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TELEGRAPHIC.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

Address From the Democratic Committee.

Gov. Seymour to Canvass Pennsylvania.

Political Affairs in Arkansas.

Convention of Railroad Conductors in Cincinnati.

The Protestant Episcopal Convention.

What General Grant Promises.

Large Purchases of Arms for the South.

Letter From Wade Hampton.

Personal Incidents and Accidents.

THE PRESIDENCY.

Address of the National Democratic Committee.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.—The Democratic National Committee has issued a stirring address. It reviews at length the evils brought upon the country by the Radicals, and urges the Conservatives to push their cause with greater earnestness in order to save the country. The address concludes as follows:

'Once more we call every patriot to join in our ranks. If the people will now rise in their majesty and might they can save their institutions and rebuild them.

'If they now are regardless of their sacred interests, so much in the last four years has been accomplished, and so much in the next four years may easily be accomplished, that no obstacle then remaining, the revolution will become a fixed fact, and the structure of our government will have to be completely remodled. It may be a government still, but it will no longer be your representative self government for this final struggle. Then, fellow Democrats of the United States, let us invigorate every muscle and nerve every heart. The time is short and the foe is stubborn and desperate.

Our victory would be the death-blow to the Republican party. It could have been held together by no other nomination. It cannot survive your success. One victory is enough. Your triumph in November will finally re-establish the Union and the Constitution for another generation of men. It will restore peace and good order to the South, prosperity to the North, and a wise and frugal rule to both, all great prizes worthy your most strenuous endeavors. Our ranks are unbroken, our courage unabated. Once more to the breach, and this time victory.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Oct. 21.—Gov. Seymour stopped here for dinner, and made a short speech to a large crowd at the Syracuse House. He thanked his friends for their attention, and expressed fervent hope that however the conflict in which we are engaged may end, the result shall be such as to preserve our Union, and elevate and restore the honor of our government, so it shall prove to be a blessing to all the citizens of the land.

TEXAS.

The Constitutional Convention.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—Gen. Reynolds, commanding district of Texas, calls for an election in Falls Belle and McClellan counties, for a delegate to fill the vacancy in the Constitutional Convention. He instructs the Registrars to exclude from registration all Confederate soldiers and sympathizers.

LOUISIANA.

Adjournment of the Legislature.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 21.—The Legislature adjourned sine die last night. Among the last acts of the House was the ejection of another white member, elected by over three hundred majority, and the installation in his place of a negro. A resolution was adopted giving mileage and per diem for the whole session to a number of Radical contestants of seats, offsetting Democratic members whose cases are not yet decided. Some action was taken in the Senate in similar cases.

ARKANSAS.

Gov. Clayton's Needless Alarm.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 21.—A Little Rock, Arkansas dispatch to the Republican says that after seeing the telegraphic report of the dispatch of Gov. Clayton to the President in reference to the alledged anticipated troubles at the election in Arkansas, Robt. A. Howard, Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, authorizes the following:

The Conservative people of Arkansas expect to have a quiet election in November if permitted, and would be glad to have a sufficient number of United States troops sent to Arkansas under the command of disinterested officers. All our interests side with order and peace. There are no fears here whatever, of trouble originating with the Democrats. Gov. Clayton had determined to make trouble if possible, and had no authority of law to purchase the Hesper arms.

RELIGIOUS.

The Protestant Episcopal Convention.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.—In the Episcopal Convention yesterday a motion to table the whole subject of the Tyng canon was carried; 99 against 92. Subsequently the matter came up again and was referred back to the Committee on Canons as before stated.

In the convention, Mr. Taylor moved that the papers in the matter of Assistant Bishop, which had been sent to the House of Bishops, be returned to this body, as a motion to reconsider the canon was now before them. Adopted.

Judge Battee, from the Committee on Canons, to whom was re-committed the new canon relative to the consecration of churches as previously reported, said that the amendment had been made so as to meet the peculiarities of each State. The canon was read as follows:

First, That the form of consecration shall not be used for a new church till free from debt or liability, and the title to the land is properly secured according to the laws of the State in which it is situated.

Second, Such building or land not to be encumbered by mortgage without consent of the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese.

Third, A church or chapel once consecrated to be kept separate from all unhallowed, worldly or common uses, and not to be taken down without the consent of the ecclesiastical authority. Report laid on the table.

A message was received from the House of Bishops, non concurring in the proposed altered Canon nine, title one, extending the period of probation to clergymen seeking admission from other churches.

A message was also received announcing the passage of resolutions in favor of the establishment of high schools, for the education of the children of both sexes, at rates within the reach of all.

The bishop also announced that they had concurred in the resolution adding another cycle to the prayer book.

The Committee on Canons reported it inexpedient to amend article four of the constitution, in relation to the rights of bishops to perform Episcopal duties for each other, and asked to be relieved from further consideration of the matter. Request granted.

The Committee on General Theological Seminary reported the names of candidates for Trustees of that institution for the next three years, who were accordingly elected.

The House then took up special order—the election of Rev. Mr. Morris to the Bishopric of Oregon and Washington territories. Rev. Mr. Morris was unanimously elected.

Rev. Dr. DeHaven, of Wisconsin, from the Committee on Christian Education, submitted a long report showing the gratifying condition of the condition of the work of Christian education in the various theological seminaries of the Episcopal Church.

Accompanying the report of Rev. Mr. DeHaven were six resolutions, which, in view of the destitution in the Southern States, recommended a joint commission to raise funds for the establishment of schools, giving said commission power to appoint local committees in each diocese to carry out the work; also recommended the appointment of a joint committee to consider the subject of theological schools and studies, and report to the next convention.

Also, recommending the establishment of grammar and Christian schools where practicable, so as to plant the church in cities and towns where not already established. In those schools the children may be instructed during the week, and meet for divine worship with their parents Sunday. The resolutions also recommend the appointment of a Committee on Christian Education in every diocese, to consider the best means of establishing Christian schools, and recommend to churchmen the prayerful consideration of the training the young for male and female teachers, to go where needed by the church, and look for no pay beyond maintainance. The resolutions were made the special order for to-morrow.

FOREIGN.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.—The steamship Russia, from Liverpool, and the Allemain, from Bremen, have arrived. Port-au-Prince dates of the 9th announce the bombardment of Jerentz on the 6th inst. Notice had been given Foreign Consuls to leave the town within six days, but they disregarded the notice and remained. Salnave demanded the surrender of the place or he would burn it. He prepared to attack it by land and sea. The water supply being cut off, the women and a portion of the inhabitants revolted because General Bouster, the commander, would not surrender.

St. Domingo dates of the 9th state the Papal Nuncio had arrived. The government is arranging with him for a separation between the Church and State.

Porto Rico advices state that quiet has been restored, and five hundred prisoners are to be tried at Receibo.

Rio Janeiro and Buenos Ayre's letters say Lopez is said to have committed the grossest outrages since the discovery of a conspiracy in his camp. Large numbers of the principal men of Assumcion whom he believed were involved in the plot against him, were summarily executed. Several foreigners who took refuge from his fury in the United States Legation, were dragged out, among them the Portuguese Consul and his brothers, and all his married sisters have been imprisoned by him, and it is supposed murdered, or inmured alive in his murderous dungeons.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Letter From Wade Hampton.

CHARLESTON, Oct. 21.—A letter from Wade Hampton, in reply to one a Wisconsin lawyer published, says he considers secession dead forever and has since the close of the war. He is in favor of giving the negro equal rights with the white man, and suffrage based on qualification, in which he has no doubt he is sustained by a vast majority of white citizens of the State. He also says we regard the reconstruction acts as unconstitutional, but look for their overthrow by constitutional agency and peaceful remedies alone, through the Supreme Court of the United States, by whose decision we are prepared to abide.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The Question of Covode's Election.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 21.—The election of Covode is still in doubt. The conference of Judges in this district is divided on the question, and two certificates were sent to the Governor—one declaring Covode elected by 325 majority, and the other declaring Foster elected by 41 majority.

NEW YORK.

The Presidential Campaign—Seymour to Speak Through Pennsylvania—Addresses of the National Democratic Committee, etc.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.—The World states that Seymour will stump Pennsylvania next week. It says editorially if Seymour is elected President, he will be President, and if he performs his duties, the policies of the Vice President are of as little practical account after he is elected as the policies of a majority of the Senate Chamber Clerks.

The National and State Democratic Committees have issued addresses to the Democracy. Both addresses urge the Democrats forward under their present standard bearers. They deny that the party is pledged to overthrow the reconstruction acts by any but peaceable means.

In the Inferior Court yesterday, Judge McCan delivered a highly important decision upon the application of James Stewart, an ex-seaman of the United States, to be admitted as a citizen of the United States. Judge McCan holds that the act of Congress does not, in terms, extend the privilege of honorably discharged soldiers, but only to such as have served in and been honorably discharged from the armies of the United States. The court will put a liberal construction upon the act according to its spirit, and admit sailors as well as soldiers to naturalization.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.—The Sun says: Several individuals are now in New York engaged in purchasing and shipping arms to the Southern States. One of them is from Texas and another from Georgia, two from South Carolina and two or three others from Louisiana, Alabama and Tennessee. The articles they are purchasing are mainly revolvers and repeating or breach-loading rifles. All the models of muzzle loaded weapons are discarded, and purchasers are understood to prefer the short barrel to the long one. Ten thousand revolvers were sent South in one consignment, three weeks ago. Shipments of two thousand, twelve hundred and three hundred revolvers, are frequent.

A Charleston steamer last week took a dozen cases of hardware, which was really a lot of breach-loading rifles, designed for private parties in that city. One dealer in fire arms admits that he has more orders than he can fill for the present, but professes not to know where the weapons he sells are going. All these facts point rather strikingly to the disturbed condition of affairs in the South.

Forged checks amounting to $37,000 passed three exchanges of one of our banks yesterday. Persons implicated are said to be residents of New Orleans. The loss falls on banks in New Orleans.

CINCINNATI.

The Convention of Railroad Conductors.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 21.—The Railroad Conductors' Convention reassembled this morning, and several new delegates were enrolled.

A communication from Frank B. Lord, General Ticket Agent of the Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Lafayette road, extending the courtesies of the road to the members of the Convention, was received, and thanks returned for the same. Also a communication from Samuel B. Smith in behalf of Gen. P. W. Straders, inviting the members to a free ride through the city and suburbs in the Cincinnati Omnibus Co.'s vehicles was received, and the thanks of the Convention returned.

The report of the committee on articles of association was made, and each article taken up separately—the first declaring that this organization shall be known as the United States Railroad Conductors' Life Insurance Company, and was, after some debate, adopted. Freight, as well as passenger conductors, are included in this title.

The other articles declare that the association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, the two latter officers to be filted by one person, whose office shall be centrally located, and who shall receive one hundred dollars per month for his services. The President shall call a meeting annually in October, or oftener if necessary. There shall be an Executive Committee of three members, who shall reside at the same place as the Secretary and Treasurer, to whom all claims against the association shall be referred, and that no person shall become a member of the association who is not a man of good moral character, and has had an experience of one year as a conductor.

CHICAGO.

Democratic Meeting Addressed by Gen. Blair.

CHICAGO, Sept. 21.—General Blair addressed a large meeting of Democrats this evening.

CHARLESTON.

Indignation Meeting.

CHARLESTON, Oct. 21.—A meeting was held this afternoon to express the indignation of recent murders in this State. Mayor Oark presided, and speeches were made by Senator Sawyer, Collector Mackey and others. Governor Scott has issued a proclamation offering a reward for the apprehension of the murderers and expressing a determination to maintain public order at all hazards.

PERSONALS.

BOSTON, Oct. 21.—The bonds and money recently stolen from Capt. Sargent, of Yarmouth, Maine, amounting to $10,000, have been recovered. The thief was traced to New York and arrested as he was about sailing for California, with his plunder.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.—H. L. Mead, furniture dealer, blew his head nearly off with a pistol last evening, in the presence of his family, while under the influence of liquor.

At a Republican meeting last evening, Hon. Mr. Brewster, of Pennsylvania, said that General Grant recently addressed a friend in these words: This much I wish, and I declare this to be my policy, that such a degree of peace and tranquility shall exist in the country that a man may speak his mind in any part of our great land, and that without molestation or hindrance.

Mary Bushel fatally stabbed her husband with a butcher knife, last night, during a fight.

Pat Kerrigan was arrested last night for breaking a kerosene lamp over the head of his wife, which set fire to her clothing, fatally burning her.

BOSTON, Oct 21.—Three children of Byron Foodell, residing in Peabody, Massachusetts, all under six years old, were burned to death yesterday. They were playing in a small out building stored with hay, and probably fired it with matches.

PRINCETON, N. J., Oct. 21.—Rev. Dr. McCosp, late of Belfast, Ireland, has arrived here, and was received with demonstrations of hearty welcome. He will inaugurate the present session of the college Tuesday next.

UTICA, N. Y., Oct. 21.—Gov. Seymour left here to-day, and will stop at Rochester.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 21.—Casper Souder, one of the proprietors of the Bulletin, died this morning, after a long illness, aged fifty years.

WASHINGTON NEWS AND GOSSIP.

The Bubble Burst—Seymour and Blair Our Candidates—Democrats of the Southern States Recognize Negro Suffrage—Assessment on Radical Employes—Scramble for a Vacant Brigadier Generalship—Radical Gossip.

Special to the Louisville Courier.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—The bubble has burst. The Washington politicians who went over to New York to compel Seymour to withdraw have returned crestfallen, and the *World* recants in an article ingenious, but by no means ingenuous. Seymour and Blair are our candidates and the Democracy will fight it out on that line.

A prominent Southern politician, just returned from a tour of the Southern States, reports a complete revolution in the sentiments of the people regarding negro suffrage. Already prominent journals have announced their adhesion to that policy, and State Executive Committees have passed resolutions in favor of admitting the negro to suffrage, as a part of the Democratic or Southern platform, and an address to this effect will shortly be issued. The effect of this policy will insure every Southern State but one for the Democratic ticket.

Radical employes in the departments squirm under the assessment just made on them for the Presidential canvass, but they must pay up under the penalty of losing their places.

The Radicals spent enormous sums in the October canvass, and are making frantic appeals for aid, and conceding that they still have apprehensions of the result of the Presidential contest.

The officials of the Treasurer's office subscribed nine hundred and fifty dollars today for the Radical election funds, Gen. Spinner giving three hundred dollars.

Special to the Louisville Journal.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—The *Intelligencer* this morning in a double-leaded editorial again demands a change of candidates. It says, "If the contest is to be continued some conclusive action, which will be recognized by the Democratic and the Conservative voters throughout the country should be at once forthcoming, in such form as will give it full authority. The change, if made, must be thorough, and the demand for that change is so general as to require the immediate attention of those who have authority to speak to the Democratic and Conservative voters of the country. Two weeks yet remain for action. Something decisive should be done and at once; not in the form of individual opinion, but in order to give force to whatever may be determined upon. The National Democratic Committee should be convened and their voices heard. In this crisis it is folly to deny the fact that a very general desire exists for the proposed change, but whatever is to be done must be done immediately."

The retirement of General Hooker with the full rank of Major-General leaves a Brigadier Generalship vacant in the regular army, for which position there is quite a scramble among those militarily inclined. A number of applications have been received from officers of the late volunteer army. General Stoneman is thought to stand the best chance of receiving the appointment.

NO MORE SUPERVISORS.

The dead-lock between Secretary McCulloch and Commissioner Rollins in regard to the appointment of Supervisors is now considered to have become chronic. There is no probability that any more of these officers will be appointed, and the matter will remain as it is until Congress disentangles it. Meanwhile the epithets applied by the applicants for the position of both political complexions to the Secretary and Commissioner are anything but complimentary.

The Radicals profess to be very jubilant over what they call the Democratic discomfiture, and some of the advanced members of the party are already improvising a Cabinet for Grant. Two sets of advisors have been named, one Radical and the other Conservative. The following is the Radical set as most generally accepted: Secretary of State, Charles Sumner; Secretary of the Treasury, Wm. E. Chandler; Secretary of War, Washburne, of Illinois; Secretary of the Navy, Maynard, of Tennessee; Secretary of the Interior, Old Ben Wade; Postmaster General, Holden, of North Carolina; Attorney General, Stanley Matthews, of Ohio. The Conservative Cabinet embraces Wilson of Massachusetts, John Sherman, Trumbull, Fowler of Tennessee, and Speed of Kentucky. Such speculations feelingly remind us of the milk-maiden who counted her chickens before they were hatched.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Mr. Jefferson Davis is staying at Alton, England, with the Earl of Shrewsbury.

Over a seventh part of the State of Mississippi is advertised for sale under execution.

Brigham Young is the third largest depositor in the Bank of England.

Four hundred and two students had matriculated at the University of Virginia up to October 10th.

The New York *Times* estimates the Democratic majority in that city and Brooklyn, in November, at 69,000, and claims the State for Grant.

Hon. W. D. Kelley, Radical, of Philadelphia, is announced to speak at Knoxvill to-day. It is stated he will visit several other points in the State.

A Democratic Convention at Providence, R. I., Monday, nominated Olney Arnold for Congress, and passed resolutions indorsing Seymour and Blair.

Alfred Green, a colored boy, was sentenced to four months' confinement in the House of Correction, for throwing stones at a Democratic procession, in Boston, on Monday night.

Nine thousand six hundred and fifty-four voters had been registered in Shelby county, Tenn., up to Monday evening. The proportion of black to white is about three to one.

The official count in Philadelphia gives only 175 Democratic majority for Boyle on their State ticket. The city ticket is Democratic, by majorities ranging from 238 to 1833, except that the Republicans elect Hare for President Judge by twenty-five, and their two State Senators by 2852 and 1954 respectively.

In the United States District Court at Chicago Monday, Judge Drummond presiding, a decision was given that where a bankrupt dies, the final oath may be signed by the counsel or by the administrator of the estate. The law requires the proceedings to go on, and the question was who, the bankrupt having died, should sign the final oath.

Saturday evening, about dark, a farmer, named James Wolf, of Beaver county, was crossing the Fort Wayne railroad track with a load of stone, at Freedom, Pennsylvania, when the wagon was struck by the express train, and Wolf literally torn all to pieces—his flesh, limbs and entrails strewn along the track for rods. He was about forty-five years of age and leaves a family.

Some soldiers belonging to the garrison at Galveston, Texas, became very boisterous on the streets of that town the other night, when one of them was arrested and lodged in jail. Soon after a Sergeant with a squad of men appeared and by threatening the Jailer with death, compelled him to release the prisoner. They showed no authority for the proceeding, and the outrage on the civil authority was doubtless unauthorized by the military.

The Knoxville *Press and Herald* of the 20th inst. says: "The westward bound train on the Virginia and Tennessee on Sunday last when a few miles this side of Lynchburg, met with a terrible accident. The boiler of the engine exploded killing the engineer and fireman instantly—in fact blowing them almost to atoms. Quite a number of Norfolk delegates were aboard, but the personal injuries sustained were only those mentioned above. The unfortunate engineer was Jerome Fonte, of Washington county, Tennessee. The name of the fireman we did not learn."

A serious railroad accident occurred on the Pennsylvania railroad, at Christiana, between Philadelphia and Harrisburg, on Saturday evening at ten o'clock. The Cincinnati express train left Philadelphia at 7:50 in the evening. At Christiana it was going very rapidly, and ran upon a misplaced switch. The engine, tender, baggage car, smoking car, and second passenger car, were more or less wrecked. Wm. Irwin was scalded so he died in half an hour. John Shultz, fireman, was killed instantly; caught under the engine and could not be removed for several hours. Peter Stein, baggage master, was seriously hurt. The smoking car had thirty persons in it, but, though completely wrecked, no person was injured.

TERRIBLE.

A Dansuese Fatally Burned—Shocking Scene.

From the Louisville Democrat, Oct. 20.

Last evening while the *pas de boquet* was being performed at the Metropolitan Music Hall, on Jefferson street, near First, Kate Hayden, one of the ballet girls, advanced too near the foot-light. Her very inflammable dress of light gauze immediately took fire and she was almost immediately wrapped in flames. Four other girls were upon the stage at the same time, but were too much panic-stricken to afford assistance, indeed, from the light material of their attire it would have been dangerous for them to have done so. A gentleman in the audience had the presence of mind to throw his over-coat about the unfortunate woman, which in some measure suppressed the fire. Miss Hayden was removed to the green room and the medical assistance of Dr. W. T. Owen was called into requisition, who promptly did all that his art could to alleviate her sufferings. He discovered that she had been dreadfully burned on all parts of her person, and was but a scorched and withered relic of her former youth and grace. She was subsequently conveyed to her boarding-house, her piercing cries and heartrending groans piercing the cool night air. It was thought scarcely possible that she could survive till morning.

It was scarcely a moment after the dreadful calamity and the audience had regained its composure that the merry plays, light dances and jolly buffoonery were proceeded with. In one room lay the poor girl suffering the tortures of death, while in the next the music and revelry went on with undiminished ardor.

HOW WE WERE BEATEN.

The Democracy of Ohio have been beaten at the late election, not by any increase in the Radical strength, but simply because their vote was not polled. Take the county of Adams for instance. Last year the vote stood:

Thurman	2930
Hayes	1682
Majority	248

This year we have the following result:

Democrat	2204
Radical	1997
Majority	207

While the Radical vote was all out, the Democrats were one hundred behind their last year's poll. The same result has been observed in many other counties. This absent vote will be on hand at the Presidential election, and we shall make large Democratic gains. Mark the prediction.—*Cincinnati Enquirer, Oct. 20.*

A CURIOUS DIVORCE ECLAIRCISSEMENT.

A curious matrimonial affair has just transpired in Brooklyn; the parties are not in high life nor known to fame, but their history is nevertheless interesting. Ten years ago a couple, recently married, moved from Boston to the City of Churches, where the husband set up in business, and prospered. His business at his office was better than at home, for his married life was unhappy, and, about five years ago, the parties managed to secure a divorce. They gradually lost trace of each other, and during the past year, each of them married, and each to a person who had been divorced. The two husbands were thrown together, and a few weeks ago, the one who had married the divorced woman, invited the other home to dinner. Imagine the embarrassment when the happy husband introduced his wife to his friend. Both were too well bred to have a scene, and so the dinner passed off somewhat frigidly, but with no actual unpleasantness.

The recipient of the dining courtesy invited the other to go home with him soon after and partake of a family dinner, little thinking, as it happened, that he was to return the compliment in every particular. It turned out that each had married the divorced spouse of the other, and it was more satisfactory to them to know that each was entirely pleased with the arrangement. So much for the intricacies of matrimony.

THE SURRATT CASE.

Innocence of Mrs. Surratt and Her Death by Judicial Murder.

The Testimony of Three.

John Surratt and the Conspiracy at His Trial.

Some Strange Revelations.

Correspondence of the New York World.

BALTIMORE, October 12.—It has just fallen in my way to converse with certain gentlemen in Baltimore upon the subject of the murder of Mrs. Surratt, and upon matters appertaining thereto. The gentlemen to whom I allude are Mr. John T. Ford, formerly proprietor of Ford's Theater, in Washington, where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated; Mr. James Gifford, stage carpenter, formerly at Ford's and now at Mr. Ford's Holliday Street Theater, in Baltimore, and a Mr. Wiel. These conversations have interested me so much that I cannot forbear, with the permission of the gentlemen, to attempt to sketch them for the *World*. You will please to observe that neither Mr. Ford nor the others pretend to recite the whole history of the assassination conspiracy (of which they have gained their information, like the rest of the public, from the reports of the trial and the statements of other witnesses;) but such facts as came under their own observation, and the opinions they have formed of this business, have considerable value, and are connected together in a colloquial way which has not the precision of a narrative.

MR. FORD'S TESTIMONY.

Mr. Ford recurred to the morning of the day of the assassination:

"Booth was, as you know, one of the handsomest of men. He had Appollo's own grace about him. When he was in Washington, boarding at the Kirkwood House, the young ladies who were stopping there used to collect at the foot of the stairway on the dining-room floor, just to see him come down stairs. He always looked as bright and pleasant as he was handsome, and had a cheery word and fascinating smile for every one. He was a great favorite with all the young ladies at the hotel. I think he had been rather depressed since the fall of Richmond, but, early on that afternoon—the afternoon of April 14th—he was noticed by the boys at the theater sauntering up the sidewalk from Pennsylvania avenue, looking his very best, and marvellously at his ease. He was elegantly dressed, as usual, and walked with that half-conscious, confident, attractive grace which became so irreproachable a presence. He was rather late that day; he had probably breakfasted late. He used to walk to the theater every morning between ten and eleven o'clock to see about his letters. As he came up, my brother Harry turned to one of the others who stood by, and said:

"'There comes the handsomest man in Washington!'

"Booth liked my brother, and they were very familiar in their talk with one another. So Harry thought he would plague Booth a bit. It happened that, an hour or two before, a messenger had come from the White House to say that the President and General Grant, with Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Grant, would be at the theater in the evening. Harry, therefore, announced to Booth:

"'John, the President is going to be here to-night, with General Grant. They've got General Lee here as a prisoner, and he's coming too. We're going to put him in the opposite box.'

"At the same moment Harry handed Booth a long letter. Booth broke the seal remarking:

"'O, no, they havn't got Lee a prisoner; they certainly wouldn't bring him to Washington.'

"Then he sat down and read his letter; it was a long one, as I said, and he seemed absent-minded while reading it. At length he folded it up, put it in his pocket, and suddenly began to inquire with interest whether the President and General Grant were really coming, etc.

"'Yes,' Harry assured him, 'Mr. Lincoln, General Grant, and both families, are surely coming,' (Harry could'nt deceive Booth about General Lee.)

"Booth, then," continued Mr. Ford, "left the theater in a kind of hurry, as if he had made up his mind about something to be done." He started down the street, and turned the corner of E street toward the Kirkwood House, walking quite rapidly. It is my belief, that then, for the first time, the thought of assassination entered his head. An abduction had, of course, been long considered. But, in what we may assume to be his then state of mind—his disappointment by the Rebel reverses, and his conviction that the Rebel cause had become desperate, if not ruined—this unexpected opportunity of Lincoln's and Grant's visit to the theater was irresistible. I interpret his movements after he quitted the theater to have been, in part, as follows: Having formed his resolution on the instant, while pouring over the letter, he went to the Kirkwood House and wrote a letter to Matthews, which he intended to be published in the *Intelligencer* as an explanation and defense of what he was to do. He subsequently got a horse, and it is shown that he hailed Matthews on the sidewalk while riding, and delivered the letter to him with instructions to keep it—I think until the next day at twelve o'clock—and then to return it to him (Booth) in case nothing unusual should have happened. Booth, it would appear, got this horse for the purpose of hunting up Payne, Harold and Atzerott that afternoon. The plan must have been arranged between the four in the afternoon; for Booth was the head and front of the whole conspiracy, and I have already expressed the conviction that Booth never resolved upon assassination until after he had arrived at the theater that day and learned that the President and General Grant were to be present at the performance in the evening.

"Now it was attempted to be shown that Booth, who called at Mrs. Surratt's house that same day, called there and conversed with Mrs. Surratt after he had quitted the theater; and that therefore he went, fully charged with his scheme, and talked with her about it, and she must have known of it and been implicated in it. My conviction, and the conviction of the rest at the theatre, is right the other way. Booth came to the theatre at a much later hour than that at which it was his habit to come to get his letters. The testimony has led me to infer that he had strolled up to Mrs. Surratt's after breakfast, previous to the time when my brother Harry first saw him.

"But, whatever the truth in regard to this particular point might be, it would make no difference in any conviction of Mrs. Surratt's innocence or any knowledge whatever of the assassination plot, and that she was unjustly hung. We were prisoners together, and Mr. Gifford and I here were prisoners in the same building with witnesses who testified at the trial. Neither Mrs. Surratt nor her son John Surratt were concerned in or had the slightest intimation of Mr. Lincoln's taking off before the pistol shot was fired."

"How do you account, on the ground of John Surratt's innocence, for his staying away from his mother during her trial for murder, for which she was to be hung? That apparently cowardly and unfilial course of his did a great deal to prejudice the public mind against him."

I will account for that presently. First, let us refer to some incidents in the course of the conspiracy for abduction, which had existed so long before the sudden idea of murdering the President occurred to its head. Booth met Arnold in Baltimore, in front of Barnum's Hotel, as far back as August, 1864. Arnold, O'Laughlin, and Booth had been schoolboys together. It was proven that some of the conspirators—Herold, Atzerott and Payne—had boasted that they were to take an important prisoner down South about the fourth of the following March. Booth did not become acquainted with John Surratt until January, when Surratt, too, as it seems, was enlisted in the plot to capture and deliver Mr. Lincoln alive to the Southern authorities.

"In the latter part of March, a man named Howell, a blockade-runner, stopped in Washington on his way from Canada to Richmond. Surratt went for Howell to Richmond, and returned to Washington on the 2d of April. He left on the succeeding day for Canada with dispatches. That was the last time, until he was brought back here a prisoner from Egypt; that Surratt saw Washington. He went to Canada and remained several days, keeping up a correspondence with his mother in which he described his visits to Catholic Churches, etc. He was in communication with Confederate agents in Canada, and was sent by the Confederate General E. G. Lee to look after some Confederate prisoners at Elmira, New York. While in Elmira, or in Canandaigua, on his way back to Canada from this errand, he heard of the assassination at Washington. In Canada, assured of his own innocence in the matter of murder, he was not frightened save at St. Albans, where a man called 'Surratt!' in his presence—aman with a Canadian blouse. He started for Montreal. There, on the 16th and 17th of the month, he registered himself at one of the hotels as 'John Harrison.' In Montreal he was first made aware of the price laid on his head. That startled him, and he left for the country, where he was protected by the priest who testified on the stand. In the meantime he heard of the arrest of his mother, and the terrible charge against her. He was as thoroughly certain of her innocence as he was of his own, and had not a doubt that she would be acquitted. Still, his first impulse was to go to her. But she, who, as you will remember, was kept in Carroll Prison ten days or so before being removed to the arsenal, succeeded in corresponding with some of her friends. She wrote to her son John 'not to be alarmed about her, not to have any apprehensions concerning her own safety, and not to allow himself to be captured.' She was so well aware of the excitement in the country, and of the prejudice against everybody associated with Booth, that she desired to keep her son out of the way. She had no need of him which she did not hold subordinate to his comfort and safety. She was sure that she would get clear at last from an unjust charge; therefore she did not anticipate that she would lack the sad consolation of bidding him a last farewell. Mother-like, her only anxiety was for him; and he, convinced that he could do her no good, but that his own capture and the testimony that might be adduced to show his connection with the abduction plot might be the death of him and tend to injure his mother's chances, stayed away.

"My conviction of Mrs. Surratt's innocence," Mr. Ford went on to say, "is the result, not so much of comparison of testimony of the witnesses at the trial, as (of personal observation and conviction with some of those witnesses, and of what I have known and heard since the trial of Mrs. Surratt herself. It is the result also of my belief that Booth had not made up his mind to the assassination until after he saw Mrs. Surratt, and after he had heard the announcement that Lincoln and Grant were to be at the theater at night, from my brother Harry early that afternoon. It is the result, in fine, on reflection upon all the circumstances I have related to you, of others which I may note as we proceed, and of my study of the character of Mrs. Surratt and that of the witnesses against her."

[Let me here interrupt the course of Mr. Ford's remarks to admit my inability to recollect his thoughtful and well-chosen language, and to convey to you the peculiar impression wrought upon me both by his words and his manner—an impression that he had studied this subject with the interest of a fine-hearted gentleman while he was a prisoner, and with a good deal of the interest of a philosopher since he was released, and since the excitement which attended the assassination died away.]

"Divested of the false interpretation of it, which was trumped up at the trial," said Mr. Ford, "Mrs. Surratt's trip to Surrattsville preceding the assassination, was a perfectly legitimate, ordinary affair. As I recall the gist of it now, it was in this wise: A part of the old Surratt property had been purchased from the Calverts. When Surratt (Mrs. Surratt's husband) died, he left a debt due on the property to the Hon. Chas. B. Calvert, of Maryland, a well-known member of Congress about ten years ago. After this Charles B. Calvert died, his executors pressed Mrs. Surratt for payment of the debt. The week of the assassination she received two letters from them reminding her of her husband's obligation. A debt was due to her from a man named Nott, in the neighborhood of the estate. On Good Friday she spoke to Weichman in regard to the claim that was being pressed upon her, and said: 'We must go down and collect the money to pay it.' Weichman's journey with her to Surrattsville, and her alleged conversation with the tenant Lloyd, who kept the tavern there, were fastened upon by the prosecution as proofs that Mrs. Surratt went to arrange with Lloyd in order that he should be prepared, with utensils, to receive Booth, Payne and Herold, the night of the assassination, when they should pass throug the village. Several expressions were avowed to have been used by her on that occasion indicative of her guilt.

"That all this testimony was fabricated deliberately or otherwise, I do not for a moment doubt. So far as Weichman's testimony was concerned, it was not entitled to credence. Weichman was a frightened witness at first, and bullied afterwards. He was afraid for his own life while in prison—afraid of his shadow, scared by a threat, startled by a noise. His weak brain was hemmed round by horrors. It was not consciousness of guilt, but terror lest he might be accused and hung for nothing, that overwhelmed him. He was a target for the jests of the others in prison, and dough to be kneaded in any wily and too-eager lawyer's hands. Ask him, coaxingly, if so and so did not transpire, and he would say—believing that by saying it he assisted to save his neck—that it did transpire. Ask him, sternly, if such or such a thing did happen, and he would respond, in the fancied interest of his neck, that it did nothing of the kind. He was not a cold-blooded perjurer; he was only a coward. Here are one or two incidents, which revealed to me what a feeble-minded, unfortunate abettor of a judicial crime this Weichman was:

"He came to me in prison one day with the white face he always had, and told me that when he was before Stanton a few days after the assassination, Stanton said to him: 'The President's blood is just as much on your hands as Booth's!' Although this was a mere figure of speech by Stanton, Weichman had turned it over in his own head so often that it seemed to have almost convinced him that the President's blood was on his hands, or, at least, that a cord was prepared for him, willy nilly. Was such a person likely to be a reliable witness?

"On another occasion, after the trial had begun, I was taken from prison and put in the same ambulance with Weichman and Lloyd. Weichman bent towards Lloyd and said to him:

"'I testified yesterday that you *whispered* to Mrs. Surratt that day, when we drove down there.'

"Lloyd turned and indignantly denied this assertion, in words that proved to me that there had been no collusion, or secret conversation at all between him and Mrs. Surratt at Surrattsville. It was plain that such a precious piece of testimony had been drawn from Weichman by mere fright, and the necessity impressed upon him of saying something to some point. Imagine, again, the effect that the tergiversation of a man like this had in a court which tried the members and alleged members of the assassination conspiracy!

"Payne, while in prison, protested most earnestly that his going to Mrs. Surratt's house had not involved her in the crime. He went there, he said, because he knew only two or three houses in Washington, and because he knew John Surratt so well. Once—as Payne declared—when he and John Surratt were talking, in Surratt's house, about the proposed abduction, Surratt discovered his mother at the door and admonished Payne to "hush!" As Payne related this little occurrence to his fellow prisoners, it would have been evidence to anybody that Mrs. Surratt had been kept in ignorance by her son, Booth, Payne, and the rest, of what was contemplated. 'If I had two lives,' said Payne at another time, to General Hartranft, who was in charge of the prison, 'I would give them both to save that woman.'

Mr. Ford proceeded to describe Mrs. Surratt and her household:

"It is not very difficult to conceive one aspect of a situation like that at Mrs. Surratt's. Here was a widow, with a full grown son—a young man of the world, who might have had to do with his intimate friends in some affairs, less criminal or less serious than this, in which he would never have thought of making his mother a confidant, and in which he could not have dreamed of making her a party. Most young men of our day would hesitate to tell their mothers of all their wild scrapes, and would certainly take good care not to inform them of any crime or desperate measures which they should contemplate. Booth intimated nothing to *his* mother; neither was it supposed that any of his associates, except Surratt, disclosed their plans to theirs. It happened that the conspirators used to meet at Surratt's house, in Washington, where his mother dwelt. But to decide, upon the flimsy circumstantial evidence at the trial, that Mrs. Surratt was cognizant of what was going on because she was in the house, is a decision becoming the blind passion of the days of the vendetta, when all the members of a family were held amenable alike for the insult or misdeed of a single party. Even this is not an adequate parallel, for in the days of the vendetta the females of the house were excepted from the feud. Mrs. Surratt and her daughter were both devoted adherents of the Catholic Church. Though they may have been strong adherents of the Rebel cause, their character and disposition preclude the idea that either of them could have been parties to a murderous conspiracy. The abduction scheme, to which her son is avowed to have been a party, would doubtless have been exploded by Mrs. Surratt's deliberate common sense, if she had been made acquainted with it. The proposal to assassinate the President would have recoiled from her stern indignation, or been melted in tears. The idea of a woman like her acceding to or considering a proposal like that for an instant, without fear, trembling, horror and disussion, is preposterous. John Surratt and his friends knew that it was not well to trust her with a hint of what they may have argued themselves into believing was the fair stroke in war of kidnapping Lincoln and taking him down South. Booth would have been mad, indeed, if he had, in Surratt's absence, gone to Surratt's mother on the very eve of carrying out his more desperate resolve, and told her that he was about to shoot President Lincoln.

"Mrs. Surratt—of whom I had no more