that Andrew Johnson did not vote for Judge Douglas, but like his State gave his vote to Breckinridge; but he was the first Southern man to denounce the damnable secession plot when it was revealed to him. Who will ever forget his terrific indictment against Breckinridge, Davis, and their associates, on the 19th of December, 1860, after Abraham Lincoln's election? It was the signal for a concerted assault upon him, beginning with Davis, who was followed by Hunter, Slidell, Wigfall, Iverson, Benjamin, and, meanest and worst, Jo Lane himself. Well did Mr. Johnson say of this assault in his master reply to the whole of the conspirators, on the 5th and 6th of February, 1861, when they had seceded from the Union. I copy his very language:

MR. PRESIDENT: Since I made that speech on the 19th of December, I have been the special object of attack. I have been denounced because I happened to be *the first man south of Mason and Dixon's line who entered a protest against an instrument in the Senate against this political heresy.* From what I saw here on the evening when I concluded my speech, although some may have thought that it intimidated and discouraged me, I was inspired with confidence; *I felt that I had struck treason a blow.*

I thought then, and I know now, that men who were engaged in treason felt the blow that I dealt out on that occasion.

Yesterday the last of the Senators who represent what are called the seceding States retired, and a drama was enacted. The piece was performed; the actors were perfect in all their parts; it was got up to order; I will not say that the mourning auxiliaries had been selected in advance. One of the retiring Senators, in justifying the course that his State had taken, made a very specious and plausible argument in reference to the doctrine of secession. I allude to the Senator from Louisiana.

I thought the scene was pretty well got up and was acted out admirably. The plot was executed to the very letter. You would have thought that his people in Louisiana were borne down and seriously oppressed by remaining in this Union of States. Now I have an extract before me from a speech delivered by that gentleman since the election of Abraham Lincoln, while the distinguished Senator was on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, at the city of San Francisco. He was called upon to make an address; and I will read an extract from it which I find in the *New York Times*, the editors of which said they had the speech before them; and I have consulted a gentleman who was in California at the time, and he tells me that the report is correct. In the speech alluded to the Senator had spoken some time with his accustomed eloquence, he uttered this language: "Those who prate of, and strive to disclose this glorious confederacy of States, are like those silly savages who let fly their arrows at the sun, in the vain hope of piercing it. *And still the sun rolls on, unheeding, in its eternal pathway, shedding light and animation, upon all the world.*" Even after Lincoln was elected, the Senator from Louisiana is reported to have said, in the State of California and in the city of San Francisco that this great Union could not be destroyed.

Mr. President, I never do things by halves. I am against this doctrine entirely. I commenced making war upon it—a war for the Constitution and the Union—*and I intend to sink or swim upon it.* In the remarks I made on the 19th of December, I discussed at some length the alleged rights of secession. I repudiated the whole doctrine. I introduced authorities to show its unconstitutionalness, and made deductions from those authorities which have not been answered to this day; but by innuendo and indirection, without reference to the person or place of the authorities, attempts have been made to answer this speech. Let those who can answer the speech answer the authorities, answer the conclusions which have been deduced from them.

What friend of the lamented Lincoln, what friend of the lamented Douglas, will refuse to stand by a President who, in the very dawn of Rebellion, broke the bonds of party, and, with his own brave heart beating proudly in his bosom, hurled his scornful denunciations upon the traitors?

And what of the murderers? As I write it is rumored that Booth and the other insatiate assassin, who attempted to slay Mr. Seward, his sons, his nephew, and his attendants, have been captured. The more I reflect upon this dreadful tragedy, the more do I doubt the possibility of those who consummated it being human. History will be studied in vain for a parallel. The exaggerations of romance, the traditions of barbarism, and the legends of the dark ages are exceeded by this awful reality. When we think of the innocence and eminence of the victims, their virtues, their talents and their patriotism, and the long weeks of preparation, the deliberate calculation, the evident concert of action, and the horrid perseverance in the very crisis of the double and quadruple crime of the murderers, we are in a maze of painful bewilderment. Can it be that these wretches bore the image of their Creator? Can the human frame be filled with the hate and the cruelty of the devils themselves? If this is true, it must be for some inscrutable purpose—probably to give us a new proof of the wickedness of slavery; and yet, more probably, to hasten the complete overthrow of that accursed system. We shall all rejoice if the authors of this carnage have been arrested; but how can their execution expiate their guilt? They will attempt to brave it out—to make a parade of death as they have made a havoc of life—to enact a drama on the scaffold as they consummated a tragedy at the theatre and the domestic fireside. What if they are transmitted, as they will be, to endless shame? This is no compensation for a loss like ours; we must be content with the reflection that the patriot we have lost can never be forgotten, and that, if his assassins are consigned to unending infamy, his fame and his name will be cherished while time endures.

OCCASIONAL.

WASHINGTON.

Important Speeches of President Johnson.

WASHINGTON, April 18.

ADDRESS OF THE CITIZENS OF ILLINOIS AND RESPONSE OF THE PRESIDENT.

In accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting of the citizens of Illinois, held at the National Hotel yesterday afternoon, the citizens of that State assembled at Willard's Hotel preparatory to paying their respects to his Excellency Andrew Johnson, President of the United States. Governor Ogelsby accompanied by Senator Richard Yates, General Isham N. Hayne, ex Senator O. H. Browning, Hon. D. L. Phillips, General J. F. Farnsworth, Hon. Isaac N. Arnold, Hon. John Wilson, General Gamble, Colonel John S. Loomis, Colonel J. F. Bowen, Governor Pickering of Oregon, General Julius White, Hon. J. M. Hanna, Major S. Watt, Major W. G. Carroll, Major P. Flynn, and a large concourse of citizens repaired to the rooms of President Johnson in the treasury building. Governor Ogelsby presented the delegation and addressed the President as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: I take much pleasure in presenting to you this delegation of citizens of Illinois, representing almost every portion of the State. We are drawn together in this city, by the mournful events of the past few days, to give some feeble expression to the feeling we, in common with the whole nation, realize as pressing us to the earth, by appropriate and respectful ceremonies. We thought it not inappropriate, before we shall separate, to seek this interview with you. Excellency, that while the bleeding heart is pouring out its mournful anguish over the death of our beloved late President, the idol of our State, and the pride of the whole country, we may earnestly express to you, the living head of this nation, our deliberate, full, and abiding confidence in you as the one who, in these dark days, must bear upon yourself the mighty responsibility of maintaining, defending, and directing the ship of state. In the midst of this sadness, through the oppressive gloom that surrounds us, we look to you and to a bright future for our country. The assassination of the President of the United States deeply depresses and seriously aggravates the entire nation; but, under our blessed Constitution, it does not delay or, for any great length of time, retard its progress—does not for an instant disorganize or threaten its destruction. The record of your whole past life is familiar to us. All the splendor of your recent gigantic efforts to stay the hand of treason and assassination, and restore the flag to the uttermost bounds of the Republic, assure that noble State we represent, and, we believe, the people of the United States, that we may safely trust its destinies in your hands, and to this end we come in the name of the State of Illinois, and we confidently believe fully and faithfully expressing the wishes of our people, to present a pledge to you, the cordial, earnest, and unremitting purpose of our State to give to your administration the strong support we have heretofore given the administration of our lamented late President, the policy of which we have heretofore, do now, and shall continue to endorse.

THE PRESIDENT said:

GENTLEMEN: I have listened with profound emotion to the kind words you have addressed to me. The visit of this large delegation to speak to me through you words of encouragement, I had not anticipated. In the midst of the saddening circumstances which surround us, and the immense responsibility thrown upon me, an expression of the confidence of individuals, and still more of an influential body like that before me, representing a great Commonwealth, cheers and strengthens my heavily-burdened mind. I am at a loss for words to respond. In an hour like this, of deepest sorrow, were it possible to embody in words the feelings of my heart I could not give utterance to my lips to utter them. Perhaps the best reply I could make and the one most readily appropriate to your kind assurance of confidence, would be to receive them in silence. (Sensation) The throbbing of my heart since the sad catastrophe which has applied me cannot be relieved so readily, and oppressed as I am with the new and great responsibility which has devolved upon me, saddened with grief, I can with difficulty respond to you at all. But I cannot but express my sense of the confidence reposed in me by the people to pass without acknowledgment. To an individual like myself, who has never claimed much, but who has, it is true, received from a generous people many marks of trust and honor for a long time, on occasion like this and a manifestation of feeling so well-timed are peculiarly acceptable. Springing from the people myself, every pulsation of the popular heart finds an immediate response in my own. By many men in public life such occasions are often considered merely formal. To me they are real. Your words of countenance and encouragement sink deep in my heart, and were I even a coward I could not but gather from them strength to carry out my convictions of right.

Thus feeling, I shall enter upon the discharge of my great duty firmly and steadfastly—[applause]—if not with the signal ability exhibited by my predecessor, with a stiff resolve in my sorrowing minds. Need I repeat that no heart feels more sensibly than mine this great affliction? In what I say on this occasion I shall indulge no petty spirit of anger; no feeling of revenge, but are leave behind a notable event in the history of mankind. In the midst of the American people, where every citizen is taught, and where we have also been the rules of Christian conduct, our Chief Magistrate, the beloved of all hearts, has been assassinated; and when we trace this crime to its cause, when we remember the source whence the assassin drew his inspiration, and then look at the result, we stand yet more astounded at this most atrocious, most diabolic assassination. Such a crime as the murder of a great and good man, honored and revered, the beloved and the hope of the people, springs not alone from a military individual, or even so desperate wickedness. We can trace its cause through successive steps, without my enumerating them here, back to its source when in the spring of all our woes. No one can say if the perpetrator of the fiendish deed be arrested he should not undergo the extremest penalty for his crime. None will say that mercy should interpose; but, is he alone guilty? Here, gentlemen, you, perhaps, expect me to present some indication of my future policy. One thing I will say—every era teaches its lessons. The times we live in are not without instruction. The American people must be taught, if they do not already feel, that treason is a crime, and must be punished. [Applause.] That the Government will not always bear with its enemies; that it is strong, not only to propose, but to punish. [Applause.] When we turn to the criminal code and examine the catalogue of crimes, we there find arrayed in the black list of offences, other than treason, with its appropriate penalty; we there find theft and robbery and murder given as crimes, and there, too, we find the last and highest of crimes—*Treason!* [Applause.] With other and inferior offences our people are familiar, but in our peaceful history treason has been almost unknown. The people must understand that it is the highest crime against the Government, and must be punished. [Applause.] I make the allusion not to excite the already exasperated feelings of the public, but to point out the principle upon which public justice will guide our action at this particular juncture, and which accord with sound public morals. Let it be engraven on the heart that treason is crime and traitors shall suffer the penalty. [Applause.] While we are appalled, overwhelmed at the fall of one man in our midst by the hand of a traitor, shall we allow any other weapons, to attempt the life of the State with impunity? While we strain our minds to comprehend the enormity of this assassination, shall we allow the nation to be assassinated? [Applause.] I speak in no spirit of unkindness. I leave the events of the future to be disposed of as they may. Recalling myself as the humble instrument of the American people in this, as in all things, justice and judgment shall be dealt in their behalf. I do not labor under bitter or revengeful feelings towards any. In general terms I would say that public morals and public opinion should be consulted upon the sure and inflexible principle of justice. [Applause.] When the question of exercising mercy comes before me, it will be considered calmly and judiciously, repeatedly and carefully. Expediting the nation. I know that men love to have their names spoken of in connection with acts of mercy, and how easy it is to yield to this impulse, but we must not forget that what is mercy to an individual is cruelty to the State. [Applause.] In the exercise of mercy there should be no doubt left that this high prerogative is not used for the benefit of a few at the cost of many. Be assured I shall never forget that I am not to consult my own feeling alone, but to give an account to the Master in Heaven. [Applause.] And I have consulted a gentleman who was in California at the time, and he tells me that the report is correct. He is that speech after the Senator had spoken some time with his accustomed eloquence, he uttered this language: "Those who prate of, and strive to disclose this glorious confederacy of States, are like those silly savages who let fly their arrows at the sun, in the vain hope of piercing it. *And still the sun rolls on, unheeding, in its eternal pathway, shedding light and animation, upon all the world.*" Even after Lincoln was elected, the Senator from Louisiana is reported to have said, in the State of California and in the city of San Francisco that this great Union could not be destroyed.

Mr. President, I never do things by halves. I am against this doctrine entirely. I commenced making war upon it—a war for the Constitution and the Union—*and I intend to sink or swim upon it.* In the remarks I made on the 19th of December, I discussed at some length the alleged rights of secession. I repudiated the whole doctrine. I introduced authorities to show its unconstitutionalness, and made deductions from those authorities which have not been answered to this day; but by innuendo and indirection, without reference to the person or place of the authorities, attempts have been made to answer this speech. Let those who can answer the speech answer the authorities, answer the conclusions which have been deduced from them.

What friend of the lamented Lincoln, what friend of the lamented Douglas, will refuse to stand by a President who, in the very dawn of Rebellion, broke the bonds of party, and, with his own brave heart beating proudly in his bosom, hurled his scornful denunciations upon the traitors?

And what of the murderers? As I write it is rumored that Booth and the other insatiate assassin, who attempted to slay Mr. Seward, his sons, his nephew, and his attendants, have been captured. The more I reflect upon this dreadful tragedy, the more do I doubt the possibility of those who consummated it being human. History will be studied in vain for a parallel. The exaggerations of romance, the traditions of barbarism, and the legends of the dark ages are exceeded by this awful reality. When we think of the innocence and eminence of the victims, their virtues, their talents and their patriotism, and the long weeks of preparation, the deliberate calculation, the evident concert of action, and the horrid perseverance in the very crisis of the double and quadruple crime of the murderers, we are in a maze of painful bewilderment. Can it be that these wretches bore the image of their Creator? Can the human frame be filled with the hate and the cruelty of the devils themselves? If this is true, it must be for some inscrutable purpose—probably to give us a new proof of the wickedness of slavery; and yet, more probably, to hasten the complete overthrow of that accursed system. We shall all rejoice if the authors of this carnage have been arrested; but how can their execution expiate their guilt? They will attempt to brave it out—to make a parade of death as they have made a havoc of life—to enact a drama on the scaffold as they consummated a tragedy at the theatre and the domestic fireside. What if they are transmitted, as they will be, to endless shame? This is no compensation for a loss like ours; we must be content with the reflection that the patriot we have lost can never be forgotten, and that, if his assassins are consigned to unending infamy, his fame and his name will be cherished while time endures.

OCCASIONAL.

WASHINGTON.

Important Speeches of President Johnson.

WASHINGTON, April 18.

ADDRESS OF THE CITIZENS OF ILLINOIS AND RESPONSE OF THE PRESIDENT.

In accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting of the citizens of Illinois, held at the National Hotel yesterday afternoon, the citizens of that State assembled at Willard's Hotel preparatory to paying their respects to his Excellency Andrew Johnson, President of the United States. Governor Ogelsby accompanied by Senator Richard Yates, General Isham N. Hayne, ex Senator O. H. Browning, Hon. D. L. Phillips, General J. F. Farnsworth, Hon. Isaac N. Arnold, Hon. John Wilson, General Gamble, Colonel John S. Loomis, Colonel J. F. Bowen, Governor Pickering of Oregon, General Julius White, Hon. J. M. Hanna, Major S. Watt, Major W. G. Carroll, Major P. Flynn, and a large concourse of citizens repaired to the rooms of President Johnson in the treasury building. Governor Ogelsby presented the delegation and addressed the President as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: I take much pleasure in presenting to you this delegation of citizens of Illinois, representing almost every portion of the State. We are drawn together in this city, by the mournful events of the past few days, to give some feeble expression to the feeling we, in common with the whole nation, realize as pressing us to the earth, by appropriate and respectful ceremonies. We thought it not inappropriate, before we shall separate, to seek this interview with you. Excellency, that while the bleeding heart is pouring out its mournful anguish over the death of our beloved late President, the idol of our State, and the pride of the whole country, we may earnestly express to you, the living head of this nation, our deliberate, full, and abiding confidence in you as the one who, in these dark days, must bear upon yourself the mighty responsibility of maintaining, defending, and directing the ship of state. In the midst of this sadness, through the oppressive gloom that surrounds us, we look to you and to a bright future for our country. The assassination of the President of the United States deeply depresses and seriously aggravates the entire nation; but, under our blessed Constitution, it does not delay or, for any great length of time, retard its progress—does not for an instant disorganize or threaten its destruction. The record of your whole past life is familiar to us. All the splendor of your recent gigantic efforts to stay the hand of treason and assassination, and restore the flag to the uttermost bounds of the Republic, assure that noble State we represent, and, we believe, the people of the United States, that we may safely trust its destinies in your hands, and to this end we come in the name of the State of Illinois, and we confidently believe fully and faithfully expressing the wishes of our people, to present a pledge to you, the cordial, earnest, and unremitting purpose of our State to give to your administration the strong support we have heretofore given the administration of our lamented late President, the policy of which we have heretofore, do now, and shall continue to endorse.

THE PRESIDENT said:

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