

**DARK SCENES FROM AMERICAN HISTORY  
IN A NAPLES THEATRE.**

"Abramo Lincoln e Giovanni Booth" is a tragedy recently acted at a theatre in Naples. It consisted of a prologue and three acts. These were entitled respectively as follows: "The heroism of a Slave," "The Ambassador and the Victim," "The Triumph and the Conspiracy," and "Assassination in the Theatre." The wild absurdity of the plot may be imagined from the following resume: In the prologue Lincoln is a young man engaged on an abolition mission in a slave State. He is in danger of his life and is concealed by a faithful slave, George Peter. During a temporary absence of the latter, Jefferson Davis (who figures as the villain of the play) comes in and artfully extracts from Noemi, George's wife the fact of Lincoln's concealment beneath their roof. He goes to give instant information. George returns and discovers the betrayal of Lincoln by his wife, and compels her silence. On the appearance of the police he declares himself the man they seek, and is led out and shot. Lincoln witnesses this from the window, and Noemi faints in his arms beside a cradle supposed to contain an infant daughter. The first act of the drama, dating some sixteen years latter, shows President Lincoln awaiting the siege of Charleston. General Sherman enters. They discuss the events of the day, and join in praise of their brave officer *Wellington*, who is expected to take *Riche-mont*. Suddenly Noemi rushes in, torn and dishevelled, with her hand in a sling, claiming Lincoln's aid for herself and the daughter she had left in the hands of Jefferson Davis! She has scarcely got through with her harrowing tale when a deputation from *Riche-mont* is announced, and walks in headed by the Southern President himself. Noemi takes flight before they enter, and then ensues a scene. The sentiments and blunt honesty of Lincoln are made to stand out forcibly against the dark arts of Jefferson Davis. War to the knife is the result of this conference, and the curtain falls just as the President concludes an eloquent anti-slavery harangue. When it rises again the fair daughter of Noemi is in the private apartment of Jefferson Davis. He persecutes her with his devotion and his menaces; she brandishes a dagger. He contrives to obtain possession of that and at the crisis Booth makes his appearance by a secret entrance and interferes in the girl's behalf, merely, as he says, from a caprice. She is dismissed, and two conspirators are admitted. The assassination of Lincoln, Seward, and Johnson is discussed, and fixed for that same evening. They then quit the place, locking the doors behind them. The slave girl comes from the inner chamber, having overheard the plot, and resolved to warn Lincoln. Finding all other means cut off, she leaps from a high window, and the act closes. The last scene represents the lobby of the theatre. Jefferson Davis and the two conspirators enter. Both is said to be vacillating, his trustworthiness is doubtful. He enters and expresses horror of compunction at what he has undertaken; his accomplices taunt him back to the point of fulfilling his purpose. They leave him; the slave girl enters, throws herself at Booth's feet, and almost succeeds in inducing him to give up his intention. But on the striking of the hour assigned, Booth rushes out to fulfil his vow, the girl's cries for help are stifled by Davis, and the report of a pistol is heard. Booth rushes

back with a cry of "*Sic semper Tyrannis*," and disappears with the other conspirators. Lincoln is brought in to die. Noemi and her daughter kneel at his feet, and receive his last sigh. The dying President is supported by General Sherman and others, while behind every one Mrs. Lincoln appears for the first time. In spite of the absurdities of it this, the American gentleman who denounces it says that he hardly knew whether tears or laughter should have the upper hand. The final scene fairly vanquished all remaining sense of the ludicrous, and recalled only too painfully the agitation and dismay of that fearful night.

King George has written an autograph and confidential letter to the Emperor of Austria, begging him to observe the differences existing between Turkey and Greece arise purely from religious antagonism, and that it is the duty of every Christian prince to support Greece, or at least to maintain a strict neutrality.

THE VOLUNTEER GYMNASIUM.—Among the attractions at present held out with the view of inducing young men to join the Volunteers, there is none which is entitled to so much attention as the gymnasium, which Col. Skinner has procured for the 13th Battalion. The Drill is open three nights a week, and our young men are thereby enabled to devote an hour to a pastime which is not only calculated to make them active and vigorous but at the same time, draw their attention away from unprofitable amusements. There is no other amusement which is so much calculated to benefit a young man physically as gymnastic exercise and many a young man would have been snatched from the jaws of death by a little healthful exertion with swing ropes or on the horizontal bar. None but Volunteers are permitted to enjoy the use of the gymnasium fixtures.—*Hamilton Times*.

THE REBEL ARCHIVES.—A writer in a Southern paper gives a statement relative to the fate of the more important papers accumulated in the Executive Department of the rebel government during the rebellion. The writer, whose name is not disclosed, says that he himself had under his control the most general, important and interesting archives. In them was embraced the entire political history of the Confederacy, from its beginning at Montgomery to the disastrous close at Richmond. The Congress had left it to Jefferson Davis to say when, how and where these archives should be moved. Upon application to Davis, a few days previous to the surrender, as to what disposition should be made of them, nothing was done at that time; but on the Sunday following, the papers were packed and went on the train with the fugitive rebel. There they were lost sight of, and the writer believes they are at present at Washington.

A Mr. Kolzakoff, a Russian retired colonel, a noble, and wearing several decorations, has lately been tried in Moscow, for cheating in selling a horse. Trading horses was really his only mode of subsistence, though it was carried on secretly. At last he was caught selling to a lady a horse with a cracked foot, the defect being carefully concealed by the use of cement. He was criminally prosecuted, and sentenced to suffer the loss of his nobility, rank, pensions and decorations, and to be fined and imprisoned besides. The sentence was thought to be very severe, even in Russia.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The legislature of Newfoundland is summoned to meet on the 27th of this month. It is generally understood that the Government are prepared to bring up a measure providing for the admission of the Province into the Confederation. Should it meet with favour, as it is expected to, then a dissolution will take place almost immediately, and the question of Confederation be submitted to the people at the polls.

THE Halifax Colonist, in referring to the recent despatch of the Colonial Secretary, informs the Local Government of Nova Scotia that their treasonable and disloyal utterances have now received such a rebuff as was never before administered to the Government of Nova Scotia, and has taught them that the British Government is too well informed to be imposed upon by their gross mis-statements of facts, and places too just an estimate on the intelligence and loyalty of the people of Nova Scotia to hold them in any manner responsible for the treasonable impertinence of the members of the Executive Council. Let us hope the Government will take to heart the snub they have received, and henceforth act like loyal and reasonable men, even if they cannot so far transcend their natures as to play the part of statesmen.

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