

The Weekly Colonist

Tuesday, April 25, 1865

THE DEATH OF LINCOLN.

Abraham Lincoln is dead—killed by the hands of the assassin, in the midst of friends, and in the very zenith of his glory. No news could have more startled our community. That the President of the United States, after passing unscathed through the dark and stormy days of the early stages of the civil war—after buffeting the winds and waves of rebellion for four years—should, in the hour of triumph, when the Republic was at length gliding calmly into the placid waters of peace, be struck down in a public theatre, by the assassin's bullet, is something so horrible and so lamentable that we can scarcely realize the mournful fact. Yet there it stands before us: a great and good man cut off when he was about to finish that work for which enlightened humanity was waiting with anxious expectancy. He is dead, and the world has lost what it cannot afford to lose—a sincere, earnest, indefatigable laborer for the human race. It is not on the American people only that this news will fall with a sickening force, but on liberty-loving men kindred everywhere.

What the motives were that actuated the wretch who perpetrated the deed we cannot, with the present meagre information before us, pretend to say; whether it was the workings of a cotterly-hunting monomania that sometimes leads men to aim at the life of greatness; or whether it was part of a diabolical conspiracy against the principal members of the Cabinet at Washington. The latter supposition would, however, appear to be the more probable, if we take the whole surroundings into consideration. We see, almost simultaneously with the shooting of the President, a murderous attack made on the Secretary of State, and a narrow escape, it would appear, of the Vice-President—all of which would show complexity and preconcerted action. When we couple with these facts an advertisement which appeared a few months ago in an Alabama paper, and which we give in another column, it will be seen that the deed was actually spoken of publicly in the South, some time since, and was to have taken place prior to the 1st of March. There may have been nothing in the advertisement beyond an attempt to create a sensation, but it is rather remarkable that the very names—Lincoln, Seward, and Johnson—whose lives were thus menaced by the advertiser, were intended to have been the victims in the recent assassination. Time will, no doubt, disclose the hidden springs which have thrown a nation into mourning. In the meanwhile, however, the people's indignation is almost unquenchable, and it would be difficult to say where the matter will stop. We read of Southern sympathisers being shot down in cold blood in the streets of Washington, and riots in San Francisco menacing the lives and property of those who are at enmity with the present administration. In all this suddenly created wrath the innocent are unfortunately likely to suffer with the guilty, and many a harmless citizen of the Southern States will be offered up as a sacrifice to satisfy the outraged people of the North. Viewed in this light, no greater calamity could have happened the Confederacy at the present moment than the murder of Lincoln. When the news reaches the various Federal armies in the field, discipline will be strained to the uttermost in order that ferocity shall not usurp the better feelings. We are afraid, however, that despite military and civil control, excesses will be committed, and every sympathiser with rebellion made to rue the day on which the Chief Magistrate of the United States met an untimely death.

There have been murders in which the crimes of the victim were considered a sufficient justification for the committal of the deed; but as a general rule the dead, however erring, have our sympathy, and the perpetrators of the outrage our execration. When we read of Caesar falling by the hands of his assassins, we forget the despotic tendencies of the ambitious conqueror, and only feel that a great man has been ruthlessly and cowardly murdered. Casca is nothing better in our eyes than a cut-throat Cassius is merely a human butcher, and Brutus, the patriot, sinks to the level of the most beetle-browed ruffian that haunts the lowest den of iniquity. The curse of Cain is on them all. Coming, however, from the palmy days of the Roman Empire down to our own times, and viewing President Lincoln impartially and fairly, we cannot get over the fact that no man in history deserved so well of the people, and merited so little the desperate end which was called upon to-day to record. When assassination was charged upon other members of the Cabinet, and when political rancor and malignant hate were concentrated against Lincoln's head, no man ever had the audacity to charge the President with a dishonest act. Placed in the most trying ordeal in which man was ever placed—in the midst of temptations unknown in the highest monarchies—he emerged from the fiery test of a four years' Presidency with unsoiled hands and with a reputation as spotless as that of Washington himself.

"Honest Old Abe" is gone, but his place is already filled. The policy of the Administration will still be pursued, with probably an additional sternness and rigor. The South had everything to gain and nothing to lose by the continuance of Lincoln in power. He was disposed to be lenient, Johnson will prove uncompromising. He was inclined to be moderate and conservative, Johnson will be ultra radical. There was a time, no doubt, in the history of the present rebellion when the death of Lincoln might have changed the whole current of affairs, but that time is past; the nation is committed to one policy, and that alone—union without slavery—and the policy will be carried out.

In this dastardly murder we cannot believe any respectable portion of the Southern people are implicated. Unfortunately, however, for the reputation of the South, pistol-toting and bowie-knifing have been too much the time honored pastimes of a certain and by no insignificant portion of its people. It is not the first time that political opponents have been shot, nor is it the first time that statements have been waylaid. No place was too public for this briging from behind—no place too sacred for this stabbing the unarmed. The Senate House was the arena not of debate, but of ruffianism that would have disgraced an Irish cock-fight. Men went armed not with reason to win over their opponents, but with pistols to threaten and if necessary to shoot. All this was simply the spawn of slavery, the offspring of the debasing institution. When its days were being brought to a close—when the armies of Sherman and Grant were crushing out the life-blood of the monster, it was only natural that it should make an effort, like the blind Samson, to envelop others in its ruin. It has succeeded, by its hirelings, in convulsing the nation to its centre, in spreading mournful tidings to every Christian land, in destroying every vestige of sympathy for itself, and in giving to Lincoln the niche of martyrdom. Washington was the father of his country—Lincoln will be its saviour: the American citizens, like the Romans on the death of Cæsar, will beg a hair of him for memory, and, dying, mention it within their wills. Bequeathing it, as a rich legacy, unto their issue.

THE LATE PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, whose foul assassination we record in another column, was born in Kentucky on February 12th, 1809, and was consequently in his 57th year. His ancestors were Pennsylvania Quakers, but his father and mother were born in Virginia, whence they removed in 1816 to Indiana and subsequently to Illinois. Abraham after taking an active part in the usual avocations of backwoods life, becoming boatsman, store clerk, country storekeeper, postmaster, surveyor, and lawyer, was elected in his 25th year to the State Legislature, to which he was afterwards re-elected for three successive terms. As a lawyer he rose rapidly to distinction, but continued to take an active part in politics. In 1846 he was representative in Congress, where he served the full congressional term. In 1858 he ran against Stephen A. Douglas for U. S. Senator, but was defeated by the senatorial vote, although he had a popular majority of over 4,000 over his opponent. On the 8th of November, 1860, he was elected President of the United States, and was re-elected to that high position on the 8th November last.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

The following paragraph, which we take from the Manchester Times, England, of February 11th, would make it appear probable that the atrocious murder of President Lincoln is the result of a deep laid and regularly organized scheme of assassination, initiated by some desperate spirits in the South, which has thus been relentlessly and but too successfully carried out.

A MURDEROUS ORDEAL.—The following appears in the advertising columns of the Selma (Alabama) Dispatch: "One Million Dollars wanted to have peace by the 1st of March. If the citizens of the Southern Confederacy will furnish me with the cash, or good securities, for the sum of \$1,000,000, I will cease the lives of Abraham Lincoln, William H. Seward, and Andrew Johnson, to be taken by the 1st of March next."

This will give us peace and satisfy the world that cruel tyrants cannot live in a land of liberty. If this is not accomplished nothing will be claimed beyond the sum of \$50,000 in advance, which is supposed to be necessary to reach and slaughter the three villains. I will give myself \$1,000 towards this patriotic purpose. Every one wishing to contribute will address 'X' box X, Cahaba, Alabama, Dec. 1st, 1864.

ARRIVAL OF THE ANDERSON.

(Special Despatches via Seattle.)

STARTLING NEWS.

LINCOLN SHOT.

ATTEMPTED MURDER OF SEWARD.

HIS SON WOUNDED.

MESSENGER KILLED.

Rebel Sympathisers Lynched

WASHINGTON 14.—To Gen. Dix.—This evening about 8.30 p. m., at Ford's Theatre, the President, while sitting in his private box with Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris, and Major Rathbun, was shot by an assassin, who suddenly entered the box, and approached behind the President. The assassin then leaped upon the stage, brandishing a large dagger, and made his escape in the rear of the theatre. The pistol ball entered at the back of the President's head, and passed nearly through. The wound is mortal. The President has been insensible ever since the wound was inflicted, and is now dying.

Secretary Seward about the same time was badly and may be fatally injured by Booth's accomplice. He also escaped on horseback. He went to Seward's representing that his physician sent him with a prescription, but the servant denied him entrance. He forced past him, and meeting Seward's son Fred, knocked him down with a billie, then entered the room meeting four persons, including two nurses, placed them all under resistance, and then attacked Secretary Seward in bed, cutting him severely about the face and head.

The dastardly assassin inflicted two or three stabs in the throat and two in the face. It is hoped the wounds may not prove fatal. My apprehension is that they may prove mortal. It is not probable that the President will live through the night.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 4 a. m.—The President still continues insensible and is sinking. Seward remains without change. It is now ascertained with considerable certainty that two assassins were engaged in these horrible crimes, Wilkes Booth being the one that shot the President, and the other a companion of his whose name is not known.

Chicago, April 15th.—President Lincoln died at 22 minutes past 7 o'clock, this morning. Contradictory reports are in circulation in regard to Mr. Seward's condition. As soon as we get anything reliable we will inform you.

New York, April 15.—The Tribune says sudden death is always overwhelming; the assassination of the noblest of men is always frightfully startling; but when the head of thirty millions of people is hurled into eternity by the hand of a murderer, that head is a man so good, so wise, and so noble as Abraham Lincoln, the chief magistrate of a nation in the condition of affairs at this moment, the sorrow and shock are too great for many words. For once all party rancor will be forgotten, as no right thinking man can bear of Mr. Lincoln's death without accepting it as a national calamity.

The World says that yesterday the country was in the height of joyful exultation over the decisive efforts which seemed to promise peace and restoration of the Union to the people. To-day every loyal man suffered a terrible shock and swells with grief the calamity which has been permitted to befall us by the assassination of our chief magistrate. The splendid success of our triumph is robbed of half its glory. It is a deeper loss than if our first soldier had fallen by a bullet, than that of the gallant Sedgwick, a greater loss than if an army had perished in the shock of battle.

New York, April 15.—Five several impromptu street meetings were held to-day. Two men who expressed a respect for Jeff Davis, were driven out of a newspaper counting room, and hunted by the crowd, they seeking safety in flight. The steamer Etna sailed at 5.30 p. m., with full official despatches to our ministers at foreign ports, from Washington. An official despatch was also sent out by the Nova Scotian from Portland.

against secession sympathisers. There have been no serious outbreaks, but individual instances are mentioned where persons expressing secession sentiments have been summarily dealt with. A sympathiser at Washington was shot dead by a soldier while rejoicing over the death of Mr. Lincoln; and the soldier not arrested. George Welles was arrested and sent to Penitentiary in New York for a similar offence. Another man, a Wall street broker, gave vent to secession sentiments, and preparations were immediately made by the crowd to hang him to a lamp post, but he was rescued by the police. These rebel prisoners were hung at Indianapolis for expressing their satisfaction at the success of the assassination. The universal feeling seems to be to mete out the sternest justice to all sympathisers with rebellion.

New York, 15.—The Post's special says, the messenger of State Department who was in attendance on Secretary Seward is dead. Seward is in a very precarious condition. Another dispatch says his wounds are bad but not mortal, he does not complain but has lost much blood; no arteries were cut. Fred. Seward's skull is fractured badly in two places about the temples. He is insensible and fears are entertained that he will not recover. Among letters found in Booth's trunk tending to criminate him was one apparently from a lady supplicating him to desist from plans in which he was about to engage. That the time was inauspicious and the mine not yet ready to be sprung. The Washington Intelligencer says: Evidence obtained renders it highly probable that the person who attempted to murder Mr. Seward is John Surrall, of Prince George county, Maryland. About midnight two men crossed the Anacostia bridge, one giving his name as Booth and the other as Smith. The latter is believed to be Surrall. It is evident that the scope of the plot was intended to be much more comprehensible. The Vice President and other prominent members of the Administration were particularly enquired after by suspected parties and their precise locality ascertained, but in their cases the plan miscarried.

WASHINGTON, 15.—Official notice of the death of the late President was given in the heads of departments this morning to Andrew Johnson, Vice President, on whom by Constitution devolves the office of President. Mr. Johnson, upon receipt of the notice appeared before Hon. S. P. Chase, Chief Justice of U. S., and took oath of office as President of the United States, and assumed its duties. Senators report that the condition of Mr. Seward remains unchanged. He is doing well. The murderers have not yet been apprehended.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—The Chronicle says it is suspected the conspiracy was organized in Maryland; an examination of witnesses not under oath this morning elicited the following: the murderer of the President was J. Wilkes Booth, his hat was found and identified by several persons who had seen him within the last two days. A spot which he dropped was also identified as one he obtained in a stable where he got his horse last evening. This man had played several times at Ford's theatre, and therefore was well acquainted with its exits and entrances. The person who attacked Seward left behind him a slouched hat and an old rusty revolver, the chambers of which were broken from the barrels as if by striking. Loads were drawn from chambers, one being only a rough piece of lead, and others conical, the balls were smaller than the chambers and were wrapped with paper to prevent their falling out. Presidents body was to be embalmed with a view of removing it to Illinois.

New York, April 15.—The Herald this morning makes no editorial remarks on the assassination. The Times makes no comments. The Herald's Washington special says, the scene at the President's death bed is described by one who witnessed it as most affecting.

Riots in San Francisco.

NEWSPAPER OFFICES CLEANED OUT.—THE POLICE CALLED OUT.—GREAT EXCITEMENT. SAN FRANCISCO, April 15.—Immediately on receipt of the intelligence of the assassination of the President and probable assassination of Secretary Seward, all business places were closed and draped in mourning. About 2 o'clock some one suggested the destruction of all anti-administration newspaper offices, the crowd immediately went to the office of the Democratic Press, which, with contents, was soon gutted, the Occidental paper and Newsletter office, the Occidental paper and Newsletter office, the crowd then went to the Echo du Pacifique, which is on the same floor with the Alta California. The Alta closed the iron doors to keep them from an upper story window. They were then detained a few minutes, until Chief Burke with police and soldiers arrived, who cleared the crowd from the door and have kept them at bay since three o'clock. They have agreed to disperse if the Alta people will pass out the type, &c., of the Echo du Pacifique which McCrellish has agreed to do as rapidly as possible. Fears are entertained that the populace maddened as they are with rage and excitement, may commit some more overt acts before midnight. The whole military force of the city, together with detachments of the Provost Guard, is now out and sweeping the crowd from Montgomery street, and all the drinking saloons are closed.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 15.—City quiet last evening. There are over 3000 men under arms. A large meeting of the Union League held last night was addressed by the Mayor and others, who counselled the people to preserve order. The Grant Club also held a meeting, at which some attempts were made to incite the people to a demonstration against the Alta and Bulletin newspapers and the Telegraph Company, but the attempt was unsuccessful, owing to the influence of the officers and leading members of the club. All the secession sheets have been destroyed or seized by the military. There exists no tangible object upon which to break the public peace. People are quiet to-day, but their grief and rage if possible are more intense than on yesterday. The Mayor has called a meeting of citizens at Faneuil Hall this evening, to adopt such measures as shall be deemed necessary in view of the recent great national bereavement.

British Brown, of the Press, threatened to San Leandro yesterday afternoon. His life would not have been worth a straw had the people captured him. There is scarcely a building in the city not draped with mourning. Appropriate services are being held in all the churches. There will be little or no business transacted to-morrow. Nothing later received from the East to-day.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 17.—The Eastern line did not work on Sunday. Latest news of Seward says strong hopes are entertained of his recovery. We have passed through a fearful excitement here since Sunday morning, but all is apparently quiet now. All business was suspended on Saturday, but is resumed to-day.

The Sierra Nevada leaves for Portland to-morrow. Captain Chadwick, of the steamer Chrysopele, died last night of heart disease.

Later War News.

MORE CAPTURES AND SURRENDERS

CITY POINT, April 12.—Lynchburg surrendered yesterday to a Lieutenant of Griffin's horse, at the head of a scouting party. Grant ordered McKenser and his cavalry to occupy the town. (Signed) DANA.

HUNTSVILLE, April 11.—The following has just been received from Colonel Hovey at Sommersville. Men directly through from Selma report that that place was captured by Wilson's forces on the 22nd. Forrest and Roddy, with their entire commands, were captured. They also report the capture of Montgomery. (Signed) GRANGER.

The list of general officers surrendered by Lee comprise generals commanding. One lieutenant-general, seventeen major-generals, sixty-one brigadier-generals, and twenty-five thousand men. Within the past week over twenty thousand prisoners have been sent away from City Point. Large numbers still remain in duress.

New York, April 13.—It is reported that Johnston surrendered on the same terms as granted to Lee. The Herald says it has good authority for stating that Kirby Smith's trans Mississippi army are ready to surrender. Rooms are engaged here for Lee. He is expected here to-morrow. He desires to go to Europe with his family as an early day. He is much affected by his defeat, and says that Jeff. Davis had deserted him, and is retreating on his own account.

New York, April 12.—Advices from the army about Mobile, April 4th, states that the rebel communications were entirely surrounded. The siege is progressing very favorably. All drafting and recruiting in the loyal States is suspended.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

[TELEGRAPHIC DATES TO THE 12TH.]

Government requires that all persons leaving California for the East shall have passports from the Department of California. Drovers containing 20,000 and 30,000 sheep are on the way to this place from Monterey. Brigadier General Mason sails for Arizona to-morrow. The O'Byrne trial proceeds as usual. Chili flour held at \$14.50; wheat same as formerly.

Judge Hoffman of the U. S. District Court orders all attorneys practicing in his court to take the oath of allegiance, according to act of Congress. SAN FRANCISCO, April 12.—Currency Bills for exchange to-day, 40 per cent premium on gold. Coin bills 1 1/2 per cent, and some few actions reported at 1 1/2 per cent. Legal Tenders opened 69 1/2 and closed at 70 1/2. Gold opened at 145, advancing to 145 1/2 during the morning.

Judge Hoffman to-day sentenced the officers of the Great Republic as follows: Coe to one day in the county jail for each offence to which he pleads guilty, and for the hearing of George N. Duggan with a delaying plea, he was sentenced to eighteen months in the State prison; Willis sentence amounts in the aggregate to eighteen months in the county jail, and Captain Paul was sentenced to six months in the county jail.

R. W. Heath, formerly a prominent bull-bacon dealer, and now a stock broker, failed to-day. Both steamers go crowded with passengers. The rates by the Sacramento are: first cabin outside, \$170; inside \$120; 2nd cabin \$70; steerage \$40.

MARKETS.—Flour—a fair jobbing trade at unchanged prices. Wheat—sales of 5000 sacks of choice to go to Marysville at \$5.15 to 5.00 a good, for local consumption, reported at 6c. Barley—the arrivals from Chile, comprising the cargoes of the Maria, Soarwell, Manilla, Clara and Rosalia, in all about 16,000 sacks of 100 pounds each, have been sold to one operator on private terms, also 1064 sacks of hay to go to Sacramento at \$3.15; Oats, jobbing lots are selling at \$2.90 to 2.95; Hay, twenty tons prime, brought \$18.

MEXICO.

Late advices from Vera Cruz confirm the report of a disaster to the commander of Vera Cruz. It appears that with 350 Austrians, Egyptians and Mexicans, he went to the palace of Allardo, which he burned and pillaged. On his return he was set upon by 400 Liberals. He was himself killed, and 150 of his followers killed and wounded. The ravages committed by his men in Mexico will brand his name with infamy. The Austrians are becoming dissatisfied with the service in Mexico, and are deserting daily, others are dying rapidly.

JAPAN.

One of the actual murderers of Major Baldwin and Lieutenant Bird had been captured at Yeddo, sent to Yokohama and executed by beheading. He exhibited great coolness and bravery, being paraded round the town on a pack horse with a large banner in front, on which his sentence was inscribed. He sang a song two minutes before his execution. Sir R. Alcock, H. M. Plenipotentiary, had reached Hongkong from Yokohama, on his way to England. He goes home as a successful diplomatist.

THE TELEGRAPH IN EUROPE.—A new company has been organized for buying up the business of Mr. Reuter, the great telegraph proprietor. The capital is fixed at £250,000, of which £100,000 is to be the first subscribed. Mr. Reuter is to be the managing director.

Tuesday

LINCOLN

The biography oftentimes the history of a nation. The life of Abraham Lincoln is a record of a century and a half of the nation's history. The question of the adoption of the Constitution into the States into the Union. I state very frankly, sorry ever to be upon the question of the abolition of slavery from the issue is decided by Presidency, and see just to what to go, when he can be obtained will be interfered with and events have a more radical claims emancipation most a reluctant step has, however, the abolition of measure, but as all that was for that in the point in the rapid culmination to that man who suddenly and so Above all the has ever produced eminently entitled most category of social or political of the Republic. We rough, strong in the same spirit when wielding clear the count retarding the ment of the the capacity of tion a clerk, through a num he reaches the tion he settled shrewdness so yond his "loc Yet with a school-boy ed limited to a s that gleaned the learning a men was a tained. He and pushed b length becom for the posit having a suffe eratic rival, Douglas. I President if these two m to face as fig doctrine previous on battle was awkward g village law of the great portant tra hands. E worked for perity. If ever vacilla principles v parably co tions of fal it was not h self or his wholly ma in dread of timent, and measure o set his h waiting popular and his stormy p ahead of p effective p do with t yately th the boy a who talk that, trie in most b mind to to its w himself s than the suited, a who, see stern, t horizon breez, this lea man for