

J. Wilkes Booth's Death.

In a recent number of the New Orleans Picayune appears a statement purporting to come from Capt. Edward P. Darby, now a street contractor in New Orleans, in which he details some of the facts relative to the capture and killing of J. Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln. There are many glaring inaccuracies in the article, so many statements that are not substantiated by facts and by the records of the War Department, that we have obtained a history of the exciting event from the lips of Lieutenant L. B. Baker, now a clerk in the Auditor General's office, but who had command of the party which captured the murderer.

At the time when Booth shot President Lincoln, April 14, 1865, in Ford's Theatre, Geo. L. C. Baker, Chief of the detective force of the War Department, and Lieutenant Baker were in New York city looking after bounty jumpers. Secretary Stanton telegraphed these two officers to come to Washington immediately. They arrived in Washington the morning of the third day after the terrible deed was committed. Cavalry had scoured the country in every direction for the fugitive, and Washington, and the streets were over all the lines. General Baker gained all the information he could in regard to the route Booth and his accomplices would probably take, and concluded that they would go down the Potomac, taking in Saratoga, and cross the river, and make their way to Richmond. He sent a telegraph operator and a detective down the river by boat to Port Tobacco and vicinity, with orders to tap the wires and let him know if there was any trace of the escaping fugitives. Near Chantilly Point a detective found a negro woman who brought to Washington, and who stated that he was positive he saw Booth and Harold, whom he knew well, cross the river in a fishing boat. At first the General discredited the statement, but on showing him several likenesses of the assassin and others, the colored man pointed out Booth and Harold as the men whom he saw.

An escort of 25 cavalrymen, under General Darby, were placed on the river. Booth's command had orders to "bring Booth, dead or alive." At the request of Lieutenant Baker, Lieut-Col. E. J. Conger, a brother of Congressman O. D. Conger, an experienced cavalry officer, who had just been mustered out of the United States service, was added to the party. Colonel Conger had raised the country in every direction, and was valuable on account of his familiarity with the roads and his undoubted courage and bravery. The party went on board the tug John S. Lee, which was bound for Belle Plain, near the mouth of Aquia Creek. They landed about 10 o'clock at night and commenced the search. Lieutenant Baker and Col. Conger would leave the escort at a short distance behind them, and at the various camps, pretending to belong to Booth's party, but from whom they had been separated in crossing the river. They found very many sympathizers who were ready to aid them, but could find no one who had seen Booth or Harold. The next morning the party left the Fredericksburg road, where they had been searching, and turned their horses' heads across the country toward the Rappahannock, and about noon reached the river at Port Conway. The horses being jaded and the men exhausted, a rest was made here and most of the men went to sleep.

Lieut. Baker told Colonel Conger that he would ride down the river to the ferry, about half a mile away, and see what he could find. As he passed by an orderly, he rode to the ferry, where he met a fisherman by the name of Rollins. The lieutenant asked him if a party of men, one of them lame, for Booth had broken his leg in jumping from the theatre box to the stage, had crossed the river within a day or two? Rollins said there had, the day before, and on being shown the likenesses of Booth and Harold, he at once recognized them. Lieut. Baker immediately set the orderly to Col. Conger, asking him to bring the escort to the ferry at once. The ferry boat was a crazy affair, and the afternoon was consumed in getting the men and horses across the river. Rollins pretended to be a Union man, and was willing to go as a guide, but feared persecution from his neighbors unless put under arrest. This was accomplished by a Captain Jett, one of Mealy's command, who recently went to Bowling Green, about 15 miles distant, to see his mother and child. He brought them a hotel, and he thought the whole party had gone there. Just about dusk the party set out for Bowling Green. They had not gone far before they discovered two men, mounted on horses, at the fork of the road. The men were dressed in green, and seemed to be watching the movements of the party. Lieut. Baker and Col. Conger gave chase, and the latter, being mounted on a swift horse, gained so rapidly on the pursued that they turned their horses into the timber and crossed the river. These men were proved afterwards to be Harold, the place of pursuit being only one and a half miles from the Garrett place, where Booth was then secreted. Bowling Green was reached about midnight. The party was accommodated and surrounded the hotel, where Jett's sweetheart was supposed to reside. She was there, and so was Jett, but Booth and his accomplices were not to be found.

When the building was surrounded and every avenue of escape was guarded, Lieutenant Baker stepped on the hall door with the butt of his pistol. The mother and daughter soon appeared with the light, and informed them that there was no one in the house except her son and a friend of his, Captain Jett. Lieutenant Baker and Colonel Conger requested to be shown to their room, where they found them asleep. On being aroused, Jett said: "What do you want with us?" Conger said: "We know all about you. You plotted Booth's escape from the river, and where he is." Jett then told them they were mistaken in their man, and a deed knowing anything about Booth. The sight of two navy revolvers and the threat that he must tell or die, convinced him that it was foolhardy to longer delay information, and he said: "Gentlemen, upon my word and honor I will tell you all about it. I will promise to shield me from all complicity in the matter." The promise was made. Then Jett said: "I fear you have frightened me off, for you arrested me in the plantation where I left him, which is only a few miles from the ferry you crossed. But I will show you the Garrett place, where I left him." Jett's house was a model animal, built for romance and speed. Lieut. Baker

LONDON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.) LONDON, Dec. 29, 1870. Considerable interest attaches to a question which has just been put to a Sheffield worker in ivory. He desires to know whether elephants shed their tusks, as if not, upwards of one thousand or more and eighty of these magnificent tusks must have been killed to supply his manufactory alone with the ivory used last year. The answer to his query is unfortunately that before the tusks can be obtained an elephant must be slaughtered, and herein is found a subject for very serious reflection. Numbers are still in Ceylon, though by no means so plentiful as they were a few years ago, and, without doubt, existing also in large numbers in certain parts of Africa, the elephant is, however, rapidly disappearing. As a beast of prey, he is not so much feared as he is by the natives, and the services he renders in times of war, as well as peace, would alone more than reward a great effort on his behalf. Quite apart from the fact that when he goes, the supply of ivory ceases, there is also the consideration that his manufacture of ivory is a laborious and unprofitable one, and that the ivory which he does not breed in captivity, and it is, therefore, only in a wild state that the species can be preserved. The depletion of ivory has led to the use of red wood for the making of ivory, which implies a high and serious waste. That the cause of knowledge shall not suffer for want of energy is the sincere desire of every sensible person, and the proceedings reported from the Lumbeth Police-court, on Monday last, are highly creditable for the quality of educational benevolence to be a little strained. Upwards of eighty commitments to prison were signed affecting parents who had not succeeded in paying fines inflicted upon them for non-attendance at school. The case of one boy who was summoned, appears extremely hard. More than thirteen years of age, and sufficiently taught to have passed the fourth standard already, he is in a situation where he earns sufficient to enable him to keep track of things over a vast extent of country. The idea of pinning a chap like him down to one township and one grade of school would be absurd.

When tired of walking around over stable fields, some one might give the signal to go on his horse, and away goes the whole drove, sometimes in one way and again in another. There is always some one on hand to estimate the exact number of a cloud of these insects. It is generally the postmaster who does the counting, and the number is always given as twelve billions. If there happens to be two or three over, they are some lame or blind old insects not worth counting. Grasshoppers were built to be hungry. They eat and eat and eat, and eat until they are sick and die. They are enabled to keep track of things over a vast extent of country. The idea of pinning a chap like him down to one township and one grade of school would be absurd.

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Rescue Chain.

This insect which I hold up before you is a grasshopper. In some localities, they have no dollar stores or street sprinklers, he is termed a "dollar store," but he is the same under all names. The insect date back to the time when the first rail road on earth was built, and they were only two weeks eating up the last liver of it. They are like these chaps who want to borrow five dollars for a day or two—scattered all over the world. They knock their heads together against the Pyramids of Egypt, and go swimming on the coast of California. They make a noonday lunch from the Indian's wigwag, and they eat their supper in the palace of kings.

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