THE EVENING STAR.

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☞ READING MATTER ON EVERY PAGE. SEE OUTSIDE FOR INTERESTING TELEGRAPHIC AND OTHER MATTER.

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Incidents.

The last act of the tragedy of the 19th century is ended, and the curtain dropped forever upon the lives of four of its actors. Payne, Herold, Atzerodt and Mrs. Surratt, have paid the penalty of their awful crime.

In the bright sunlight of this summer day, when the hills and grassy fields are fairest, and all the elements make earth pleasant, the wretched criminals have been hurried into eternity; and to-night, will be hidden in despised graves, loaded with the execrations of mankind.

Their deeds have been judged patiently and impartially. Seven weeks were devoted to their trial, witnesses have been summoned from remote sections, every point that in any manner suggested innocence was carefully weighed, and the sentence of death executed only because there was not one reasonable doubt of overwhelming guilt.

The friends of Mrs. Surratt thought her life might be spared out of regard for her sex, but a just tribunal is no respecter of persons, and declares that the majesty of outraged law must be vindicated without reference to age, sex or condition.

The community will experience a sense of relief at the termination of this tragedy. Day after day the subject has been brought before the public until every one was weary of it, and now the memory of the assassins will be put away as a hateful thing.

CONCERNING THE PRISONERS.

Interesting Details.

Now that the last scene in the drama is over with the prisoners convicted of the capital offence, it is proper to give some details concerning them and their imprisonment not heretofore published.

As soon as the Government got trace of the whereabouts of some of the conspirators sufficiently definite to make their speedy capture probable, at the request of the War Department one of the three monitors then at the Navy Yard (the Saugus, Lieut. Day commanding,) was assigned as the prison ship, and hauled out in the stream about one hundred yards from the experimental battery on the wharf. A strong guard of marines was placed on the Saugus, under command of Capt. Frank Monroe, and at the same time a number of double irons were placed on board, ready for such prisoners as should be sent down.

The first prisoner received was O'Laughlin, who was placed on board at 10 o'clock p. m. on Tuesday, April 18th. He appeared to feel his situation very sensibly, but had but little to say. He was at once conducted to the captain's cabin, where he was placed in double irons and a ball and chain attached to his legs, and a canvass bag placed over the head with an aperture over the mouth large enough for him to breathe through.

Lewis Payne was the next one received, he arriving about 5 o'clock on the following morning, and he was placed in the anchor room, where he was secured in the same manner as O'Laughlin.

Payne while on board the monitor made the desperate attempt to beat out his brains against the iron walls, which led to padded hoods being placed over the heads of all the prisoners. Payne throughout his imprisonment here exhibited the same cool audacity he displayed during his trial afterwards.

At 11.30 p. m. on Thursday, April 20th, G. A. Atzerodt and Hartman Richter arrived and were placed in the coal bunker, where they were secured. Atzerodt did not have much to say, but while Richter was being secured he protested his innocence, saying he knew nothing of the case, and when the irons were about being placed on him he said that that was the first time such things had been placed on him.

On Sunday, April 23d, the monitor Montauk, Lieutenant Commander Stone, hauled out in the stream, and being lashed to the Saugus, Atzerodt was transferred from her to the windlass room of the Montauk. On the night of the same day Samuel Arnold, detected by the "Sam" letter, was brought down and secured as the others in a small apartment on the monitor. Later in the night Spangler was brought on board and confined in the bag room. At 9.30 p. m. Tuesday, 25th of April, the Portuguese, J. M. Celestina, was brought on and after being secured as the others, placed in the hammock room.

At 1:45 a. m., of Thursday, 27th of April, the steamer John S. Ide, Captain Henry Wilson, came alongside with Booth's body, and with David C. Herold. Herold was taken to the ward-room store-room, where he was placed in double irons, and otherwise secured as the others.

Spangler was badly frightened when he was first placed on board, and for some time he was nearly out of his wits. Dr. G. B. Todd, Surgeon of the Montauk, prescribed for him, and in two or three days he became calm. Atzerodt also needed the Doctor's services on being first imprisoned, but he did not need them long.

HEROLD.

David E. Herold is the only son of the late A. George Herold, who for over twenty years was the principal clerk of the Navy Store at the Washington Yard, and who died last fall at his residence near the Yard. David was born at the corner of 11th street east and I street south, nearly 23 years since. He was noted for trifling, frivolity, wholly unlike the others of the family, who are of a retired disposition, seeing little company. David was very fond of horses, dogs, and guns, and was a great brag, never being without something to boast of. His father was exceedingly fond of sporting, and hunted frequently from Washington to Chapel Point, where he crossed to Virginia and thence back to Alexandria, usually taking David with him, and sometimes he and David would be out for a month or more in hunting. David was never known to drink until a few months previous to his arrest. He was naturally adverse to hard work, and considered bodily toil for his livelihood degarding. He attended school in the eastern section of the city when of a tender age, and finished off by three years schooling in Georgetown College, after which he entered upon the drug business, his first engagement being with Dr. Bates, corner of 7th and L, (Navy Yard,) then with Dr. F. S. Walsh, on 8th street west, and subsequently for a few months with W. S. Thompson, near the State Department.

After his father's death he gave up his business, and spent most of his time in the country, stopping with various persons between this city and Port Tobacco, and he was often seen drinking when in town. His most intimate acquaintances never heard him mention politics at this time, his whole conversation being of his exploits with dog and gun. The family are of the Episcopalian persuasion, the mother and his seven sisters being attached to Christ Church, at the Navy Yard, but David seldom if ever attended church. The family are highly esteemed in the community, and have the sympathies of the public. The grief of the family on hearing his death warrant was heart-rending.

From Herold's frivolous turn of mind and unstable character, it is believed that Booth did not rely upon him to do any of the heavy work of the great tragedy, but counted upon him as a valuable auxiliary in his flight, from his local knowledge of the country through which that flight was to be essayed.

ATZERODT.

George A. Atzerodt is short, thick-set round-shouldered, of muddy complexion, with brown hair, light-colored mustache and goatee, unpleasant green eyes, aged about 33, and a blacksmith by trade. He was born in Germany, but raised, we learn, in Charles county, Md., where he has spent most of his life. His character has stood none of the best heretofore, and for some years he has been living with a woman, not his wife, near Port Tobacco, by which woman he has a child. For some months previous to the assassination he had been missing from Port Tobacco, and it is believed he had been engaged in blockade running and other traitorous practices.

Atzerodt alleges that during the latter part of February John Surratt and Booth wanted a man who understood boating, and could both get a boat and ferry a party over the Potomac on a capture. Surratt knew him, and under the influence of great promises of a fortune, he (Atzerodt) consented to furnish the boat and do the ferrying over. This plot was attempted on the 18th of March, and failed Booth, however, kept his subordinates uninformed of his plans, except that it was understood the President was to be captured. Meanwhile everybody was waiting for Booth. On the 13th of March he (Atzerodt) went to the Kimmel House, and what took place afterwards according to his statements to the court is as follows:—

I am one of the party who agreed to capture the President of the United States, but I am not one of a party to kill the President of the United States, or any member of the Cabinet, or General Grant, or Vice President Johnson. The first plot to capture failed, the second to kill I broke away from the moment I heard of it. This is the way it came about:—On the evening of the 14th of April I met Booth and Payne at the Herndon House, in this city, at 8 o'clock, He (Booth) said he himself would take charge of Mr. Lincoln and General Grant, Payne should take Mr. Seward, and I should take Mr. Johnson. I told him I would not do it. That I had gone into the thing to capture, but I was not going to kill. He told me I was a fool; that I would be hung anyhow, and that it was death for every man that backed out, and so we parted. I wandered about the streets until about 2 o'clock in the morning, and then went to the Kimmell House, and from there pawned my pistol at Georgetown, and went to my cousin's house in Montgomery county, where I was arrested the 19th following. After I was arrested I told Provost Marshal Wells and Provost Marshal McPhail the whole story; also told it to Capt. Monroe, and Col. Wells told me if I pointed out the way Booth had gone I would be reprieved, and so I told him I thought he had gone down Charles county in order to cross the Potomac. The arms which were found in my room at the Kirkwood House and a black coat do not belong to me. On the afternoon of the 14th of April Herold called to see me, and left the coat there. It is his coat, and all in it belongs to him, as you can see by the handkerchiefs, marked with his initial and with the name of his sister, Mrs. Naylor. Now I will state how I passed the whole of the 14th of April. In the afternoon about 2 o'clock I went to Keleher's stable on 8th street, near D, and hired a dark bay mare and rode into the country for pledsure, and on my return put her up a Naylor's stable. The dark bay horse which I had kept at Naylor's before on or about the 3d of April belonged to Booth, and also the saddle and bridle, and I had charge of him to sell him; and I do not know what became of him. At about 6 in the evening I went to Naylor's again and took out the mare, rode out for an hour and returned her to Naylor's. It was then nearly 8, and I told him to keep the mare ready at 10 o'clock, in order to return her to the man I hired her from. From there I went to the Herndon House; Booth sent a message to the "Oyster Bay," where I was, saying he wanted to see me, and I went. Booth wanted me to murder Mr. Johnson. I refused. I then went to the "Oyster Bay," on the avenue, above 12th street, and whiled away the time until 10. At 10 I got the mare and having taken a drink with the hostler, galloped about town, and went to the Kimmell House. From there I rode down to the depot, and returned my horse riding up Penna. avenue to Keleher's. From Keleher's I went down to the Navy Yard to get a room with Wash Briscoe. He had none, and by the time I got back to the Kimmell House it was near 2. The man Thomas was a stranger I met on the street. Next morning, as stated, I went to my cousin Richter's in Montgomery county.

GEORGE A. ATZERODT.

Despite this statement of Atzerodt, there is no doubt whatever that he fully entered into the assassination plot up to the very hour of its execution, and only lacked nerve at the last moment to execute what he had promised. The testimony, direct and circumstantial, is conclusive as to this.

PAYNE, OTHERWISE POWELL.

Lewis Payne Powell is the son of the Rev. George C. Powell, a Baptist minister, at present supposed to live at Live Oak Station, on the railroad between Jacksonville and Tallahassee, in the State of Florida, and was born in Alabama in the year 1845. Besides himself his father had six daughters and two sons. He lived for some time in Worth and Stewart counties, Georgia, and in 1859 moved to Florida. At the breaking out of the war, four years ago, the prisoner was a lad of sixteen, engaged in superintending his father's plantation and a number of slaves. In 1861 his two brothers enlisted in the Confederate service, and Lewis in the same year enlisted in Capt. Stewart's company in the 2d Florida infantry, commanded by Col. Ward, and was ordered to Richmond. At Richmond his regiment joined the army of General Lee, and was joined to A. P. Hill's corps. With it he passed through the peninsula campaign and the battles of Chancellorsville and Antietam. Here he heard that his two brothers had been killed at the battle of Murfreesboro. Finally on the 3d of July, 1863, in the charge upon the Federal center at Gettysburg he was wounded, taken prisoner and detailed as a nurse in a Pennsylvania hospital.

From Gettysburg he was sent to West Buildings Hospital, Pratt street, Baltimore, and remained until October, 1863, when he deserted for his regiment, and walked through Winchester, met a regiment of Confederate cavalry at Fauquier, which he joined, and remained in that service until January 1, 1865. About that time he deserted and came to Alexandria, sold his horse, gave his name as Payne, took the oath of allegiance as a refugee from Fauquier, and went to Baltimore and took a room at the house of Mrs. Branson, the lady he had met at Gettysburg. Here he fell in with Booth, whom he had met in Richmond, and became a ready ally to the atrocious conspirator, and much of the preliminary blocking out of the work of the conspiracy seems to have been done by this brace of cool, desperate villains.

According to the statement of Payne, the plan was first to come to Washington, where the gang of working conspirators were to go out on horseback to the vicinity of the Soldiers' Home, capture President Lincoln and deliver him to the rebel authorities. According to the testimony of Lewis J. Weichman, such a gang, including Booth, Payne, and John Surratt, rode out on horseback, one afternoon subsequent to the 4th of March, and returned very much excited and discomposed, as if baffled in some cherished undertaking. The supposition is that an attempt to way-lay President Lincoln, at that time, was really attempted and miscarried, but the scheme to carry off Mr. Lincoln in broad day light, to the Confederate lines, was too absurdly impracticable to have been really entertained by Booth, at least, if any of his fellow conspirators were crack-brained enough to be deluded by it. There is little doubt that Booth *meant murder* whenever he should come in contact with President Lincoln, and be able to deal the blow with any chance of escape.

Payne alleges that on the night of the fatal 14th of April, he met with Booth at the Herndon House at 8 o'clock, where the work of each was assigned, and Booth directed him to meet him at the Anacostia bridge after the deed was done. They parted not again to meet in *this* world.

MRS. SURRATT.

Mrs. Mary E. Surratt was raised near Waterloo, on Calvert's manor, in Prince George's county, Maryland. Her maiden name was Jenkins. Her father died when she was quite young. As she grew up she displayed considerable force of character, and expressed a desire to have a better education than was attainable in her neighborhood, and she was sent to a female seminary in Alexandria.

Returning to her mother's home, she became an acknowledged belle in Prince George's county, and quite as noted for her strong will, she seldom failing in anything she undertook. She married Surratt about the year 1835, and the couple first settled at a place known as Condin's Mill, near Camp Stoneman, (Giesboro) which property Surratt inherited from an uncle named Neal. After they had lived here a few years, the house was set on fire by their slaves, and the Surratts barely escaped from the fire with their lives.

Surratt afterwards engaged on the Orange and Alexandria railroad as a contractor, and on finishing his work returned to Prince George's county, and bought a farm, on which he established the tavern known as "Surratt's," and afterwards was appointed Postmaster at that point, but he being an uneducated man, the duties of the office devolved upon his wife.

They had three children, a daughter and two sons. One of the latter (Isaac) went South at the outbreak of the rebellion, entering the southern army it is said. The other son (John) staid about home, spending his time in idleness or worse. The father was known as a pro-slavery man, and a sympathizer with the South in the rebellion to some extent, but was not looked upon as an open secessionist. He died very suddenly about three years since, and soon afterwards his widow leased the property and came to this city, where she opened a boarding house on H street, which house has since become notorious as the scene where was concocted some of the most stupendous deviltry of the world's history.

"Surratt's" (house and farm) is situated on the mail route from Washington to Leonardtown, Md., and is twelve miles from Washington post office, at a junction of the Marlborough and Piscataway roads. The house is a comfortable two-story double frame building containing nine rooms, and on the front and one side are porticos for the visitors to enjoy the fresh air during the sultry seasons. The farm is well adapted for gardening purposes, and though not very extensive, is profitable for wheat and tobacco.

When Mrs. Surratt come to this city to open a boarding house she rented the tavern stand to John M. Lloyd at a rent of $500 per annum.

REMOVAL OF THE PRISONERS TO THE ARSENAL.

On Saturday night, 29th of April, about 10½ o'clock, the steamer Keyport came alongside the monitors, and the prisoners were taken off one at a time, and, each guarded by two marines and a detective, they were taken to seats on the Keyport, apart from each other; men of the Veteran Reserve Corps relieving the marines, and between 11 and 12 o'clock they were landed at the Arsenal wharf, and escorted to the cells they have since occupied.

BOOTH'S BODY.

The body of Booth was placed on a carpenter's bench on the bow of the Montauk, where it remained until the afternoon, covered the most of the time with a tarpaulin. During the day many applications were made for admission into the Navy Yard to get in the vicinity of the Montauk, but the orders were very strict, and no one was allowed to enter but the workmen and those holding passes from the proper quarter. Col. Baker, Col. Wells and others were present during the day. Some witnesses were taken on board to identify the body, among them Dr. May, of this city. About noon a post mortem examination was held by Surgeon General Barnes, assisted by Surgeon Todd, of the Montauk, and one or two army surgeons, and others. The wound was found as already described, and one or two pieces of the vertebræ at the point touched by the ball were taken out. While this was going on, numerous spectators from the shore watched the movements with intense interest through powerful glasses. As a coffin or box had been made for the remains at the joiner's shop, at the yard, it was thought that the body would be placed in it, but the box was not called for. A few minutes past two o'clock the surgeons who had held the autopsy withdrew from around the bench, and in a few minutes more an ordinary grey blanket was produced, in which the body of Booth was placed, and it was lowered into the gig of the Montauk, in which Col. Baker, with two or three others, including a naval officer, took their seats, and the six oarsmen pulled away towards the Arsenal.

Speculation, it will be remembered, was busy as to what disposition was made of the remains. One rumor was the Government had directed the army medical bureau to take charge of the corpse, to add the skeleton to the army medical museum on H street. Another report was that the head and heart only had been assigned to the museum. A third story was to the effect that it was taken to Alexandria and placed on a tug boat, in which it was sent to the flag-ship of the North Atlantic Squadron, in Hampton Roads, which conveyed it out to sea and dropped it deeper than plummet ever sounded.

The best authentic statement, and which is now the accepted theory amongst those who should know, is that the body was taken to the Arsenal, where it was placed in an ammunition box and deposited that night in an excavation made under the brick paving, about midway of the southeast portion of the room, formerly used as the penitentiary store room, between the Warden's room and the cell ranges.

FURTHER OF THE PRISONERS.

Herold, when he was first placed on the Montauk, had nothing to say, except that he would like to send out to his mother to get him a pair of shoes. For the most part of the time he was on the monitor he was sullen. Colonel Wells was on the boat one day, and when Herold was brought before him, he told the Colonel to "take a good look, a good square look, so you will know me."

During the time they were on the iron-clads they were kept, as will be seen above, entirely separated, and no one of them knew that any of the others had been arrested. During the whole time two marines, with loaded muskets, kept guard over each man at his cell; and at the same time a sentry was placed at the hatchway. The prisoners during their confinement here, were brought upon deck, one at a time, where they were photographed by Gardner. Herold was brought up for this purpose on the same day he arrived, and it was some time before a satisfactory picture was got. On this occasion he appeared sullen, and he put on a pouty look as he took his seat in the chair and glanced with dissatisfaction in the direction of the wharf, where a number of spectators were watching every movement on the vessel, many of whom were his old acquaintances.

THE FINDINGS.

On Wednesday morning President Johnson called for the findings of the Commission, and with Judge Advocate General Holt carefully reviewed them, excluding all visitors. Those who called at the White House on official business were limited to an interview with the private secretary, Gen. Muzzy, and cases which required the personal attention of the President were deferred until the examination and approval of the sentences had been completed. The President was, however, still suffering from indisposition, and was compelled to maintain his seclusion, seeing no visitors on business, either Wednesday or yesterday. As soon as the order for the execution had been issued, Gen. Hancock proceeded to the penitentiary and the sentences were read to the prisoners by Gen. Hantranft, commanding the troops guarding the prison and adjacent grounds.

The first intimation given to the public of the approval of the findings, was received by members of the press at the White House, yesterday morning, where they were directed to call at the War Department. Up to this time there were but two copies of the findings and order for the execution—one for the Department, the other in the possession of General Hancock—and the excited movements of the various newspaper correspondents in the city to get access to one of these would have been laughable but for the serious character of the occasion. Scouts were sent in all directions for the General, and his headquarters, the various bureaus of the War Department, and Willards' Hotel closely watched by anxious newsgatherers, while some parties posted themselves at points on the avenue where his carriage would be most likely to pass, determined to obtain a glance of the documents, regardless of difficulties. At the War Department every facility was extended to members of the press, and all who made application for the findings were provided for in ample time for their respective journals.

The announcement of the sentences was rather more sudden than was expected, and occasioned some surprise, though every one approved the dispatch with which the subject had been disposed of.

THE READING OF THE SENTENCES.

The sentences of those to be executed were made known to them about 12 o'clock yesterday, Maj. Gen. Hartranft performing the duty imposed upon him in as delicate and humane a manner as possible. Maj. Gen. Hancock accompanied Gen. Hartranft, and they first of all visited the cell of Lewis Powell Payne, which is No. 195, on the north side of the second tier. Payne showed no perturbation, and took the announcement as if he fully expected it. He spoke to Gens. Hancock and Hartranft, stating that he had been much better treated than he had expected—better, he thought, than he would if he had been in the custody of the civil authorities. He also stated that he had thought much over the conspiracy plot, and that although he at first believed that he was doing nothing but his duty, he was now satisfied that he had done wrong, and expressed his sorrow. He was actuated in the part he took by motives of revenge for the wrongs he thought had been committed upon Confederates falling into our hands.

The cell of George A. Atzerodt, which is No. 161, on the south side of the same tier, was next visited, and on the sentence being announced he showed great nervousness, his face turning an ashy hue and his lips and hands quivering. He immediately expressed a desire to see some of his friends. Only one visitor beside Marshal McPhail had seen him since he was in prison, and that one his brother. He asked for a minister.

David E. Herold, whose cell was on the third tier, was next informed of his doom, when he trembled like a leaf. He acknowledged that he was in the plot to abduct the President, having got into it through John Surratt. He attended a meeting of the party, at which Booth said he was going to assassinate the President, with which he (Herold) said he would have nothing to do, but would help him to get away, and Booth hired a horse for him to accompany him. He (Herold) begged that all the members of his family be sent for. He also stated that his sympathies had been with the South, head and heart.

Mrs. Surratt was next visited, her cell being No. 200, on the north side of the third tier, and on the terrible news being broken to her she burst in a violent paroxysm of grief. As soon as she recovered, she asked that Rev. Father Walter, of St. Patrick's, Rev. Father Wiget, President of Gonzaga College, and Mr. John P. Brophy, of the St. Aloysius Schools, with her daughter, Miss Anna Surratt, be sent for.

During the afternoon the four condemned persons were moved to cells on the ground tier, fronting south, the others—Spangler, Mudd, Arnold, and O'Laughlin,—being left in their old cells, not having yet been made aware of their sentence.

PETITIONS FOR CLEMENCY.

Immediately upon the announcement of the sentences a rush was made for the Executive Mansion by friends and relatives of the conspirators to plead for a brief respite. Among the applicants were the counsel of Mrs. Surratt, a sister of Herold, the wife of Dr. Mudd, and the spiritual advisers of the condemned, and a number of parties whose sympathies got the better of their judgment and afforded the only apology for their officiousness. All applicants were referred to Judge Advocate General Holt, but he, like the President, was inexorable. At night the throng of applicants increased, and the entreaties were most importunate. Many expressed the belief that in consideration of her sex, the sentence of Mrs. Surratt might be commuted to imprisonment for life, and her case was the most strongly urged. Even down to the hour for the execution the hope of clemency was entertained by some, and not a few were sanguine to the last.

PASSES.

Gen. Hancock, assisted by Major Anderson, of his staff, gave passes to such parties as were privileged to witness the execution. These were limited to the regular members of the press, the necessary witnesses, and a few officers. The pass was as follows:

Headquarters Middle Military Division,
Washington, D. C., July 7th, 1865.

Major General J. F. Hartranft, Military Governor Military Prison:—Admit —— to the Military Prison this day.

WINF'D S. HANCOCK,
Major General Volunteers, Commanding.

On the reverse was written, "Between 10 a. m. and 2 p. m."

Each pass was registered with the rank and station of the officer, and the paper to which representatives of the press belonged.

At the Metropolitan Hotel, where Gen. Hancock stops, a great crowd assembled, in hopes of meeting him and procuring passes to the execution. His letter-box was filled with letters and cards that projected like a fan, and for a time the entrances to the hotel were completely blockaded.

The applicants for admission were without number until a late hour last evening, and early this morning Gen. Hancock's headquarters were besieged for passes. The rule of limitation, however, was strictly adhered to, and none permitted to attend the execution for the mere gratification of curiosity.

SCENES AT THE SURRATT HOUSE.

The residence of Mrs. Surratt, on H street north, near Sixth, remained closed yesterday after the announcement of her fate had become known through the public prints. In the evening but a single dim light shown from one of the rooms, while within the house all was as quiet as death up to about eight o'clock, at which hour, Miss Annie E. Surratt, who has been in constant attendance upon her mother, drove up to the door in a hack, accompanied by a gentleman. She appeared to be perfectly crushed with grief, and as she alighted from the carriage ladies who were standing near were moved to tears in sympathy with the unfortunate girl, whose every look and action betrayed her anguish.

Miss Surratt was assisted in ascending the steps of the mansion by her companion, and after gaining admittance to the house fainted several times, causing great bustle and excitement among the inmates, who were untiring in their efforts to console the almost heart-broken young lady.

From early in the evening until a late hour at night hundreds of persons—old and young, male and female—visited the vicinity of Mrs. Surratt's residence, stopping upon the opposite side of the street, glancing over with anxious and inquiring eyes upon the house in which the conspirators met, commenting upon the fate of the doomed woman and the circumstances connected therewith. Even the casual passer-by was attracted to the spot, while the residents of the neighborhood sat quietly at their doors and windows watching the movements of those who approached the house in which the conspiracy was concocted. During the evening not less than 500 persons visited the spot.

The house is a large three-story and attic brick, with the street front painted lead color, and has two entrances on H street, one being on the lower story or ground floor and the other on the second floor by means of a high porch from the pavement. Several beautiful shade trees in front of the house (which is of modern build, of fine interior and exterior appearance) completely hides it from the view of passers-by on the opposite side of the street. Since the arrest of Mrs. Surratt this house has been the centre of interest in the northern part of the city, and hundreds of persons who have passed it, either intentionally or unintentionally, have stopped and gazed upon it with curiosity, while those parties living in the vicinity have been kept busy in answering the questions of persons from a distance eager to obtain all information possible relative to Mrs. Surratt, her family and the house in which she resided.

INCIDENTS AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

About half-past 8 o'clock this morning, Miss Surratt, accompanied by a female friend, again visited the White House, having been there last evening for the purpose of obtaining an interview with the President. President Johnson having given orders that he would receive no one to-day, the doorkeeper stopped Miss Surratt at the foot of the steps leading up to the President's office, and would not permit her to proceed farther. She then asked permission to see General Muzzy, the President's military secretary, who promptly answered the summons, and came down stairs where Miss Surratt was standing. As soon as the General made his appearance Miss S. threw herself upon her knees before him, and catching him by the coat, with loud sobs and streaming eyes, implored him to assist her in obtaining a hearing with the President. Gen. Muzzy, in as tender a manner as possible, informed Miss Surratt that he could not comply with her request, as President Johnson's orders were imperative, and he would receive no one.

Upon Gen. Muzzy returning to his office, Miss S. threw herself upon the stair steps where she remained a considerable length of time sobbing aloud in the greatest anguish, protesting her mother's innocence, and imploring every one who came near her to intercede in her mother's behalf. While thus weeping, she declared her mother was too good and kind to be guilty of the enormous crime of which she was convicted, and asserted that if her mother was put to death she wished to die also.

The scene was heart-rending, and many of those who witnessed it, including a number of hardy soldiers, were moved to tears. Miss S., having become quieted, gave vent to her feelings in silent tears, and was finally persuaded to take a seat in the East Room, where she remained for several hours, jumping up from her seat each time the front door of the mansion was opened, evidently in hopes of seeing some one enter who could be of service to her in obtaining the desired interview with the President, or that they were bearers of good news to her.

Two of Herold's sisters, dressed in full mourning, and heavily veiled, made their appearance at the White House shortly after Miss Surratt, for the purpose of interceding with the President in behalf of their brother. Failing to see the President, they addressed a note to Mrs. Johnson, and expressed a hope that she would not turn a deaf ear to their pleadings. Mrs. Johnson being quite sick it was deemed expedient by the ushers not to deliver the note, when, as a last expedient, the ladies asked permission to forward a note to Mrs. Patterson, the President's daughter, which privilege was not granted, as Mrs. P. is also quite indisposed to-day. The Misses Herold, although feeling greatly concerned for their doomed brother, showed but little outward signs of grief, which was deep and silent, and it was impossible to tell the anguish going on within their hearts.

AN ATTEMPT TO STAY THE EXECUTIONS!

At an early hour this morning, Mr. Aiken, one of the counsel for Mary E. Surratt, applied to Judge Wylie, of the Supreme Court of this District, for a writ of *habeas corpus* to stay her execution to-day.

It was granted, and directed to Major General Hancock to produce her in court at 10 a. m. to-day.

Shortly after 10 a. m. the Marshal made return that General H. had refused to obey the writ, &c.

At noon Gen. Hancock, accompanied by Attorney General Speed, appeared in court, and the case was taken up, the return read, &c. It embraced Gen. Hancock's reply in writing, stating that the President had suspended the power of the writ in this case, as he had done in several previous cases, by virtue of the law of Congress authorizing him so to do; and directing him to make no obedience to the order of the court, for which reason he declined so to do.

His reply was accompanied by various military orders in the case, embracing the President's action in the premises.

The Court, in a few remarks, explained that the military authorities having taken the case out of its hands, it had no power to proceed further in it.

Attorney General Speed addressed the Court briefly in explanation of the action of the government in the premises, showing that the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus was absolutely necessary in time of war for the preservation of the public liberties and the life of the Government in time of peace, and enforced with power and effect the right of the military authority to protect the life of the commander-in-chief of the army and navy by and through its own courts in such times.

He declared that the Government had given the case anxious consideration, and had directed that the writ should not be complied with only after mature and patriotic deliberation. He also expressed his confidence that Judge Wylie had been guided in the matter only by sincere convictions of duty.

The Court responded to his remarks, in further explanation of the necessity resting upon it to take no further action, &c.

We shall publish in a later edition to-day all the interesting particulars involved. The Court room was crowded during their proceedings with a largely and deeply interested throng of citizens.

THE ROAD TO THE PENITENTIARY.

Double guards were stationed early this morning along 4½ street from Pennsylvania avenue to the Penitentiary. A strong guard was also stationed at the upper gate of the arsenal grounds, and no person was admitted here without proper vouchers from General Hancock. A park of carriages, hacks and buggies gathered here were turned back by the guards and the unlucky occupants compelled to foot it along the hot road to the Penitentiary Building.

THE GUARDS.

Before 9 o'clock the 4th Hancock regiment, Col. Wood, 1st Hancock, Lieut. Col. Bird, a large detachment of the 60th Ohio, arrived near the building, when the 1st Hancock were marched in the south yard of the prison, the 4th stationed on the walls and partly on the outside and at the doors, the 60th Ohio around the walls outside. A detachment of 20 men of Gen. Sweetzer, under command of Capt. Keags, who has been on duty at the Arsenal since the trial commenced, and a squadron of the 16th New York, under Capt. Winesbecker, were also present.

THE SCENE OF THE EXECUTION.

Prior to the hour for the execution the vicinity of the scene was visited by numbers of spectators, including many newspaper men from abroad, eager to glean every particular concerning the prisoners, the prison, the prison yard and all the surroundings. Several artists were busy at the same time taking sketches for pictorial papers. The gloomy old building holding the prisoners was the object to which every eye turned. This building, it will be remembered, is the old penitentiary building, now included in the Arsenal grounds. It is of brick, a little over three hundred feet long, and fifty feet wide, and three stories in height. It was erected during the latter part of John Quincy Adams' term, and finished in the commencement of Jackson's administration, the first Warden being a Col. Williams, who had previously been the keeper of the Maryland penitentiary at Baltimore. It was first opened to prisoners in May, 1831, the first prisoner being one Williams, who was convicted at our Circuit Court (which was the only court in the District) of the larceny of a barrel of flour. Singularly enough the warden of the penitentiary was of the same name, as was also the keeper of the jail, the prosecuting witness, the foreman of the grand and also the foreman of the petit juries.

The first Warden, Colonel Williams, of Baltimore, was followed in turn by Isaac Clarke, John B. Dade, Robert Coltman, C. P. Sengstack, Thomas Fitzsim, Jonas B. Ellis, Thomas Thornley, C. P. Sengstack, (a second term,) and H. I. King. Up to 1850 the number of convicts sentenced was over 500, but from that time to the time when the prisoners were transferred to Albany the number was considerably increased, especially during the first years of the war, when it was made the place of confinement for soldiers under sentence of court-martial, and the entire number sentenced there by the courts may be estimated at about 1,500. The accommodations were for 224 prisoners, 64 cells being for females; but while the court-martial cases were sent there the total number raised 250 several times, the chapel as well as the hospital having to be put in requisition.

Among the most noted criminals who were sentenced and commenced their terms here were Edward Hall, sentenced in 1838, for three years, for counterfeiting; John B. Henderson, the forger, for ten years, in the same year; Harry H. White, sentenced in 1836 for ten years, for burning the Treasury Department; Joseph Allemander, the celebrated silver thief, sentenced for ten years in five cases, in 1850, who, on one 4th of July, made a general descent on a number of dwellings, and ran off with the silver plate, and who, with Frank Camper, who was convicted in the same year of manslaughter and sentenced for eight years, made his escape; Edward Mooney, who robbed the mail between the Georgetown and Washington post offices, sentenced for ten years in 1852, but pardoned in 1856; Hosea Hildreth Smith, convicted of forging land warrants in five cases, and sentenced to eight years, in 1847; Jacob Shuster, alias Tom Hand, convicted of stealing the diamond snuff box and gold scabbard sword from the Patent Office, and sentenced to three years, in 1849; Jack Shepherd, alias Joseph Fisher, convicted of arson in two cases, and sentenced to twelve years; and William Wells, sentenced for life, 1851, for the murder of young Mundell, near the Navy Yard.

The main entrance to the building has heretofore been on the west front of the building, which is upon the banks of the river.

There are four rooms on a floor in this wing or end of the building. Those on the first floor were formerly occupied as the inspector's room, warden's office, reception room, &c. The rooms on the two floors above were occupied by the wardens' families. A large hall passes through this wing of the building, at the end of which is a heavy iron gate, opening into a room intended originally as the dining room, but which has been mostly used as a store-room. This room is about forty feet deep by the width (fifty feet) of the building, and forms the connecting link with the long apartment which forms the shell for the central ranges of cells. A morbid interest, as elsewhere stated, attaches to this gloomy, sparsely-lighted, iron-warded storeroom from the fact that popular report places under the brick flooring of its southern half all that remains mortal of the assassin Booth.

From this room two ponderous iron gates open into the cell department immediately east. In passing through we come first upon the cells occupied by male prisoners when the building was used for penitentiary purposes. The comb of these cells, as in most prisons, runs along the center of the long room, with ample space between the lower cells and the walls, and with corridors to the upper ranges, affording access to the cells and walks for the guards. These cells face north and south, and are built in four tiers, twenty in a range, on each side, the whole number being 160.

Those on the upper tier were built originally for female prisoners, and with proper courtesy to the sex, were made twice the size of those for the male prisoners. Subsequently a separate department was made for the female prisoners, and the just mentioned cells were halved by partitions into double their number for the use of male prisoners.

The galleries, which form a complete circuit round the comb of cells, are reached by a flight of steps at the west end of the range. From the gallery around the second tier a flight of stairs lead into a large room over the store-room, and formerly used as a chapel. From the fact that this chapel-room is spacious and airy, it was inferred that it would be used as the court-room for the trial of the conspirators. It is understood, however, that this room is now so fully packed with arsenal material not convenient to be removed, that it was thought advisable to select some other room.

From the third tier of these cell galleries another short flight of steps leads into what was the male hospital, over the chapel. From this room the most frequent attempts were made by penitentiary convicts to escape, they shamming illness to get into the hospital for that purpose.

The cells are 18 inches thick, the front being of stone, 15 inches thick, in which a door of heavy wrought iron is set. The upper portion of the cell door is pierced with a grating, and there is a small aperture at the bottom of the cell door for drainage. The doors are 5½ feet in height, and two feet wide, and the cells inside measure a little short of 8 feet deep, 4 feet wide, and 7 feet high, with vaulted roofs.

Many of the old penitentiary prisoners decorated their cells with such articles as they could obtain—sometimes with picture set in frames of ingenious design, made of bone, leather and other unusual material.

The walls of the room enclosing these cells are strongly built of brick, 18 inches thick. At the end of the south wall of this room doors emerge into what was the prison yard, where were situated the work-shops, enclosed by strong brick walls, on the top of which sentry boxes are placed at intervals, between which are walks for guards and sentinels.

Leaving the male department, a small iron door opens into the female department, in which are 64 cells of the same size as those in the male department, arranged eight in a row with galleries around them. A door in the east end of the north wall opens into the yard on the north side, where was formerly situated the wash yard. In these cells the conspirators have been confined. They are not placed near each other, but scattered through the different tiers. The wall separating the two departments was removed during the wardenship of Mr. H. I. King and made so as to include the cells on the south side in the male department. Formerly there was but one mode of ingress and egress between the female department to the quarters used by the Deputy Warden in the extreme east end of the building, viz: from the second tier of female cells to the second story hall of the dwelling of the Deputy Warden, which is an exact counterpart of the Warden's dwelling at the opposite end, except that the third story is not divided by a hall.

Within stone's throw of the trial room is a spot celebrated as the locality where a number of British soldiers came to a sudden and terrible end at the time of the capture of Washington in 1814. On the day after the capture a party of 200 British soldiers, with several officers, were sent down to the Arsenal grounds to complete the work of destruction, and while there one of the soldiers threw a lighted portfire into a dry well, in which it seems some of our own people had concealed sixty keys of powder. The well and a magazine about twelve yards distant, full of shells, blew up with a tremendous explosion, unroofing the neighboring buildings and killing a large number of the soldiers. A horrible scene was afterwards presented of legs, arms and heads protruding from the mounds of earth thrown up by the explosion.

THE GALLOWS.

The gallows was erected under direction of Capt. C. Roth, of General Hartranft's staff, by workmen from the Arsenal, detailed by Colonel Benton, and by 11 o'clock this morning it was ready for the execution. It is of a different style than those heretofore used here. It is erected in the south yard of the building, between the old shoe shop and the wall, and the platform is reached by fifteen steps, on the east side. There are nine heavy uprights holding the floor, above which rises on the west side the uprights, supporting the beam from which hang the four ropes, each being of strong hemp, the slip consisting of nine twists and knot. The dimensions are 20 feet long, 10 feet high to floor, 20 feet to beam, 15 feet wide to platform. The drops, of which there are two, are each 4 feet by 6, are directly beneath the beam, and are held in their place by an upright, which is knocked from under by two