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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SATURDAY, April 1.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: If the Government had introduced a suitable measure to have the Militia properly drilled I would support it, but we would be making ourselves ridiculous by passing such a measure as that. It revives an Act which was passed 85 years ago, and the provisions of which would make the Legislature the laughing-stock of the world. It says that each man is to have two gun flints, and a half pound of powder. There is a fine for firing a gun or beating a drum after sunset. Two guns are to be fired from Patterson's Battery, wherever that is, at a particular time of the evening. A signal fire is to be made at a particular place in Queen Street, where perhaps one of the best houses in town now stands, and which will have to be burned down. Then it exempts your honors from serving as Militia men, and it also exempts all Justices of the Peace and a number of other officers; in fact I believe it will exempt nearly every man in the Island. There would be scarcely enough left to perform the services required by the bill. I believe those who prepared this bill never looked at the old Act, or they surely would never have thought of reviving it. I dare say it was suitable at the time it was passed, but it is not so at the present day. The Act would have to be printed in a separate form for the information of the people, for it is not in any of the bound statutes, and I do not know but it would be a profitable speculation to buy them all up and send them round on exhibition, for they would be a curiosity in any country in the world. I feel it my duty to oppose the bill for the reasons I have stated.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I would like to see if anything could be done to relieve your honors from the disagreeable necessity of voting for this bill in its present shape, for it will cast a reflection upon this House which I would not like to see. If, through the carelessness of the House of Assembly, or from any other reason, they should send a bill here which will bring us into contempt, are we to pass it merely to please the Government? Is not our honor at stake when we stand here to attend to the affairs of the country?

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: I rather think there is a misapprehension on the part of some of your honors. The object of the present bill is to take away "Mooney's law," and leave the law as it was the day before that law was passed. The whole of that old law was not in force at that time, for I find that a number of clauses in it were repealed, and they will still stand repealed. Nothing more of that old law was in force, previous to the passing of "Mooney's law," than was applicable to the time, and I have no doubt but it will be equally applicable to the present time. The clauses in the old act which are repealed, and which have called forth such severe criticisms from your honors, are the 2nd, 5th, 6th, 10th, 11th, 15th, 20th, and 28th.

The Hon. Mr. Beer called attention to the twenty-first section of the same act, as being also inapplicable to the circumstances of the country at the present time; and, after some desultary debate, the Hon. Attorney General moved that the bill be amended by inserting the following section which was agreed to:—

"The twenty-first section of the herein before recited Act of the Twentieth, George the Third, Chapter One, shall be and the same is hereby repealed."

AFTERNOON.

DESPATCHES.—CONFEDERATION.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Walker, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the various despatches and other documents upon the table relative to the proposed Confederation of the British North American Colonies.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: Your honors, the report, or rather the correspondence on the subject of the conference relative to the Union of these Colonies has been on the table for a number of days, and whether or not this great question, having undergone such a great discussion in public of late, and the merits of it having been so well ventilated and so ably discussed on both sides, that it is needless for me to say that your honors must be in possession of the whole question, and able to give a calm and deliberate opinion upon it. I do not consider it necessary to occupy much of the attention of your honors, because I think there is nothing in the present state of the question to call for anything like an elaborate address upon the subject. I can perceive, as well as every gentleman around me, what the feelings of the people are, with respect to this momentous question. It is one on which I think the great body of the people can judge for themselves, and having in almost all parts of the Island, given an expression of opinion, we may safely say that ninety-nine in every hundred are directly opposed to the proposed union with Canada and the other Colonies on the terms of the Quebec Convention; therefore I feel it unnecessary to labour the question. Still, however, I, as one of the delegates, may be expected to say a little on the subject which does not lie in the mouths of others; but I do not think I can convey anything of interest to this House, on any point touching the merits of the question which your honors are not already in possession of. The articles of the Report, I have no doubt, have been well studied by your honors, and your minds are quite matured upon them. I do not hesitate to say that I cannot concur in the scheme laid down in this report. The report, it may be unnecessary for me to add, has been drawn up with great care and skill, and signed by the greater number of the delegates. I was one of those who signed it; but at the same time, if an explanation is necessary on that point I have it in my power to give it, and to show that, though parties signed that report, it was not with a view of acceding or consenting to all the principles it contained. It may be proper and necessary to explain why this is the case. At the deliberations of the Conference the question came up as to how the proceedings should be conducted, and what part should be published. There was a difference of opinion on this subject. Some were desirous of keeping a regular minute of the proceedings, so that every delegate should have an opportunity of offering his opinions where he differed from the majority by way of amendment to the proposition which he differed from, and thereby have a record of what his opinions were upon each question; but it was found that this would not be conducive to the ends in view, or to the accomplishment of the object of the delegation, and it was finally agreed that there should be no record kept of any proposition which was brought forward and lost. A question arose at this discussion how far the proceedings should be binding upon any individuals who should dissent from any particular proposition, and it was answered by some of the delegates that each party should feel himself bound to subscribe to what the majority had signed. Some opposed this. I was one who opposed it, and in decided language gave my dissent to such a proposition as being unprecedented in any legislative proceedings and subversive of freedom of opinion and action. I am glad to say that several other delegates having taken the same view of it, and having advanced their opinions in a more able manner, in equally decided terms, it was finally agreed that each delegate should be free to take what course he pleased, after the Convention broke up; such course as his conscientious convictions might dictate. I am speaking in the hearing of one of your honors who was a delegate and who will probably speak on this point. Well, when the report came to be revised, it contained a clause in which were these words: "The proceedings of the Conference shall be signed by the delegates &c." I did not like that paragraph when it came to be read, because, in the plain words in which it was couched and in their ordinary sense, it might be implied if so subscribed by each delegate that he subscribed to everything which the report contained. This brought forth a discussion, and that discussion revived what was said at a previous meeting as I have related. Other delegates, as well as myself, refused to subscribe to the report because the paragraph thus worded might be considered as giving their assent to everything it contained, without some qualifying meaning upon it. It was then proposed to make an alteration, and it was altered accordingly to its present shape, viz., "shall be *authenticated* by the signatures &c." A number of the delegates would not sign it till that word was put in in place the of word "signed" it was simply authenticated by their signatures as the report of the majority. I then subscribed it with the great majority of the delegates. I feel it necessary to give this explanation for reasons which may recur to the minds of some of your honors, and that being done, I am free to give an opinion, as I have done before, as disagreeing to the whole scheme as inimical to the interests of the people and to the prosperity of the country. I look upon this that we are a community enjoying all advantages and privileges of a sole and separate Government, and what is greater, the advantages of self-government which has been graciously conceded to us by our Sovereign. We enjoy all the blessing of British liberty and self-government which all the other Colonies enjoy, and I look upon it that if we enter confederation, while we might obtain some advantages, and I do not deny that we might, yet, giving up the control of the government of our own country, except some small local matters, would be making a sacrifice which confederation on the terms offered would not compensate us for. I know that the question is frequently asked by the warm advocates of union, why, if this proposed scheme is good for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, is it not good for this Island? But I fancy that they have a little reason to change their minds when they have seen the determination of New Brunswick within the last few weeks; and I admit that there may be strong reasons why Nova Scotia and New Brunswick should go into the union, which are not applicable to this Island, for we are situated in a very different position. I may notice the opinion of one of the principal statesmen of Canada, Mr. Galt, who took an active part in this Convention, and who is looked up to as sound authority on financial matters. I must take this opportunity of noticing some expressions made use of by that gentleman in his celebrated Sherbrooke speech. In speaking of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick going into the union he says:

"Although the construction of this railway might, perhaps, be more advantageous as to its local effects to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia than even to Lower Canada,—without question more advantageous than to Upper Canada—yet as a means by which the union was to be accomplished, and by which alone it could be brought about, there was an interest belonging to it, &c. &c."

Now, these sentiments were uttered by him in reference to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick after he had become intimately acquainted with the delegates from those Provinces and knew their opinions. He attributes their whole reasons for going into confederation to the advantages they expected to derive from the Railway; and then at the conclusion of the speech he makes the following significant allusion to Canada: "In conclusion he (Mr. Galt) would remark that the *political necessities* of Canada seemed to render a measure of union of all the Provinces of British North America necessary in itself."

Now, these two passages from a speech made by a gentleman standing in the position in which Mr. Galt stands, speak loudly to show how all the arguments for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick going into the union should be viewed and weighed before drawing the mind mind to the same conclusion as regards Prince Edward Island. These considerations have not been overlooked by the delegates of New Brunswick, and particularly by Mr. Fisher. I mention this to show that the same reasons do not exist for this Island going into the union, and therefore the question must rest solely on whatever intrinsic merits it may possess in itself. Now, in a question of this kind I think it rests with the advocates of union to show reasons for the alteration. At present we are as happy and contented a people as can be found. Our taxation is extremely light as compared with the other Colonies, and I do not see why we should alter our condition. If we go into Confederation we must expect that our taxation will be increased at a great rate. We know that in Canada, as it is shadowed forth in the articles of the Report of the Conference, there would be demands to carry into execution expensive public works which would call for immense sums of money from the federated treasury. For Railways and Canals a very large amount would be required: according to a recent author, Munro, the expence of the Canal to connect lake Erie with Ontario would cost $22,170,000, and as much more to complete the communication with the Atlantic; and we know that situated as Canada is, so near at hand to a large military power, the money which would necessarily be expended in military defences, for an army and for training their people, would be a very great amount. Their fortifications would call for the expenditure of millions of dollars. And we cannot but observe that they have recently been called upon to expend a very large sum in their military department which was not contemplated at the time the Convention sat and rose. I mean that expended for a force for the alleged purpose of preventing raids into Canadian Territory. This shows, and ought to convince us that our taxation under the union must increase to an enormous extent. At present I need only refer to a Canadian circular, which has been lying on this table for some time, giving a statement of the financial condition of Canada, and making a comparison between statistics of the various Provinces. In that table a calculation is made of the amount of revenue per head of the population. In Newfoundland it is $3.50, in Nova Scotia $3.-39, in New Brunswick $3.29 in Prince Edward Island $2 29, and in Canada $3.51. Taking the average of the other Provinces we find that it is just 50 per cent. above that of this Colony. Now, is it possible that, while this is actually the state of facts with regard to the revenue, is it possible I say that upon going into Confederation, and carrying out those great public works, any change that may be made in the revenue will be to the advantage of this Island? The probability is that the revenue would have to be increased at least 50 per cent., and therefore I think this shows us what ill judgment it would be on our part to accede to the proposed Confederation. Then we know further that their Impost duties are much greater than ours, which will be seen if we look at the different articles and the amount paid upon each; and we must remember that if we go into Confederation we surrender our power of keeping our taxation at the rate which we have kept it at, and must submit to the rate of the tariff of Canada. In the *Protestant* of the 18th of February last I find a tabular statement, and as far as my judgment goes it is faithfully and accurately given. It shows that in the year 1863 the amount of duties paid are the principal articles of importation from which our revenue is derived was £38,550; but if the Canadian tariff had been applied it would have been on the same articles £66332 17s. 6d., making a difference of £27802 17s. 11d. which we would have had to pay under Confederation. Now, that speaks in pretty strong language to show that we would suffer greatly if we went into Confederation with provisions which would render us liable to such a tariff upon those different articles.

JOINT ADDRESS IN REFERENCE TO THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S SALARY.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, in Colonial Parliament assembled, beg leave to approach Your Majesty and to submit for Your Royal consideration the following Statement and Petition:

Your Petitioners have had under their consideration a Despatch, dated Downing Street, 15th February, 1865, and addressed by the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, Your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of this Island, in which Despatch it is intimated to his Excellency that it will be necessary within a very short time to provide for the Salary of the Lieutenant Governor of this Island out of the funds of the Colony.

Your Petitioners humbly submit to Your Majesty, that in the year 1764 Your Majesty's Royal Predecessor, King George the Third, caused Prince Edward Island, then called the Island of Saint John, to be surveyed and laid off into Townships of twenty thousand acres each.

That on the Ninth day of May, A. D. 1764, His said Majesty in Council was graciously pleased to approve a plan for the granting and the settlement of the said Island.

That at a meeting of His Majesty's Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, held on the 8th July, 1767, that Board recommended the Lords of the Committee of Council to advise His Majesty to cause the several Lots or Townships into which the Island has been divided to be granted under the Seal of the Province of Nova Scotia to certain individuals, according to the distribution and subject to the conditions set forth in the Minutes of the proceedings of the said Commissioners, on the 8th July, 1767.

That on the 23rd day of July, 1767, the distribution of the Lots or Townships of Prince Edward Island, according as they were mentioned upon the original map or survey of the said Island, was decided upon in presence of their Lordships, His Majesty's Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, by ballot, in the form and manner set down in the Minutes of the proceedings of the said Commissioners, on the 8th July, 1767.

That on the 26th August, 1767, His said Majesty was pleased, with the advice of His Privy Council, to confirm the said proceedings of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, and to order the same to be carried into execution.

That on the said 26th August, 1767, the Fee-simple of the whole of the Lands of the said Island, (except about six thousand acres, which were subsequently granted,) was vested in one hundred and three persons.

That the Lands so granted were charged with a Quit Rent, varying from two shillings to six shillings per one hundred acres, payable to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors.

That the annual amount of said Quit Rents was estimated at about Three Thousand Pounds sterling.

That the said Island, on being ceded to the Crown of Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris, was attached to the Government of Nova Scotia.

That in the year 1769 the principal proprietors of Land in the said Island petitioned His Majesty, George the Third, praying that the said Island might be detached from Nova Scotia and constituted a separate, independent Government, and that the Quit Rents payable in respect of the Lands of the said Island might be appropriated to the payment of the expenses of such Government.

That His said Majesty was graciously pleased to grant the prayer of the petition of such Proprietors, and to order that the said Island should be detached from the Province of Nova Scotia and be constituted a separate Government.

That by Letters Patent, dated at Westminster, on the 4th day of August, 1769, Walter Patterson, Esquire, was duly commissioned Governor and Captain General in and over the said Island, and authorized to call a General Assembly therein, and to organize a Government.

That a separate Government was granted to the said Island on the express understanding that the expense thereof should be paid out of the Quit Rents to which the Lands were subject, and the Governor of the said Island, on the occasion of his appointment, was instructed by His Majesty that in case the annual amount of said Quit Rents should prove inadequate to the payment of the salaries of the Officers of Government, as fixed on their appointment, either by failure of the Proprietors to pay their Quit Rents, or by any accident or casualty whatever, the salaries and allowances to the several officers should be diminished in proportion.

That the failure of the Proprietors to pay the Quit Rents to a great extent left the officers of Government without the means of subsistence, and in the Session of 1777 His Majesty's Ministers applied to Parliament for a grant to defray the expense of the Civil Establishment of the Colony.

That in 1818 the Quit Rents upon all the Lands of the Colony were, by Royal authority, reduced to a uniform rate of two shillings per one hundred acres.

That at this reduced rate the Quit Rents would not exceed One thousand three hundred pounds per annum.

That from 1777 until 1850 the Imperial Parliament voted annually the sum requisite to defray the expense of the Civil Establishment of the Colony.

That as a condition precedent to the introduction of Responsible Government and the surrender of the Crown Revenues, prayed for in 1849-1850, Your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies required that this Colony should provide permanently for the payment of certain officers, and also for the payment of certain pensions.

That the conditions on which Your Majesty's Ministers expressed their willingness to sanction the introduction of Responsible Government into this Island, and to surrender the Crown Revenues, are set forth in Despatches, No. 93, dated Downing Street, 27th December, 1849, addressed by Earl Grey to Lieutenant Governor Sir Donald Campbell, and No. 2, dated Downing Street, 31st January, 1851, addressed by Earl Grey to Lieutenant Governor Sir Alexander Bannerman.

That the Representatives of the People of this Island passed the Law, the Act 14th Vic., Chapter 3, by which the Colony is rendered liable to pay the salaries and pensions therein mentioned, and which duly received Your Majesty's Royal Allowance.

That in passing this Law the Legislature relied upon Parliament to provide for the Salary of the Lieutenant Governor, a provision which Earl Grey, Your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, assured them in the said Despatch, of the 27th December, 1849, he had no reason to suppose Parliament was likely to withdraw.

That Your Petitioners would humbly beg leave to represent to Your Majesty, that the alienation of the Lands of this Island, in manner herein before set forth, deprived the Colony of that important source of Revenue, which in the other British North American Colonies is specially available for the payment of the expense of their Civil Establishments, and that, as the Grants were made to persons having claims upon the nation for Naval, Military and Civil services, in consideration of such claims, it is reasonable to expect from Parliament this small compensation for the great wrong to this Colony occasioned by the improvident alienation of its Lands.

The annual value of the Quit Rents and Crown Lands which passed to this Island under the Act, 14th Vic., Cap. 3, taken together, would not be adequate to defray the Salary of the Lieutenant Governor alone.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Majesty, taking into consideration the wrongs which have been inflicted upon this unfortunate Colony by the alienation of the Lands, and the consequent introduction of a System of Leasehold Tenures under absentee Landlords, which has produced wide-spread agitation, and also the circumstances under which this Colony enacted the Law passed in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of Your present Majesty, will be pleased to recommend to Parliament the continuance of the annual provision for the Salary of the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, and Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) DONALD MONTGOMERY, President.
R. MACAULAY, Speaker.

Legislative Council, 3rd April, 1865.
House of Assembly, 3rd April, 1865.

ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

Attempted Assassination of Secretary Seward.

On Good Friday night, the 14th inst., a most horrible crime was committed at Ford's Theatre, Washington. ABRAHAM LINCOLN was shot in the presence of his wife, while seated in his private box at the theatre, witnessing the performances. It has been ascertained, almost beyond doubt, that the perpetrator of this most atrocious crime is an actor, named John Wilkes Booth, a native of Maryland, and a most rabid secessionist. The following are the main particulars of this dreadful affair:

The night of April 14th was one of the saddest in American history. Although the day was commemorative of a nation's rejoicing upon the coming of a radiant and a happy peace, its night recorded one of the blackest and most damnable deeds which the dark annals of crime of a wicked world contain. The republic received a stab aimed at the person of its appointed chief, and the national character a horrible stain. All the emblems and proud insignia of jubilant victory which had been tossed to the breeze, were shorn of their altitude, and from their drooping folds sadly waved forth the sighing of a nation's woe. The hand of a single man has wrought a ruin which neither famine, war, nor pestilence could have invoked.

The circumstances which led to the success of this diabolical crime are mainly as follows: As is not uncommon, the general joy and hopefulness after the late brilliant victories, whereby the heart of the insurrection was finally and fatally pierced, the day of rejoicing was concluded by special rejoicing at the public theatres. It has not been the custom of the President habitually to attend these places of amusement, but as this seemed to be an occasion of general rejoicing, he had consented to visit it in company with his wife, for the purpose of lending his countenance and encouragement to the prevailing good feeling. Gen. Grant and his wife were expected to be present also, but afterwards changed their determination. The play for the evening was "Our American Cousin." The presidential party, consisting of Mrs. Senator Harris and daughter, and Major Henry J. Rathbun, of Albany, arrived at the theatre about 40 minutes after 8 o'clock, and were ushered by Col. Ford into the private box overlooking the stage. The performance of the play was quite lively, and the good spirits of the audience were sufficient to relieve the inordinate dullness of the play. The expected presence of the President and Gen. Grant drew out a crowded house. Booth was observed working his way through the crowd of persons toward the box occupied by the presidential party, but of course no suspicion was excited by the circumstances When he reached the sentry at the door of the box, he was, of course, refused admittance; but, in a whisper, he announced himself as a Senator, and said the President had sent for him. He was then allowed to pass in, when Major Rathbun confronted him in a low tone of voice with "You mistake, Sir; this is the President's box." Booth graciously begged pardon, turned to go, and struck at Major Rathbun with a knife, inflicting a severe but not dangerous wound. He stepped out of the box, passed on to the second door, which was closed, fired through it, stepped back again in the box at the first door, and in an instant had sprung out upon the stage, with the cry of "*Sic semper tyrannis.*" The whole affair was the work of 30 seconds. Major Rathbun made no outcry at first, because he did not wish to create alarm. All in the box, as well as the sentry outside, heard the pistol-shot, but at first supposed it fired in the course of the play. Mr. Lincoln made no outcry when hit, and Mrs. Lincoln only discovered it when she turned to him, after Booth rushed past her and jumped upon the stage. There are but few brief details to be added to the scene in the actual moments in which the assassination took place. The President, sitting in a large easy chair, which Mr. Ford had placed in the box specially for that evening, was looking on the stage in the second scene of the third act of our American cousin. Mrs. Mountchessington was just leaving the stage, saying to Mr. Hawk, who was playing Asa Trenchard, the words, "You don't understand the manners of good society, that alone can excuse the impertinence of which you are guilty." Trenchard answers, "I guess I know enough to turn you inside out," and the audience clapped their hands and laughed in glee, in which the President joined with a smile, and turned his head half-way to the audience. At that instant Booth fired the pistol through one door of the box, at the same time making good his aim, while looking through the other open door. The President threw his head slightly forward, and seemed to crouch down in his chair; but his consciousness departed forever. Booth leaped from the box to the stage, cutting Major Rathbun with his dagger as he passed through, and shouting "*Sic semper tyrannis,*" as he dashed across the stage. It was but sixty-four feet from the President's box to where Booth left his horse. In the box with the President were Mrs. Lincoln, Major Rathbun, the son-in-law of Senator Harris, of New York, and chief of one of the bureaus of the Provost Marshal-General's office, and Miss Harris, daughter of Senator Harris. After the shot, the occupants of the box seemed paralyzed. Miss Harris recovered first, and called to Miss Laura Keene, the actress, for water. A gentleman, aided by the former, climbed into the box. Another gentleman, at last, brought a pitcher of water; several others also ascended into the box, and as the house was being emptied, Miss Keene went around up into the dress circle and into the box. She immediately set to work, placed the bleeding head of the dying man on her lap, and endeavored to get some water down his throat, but even then he was wholly unconscious, and his breathing was rattlingly noisy. The brain was already commencing to ooze out, and the blood bedaubed the robe of an actress. The self-possession of Miss Laura Keene is commented on as the only exception to the general fear that seized upon every one.

In a few minutes after water and stimulants had been handed up to the box, a way was cleared through the excited and confused crowd; the President was taken across to the residence of Mr. Peterson, opposite the theatre, on Tenth street, where he remained till he expired. The excitement of the crowd of persons, as they spread the news along the streets, created the utmost consternation in the city. Exaggerated and distorted rumors of the affair and the culprit spread like lightning, until at one moment it appeared as if the whole Cabinet and Department had been sacrificed, and on a hasty examination it was found that the President had been shot through the head, above and below the temporal bone, and that some of the brain was oozing out. The Surgeon-General of the army and other surgeons were sent for to attend to his condition. A military guard was placed in front of the private residence to which the President had been conveyed. An immense crowd was in front of it, all deeply anxious to learn the condition of the President. It had been previously announced that the wound was mortal, but all hoped otherwise. All night long there was a throng around the square, and as near the building as the guards would permit None but officials and the personal friends of the President, the surgeons and functionaries, were allowed to pass through. The least indication of the state of the patient's health was received with profound emotion. In the morning the crowd increased. Many influential persons called, but seeing that everything was being done which sympathy could suggest, and the crowd increasing, prudently left. From the first examination, the wound was pronounced to be fatal. Only the most rugged constitution could survive a few hours. The ball was lodged in the brain, that brain so lately throbbing with sympathy, hope and goodness.

The scenes in the sick chamber are reported to be of an unusually affecting character. Mrs. Lincoln and her two sons gave way to the most uncontrollable grief and lamentations—the former accusing herself, in her frantic grief, for having gone to the theatre, and other womanly exhibitions of deep suffering, too sad and too delicate for description. Around the bedside, at intervals, were Secretary Stanton, who fairly wept tears at the sad spectacle. The President was insensible, and spoke no word after the moment he was shot. At about half-past eleven, the motion of the muscles of his face indicated as if he were trying or about to speak, but no intelligible sound escaped him. The blood from the wound in his neck interfered with his breathing; his pulse was low, but otherwise he seemed to be without pain. At four o'clock the symptoms of restlessness returned, and at six the premonitions of dissolution set in. His face, which had been quite pale, began to assume a waxy transparency, the jaw to fall, and the teeth to be seen. Gradually and calmly, without a ruffle or a groan, his spirit passed away, and at twenty-two minutes past seven, all that bound the soul of Abraham Lincoln to earth was loosened, and the heavenly spark fled to its Maker. And so closed the eventful career of one of the most remarkable men of our country's history, one whose lot it was to take a leading part in perhaps the greatest drama of all time. Surrounding the death-bed of the President were Secretaries Stanton, Welles, Usher; Attorney-General Speed, Postmaster General Dennison, M. B. Field, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Judge Otto, Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Gen. Halleck, Gen. Meigs, Senator Sumner, R. F. Andrews, of New York; Gen. Todd, of Decotah; John Hay, Private Secretary; Gov. Oglesby, of Illinois; Gen. Farnsworth, Mrs. and Miss Kenney, Miss Harris, Capt. Robert Lincoln, son of the President; and Drs. E. W. Abbott, R. K. Stone, C. D. Gatch, Neal Hall, and Mr. Lieberman. Secretary McCulloch remained with the President until about five o'clock, and Chief Justice Chase, after several hours' attendance during the night, retired early in the morning.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF SECRETARY SEWARD.

The principal public excitement of the day has concentrated upon the death of the President, the escape of the assassin, and the interest in the attack upon Secretary Seward, which so narrowly missed succeeding, and by which it seems to have been designed to remove at once the head of the Government and its principal aids. The plan, no doubt, intended that the massacre of the President and General Grant, and Secretaries Seward and Stanton, should be simultaneous, if, indeed, it did not include the Vice-President also. The Secretary of State has been lying dangerously ill for some days at his residence, from injuries received by a fall from his carriage. His condition was such as to excite profound alarm for his recovery. Within a few minutes of ten o'clock, on the evening of April 14th, a well-dressed person presented himself at the door, holding a paper in his hand, which he represented as being a prescription from Dr. Verdi. Passing the servant at the door, he strode forward to the sick chamber, where he was confronted by Fred. Seward, who questioned him of his business. Finding his entrance blocked and his pretenses vain, he struck the son over the head two forcible blows with either a sling-shot or a pistol, but more probably the latter, felling him insensibly. The unknown assassin then rushed into the room, and attacked the Secretary as he was lying on his back in the bed, cutting three very severe gashes in the neck, as if it was the evident determination to cut his throat. The messenger of the Department of State, who was present nursing Mr. Seward, immediately jumped upon the murderer, and wrestled with him for a minute, when the wretch cut a frightful gash in his side, which, it is thought, will prove mortal. Miss Seward, who was present, fainted at the ghastly sight.

Paymaster Major Seward coming up at this juncture, received a cut from the knife in the hands of the assassin. In the meantime, the Secretary of State had had presence of mind to roll out of bed, and thus, perhaps, escape further injury. The life of the messenger is despaired of, as one of the ribs is cut, and a terrible gash made in his side. Mr. Fred. Seward's skull is broken in two places, and on the 17th he was submitted to the operation of trepanning. The bloody villain in this case escaped without leaving any trace as to his identity. He was seen by persons approaching to ride off toward Fifteenth street. Suspicions rest upon various persons, John Surratt, a young Baltimorean, being among the most prominent, as he has been a companion of Booth for some time, and is believed to have hired a horse at the livery stable where Booth obtained his. There is a report current that Booth has been captured, which causes the most intense feeling. It is very certain that in the present condition of the public mind, he would fare badly if caught, or any one who offered any sympathy with him.

A BATTLE SCENE AT FIVE FORKS.—A correspondence of the New York *World*, in narrating Sheridan's splendid achievements at Five Forks, which resulted in the capture of six thousand prisoners and the final victory, relates the following:—

A REBEL REGIMENT ANNIHILATED.

A Colonel with a shattered regiment came down upon us in a charge. The bayonets were fixed; the men came on with a yell; their gray uniforms seemed black amid the smoke; their preserved colors, torn by grape and ball, waved defiantly; twice they halted and poured in volleys, but came on again like the surge from the fog, depleted, but determined; yet, in the hot faces of the carbineers they read a purpose as resolute, but more calm, and while they pressed along swept all the while by scathing volleys, a group of horsemen took them in flank.

It was an awful instant; the horses recoiled; the charging column trembled like a single thing, but at once the rebels, late organization, fell into a hollow square, and with solid sheet of steel defied our centaurs. The horsemen rode around them in vain; no charge could break the shining squares, until our dismounted carbineers poured in their volleys, afresh, making gaps in their spent ranks, and then in their wavering time, the cavalry thundred down. The rebels could stand no more; they reeled and swayed, and fell back broken and beaten; and on the ground their Colonel lay, sealing his devotion with his life.

It is reported in Paris that the death of the Duke de Morny has made so deep an impression upon the mind of the Emperor of the French as to effect the health of his Majesty, and that, in consequence of the pressing recommendations of his medical advisers, the visit of the Emperor to Algeria will take place at a much earlier period than that originally determined upon.