

Washington
 I thought it proper should be brought to his notice—He admitted this, and protested that he had taken no exception to it, but that my clients were rebels, and were trying to draw off attention from the merits of the case. I told him I did not propose to discuss that question—that concede they were guilty they were still entitled to counsel, and having employed me I had a right to call his attention in a becoming manner to any question I thought material to the case, which he admitted. I left him, but before I got down stairs he overtook me—put his arm around me, and we walked down stairs and out on the side walk down to the Navy Department and inside where I left him. We had a very friendly talk

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 Thursday Apl 13, 1865 B A Hill arrived last night. At Treasury Department this morning about Singletons business. Illumination of the city at night for Genl Lees surrender.

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 Friday Apl 14 At War Department and got passes for some refugee Germans to return to their families in Richmond. At Treasury Depart: about Singletons business *At 3 P. M. went with Senator Stewart of Nevada to see the President, but he was done receiving for the day, and we did not send in our cards. At 7 P M we went back to the Presidents. I went into his room and sat there till 8 O'clock waiting for him, but he did not come. He was going to the Theatre and was not up at his room after dinner.

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 After 11 at night, and after Mrs Browning and myself had retired, but were not yet asleep, the bell rang—I went to the front window and looked out, and found Judge Watts there* who made the astounding announcement that the President, Secretary Seward and Mr F W Seward had just been assassinated—the former at Ford's Theatre—the two latter at their residence—the Secretary being in bed from the effects of recent injuries sustained by being thrown from his carriage. We were overwhelmed with horror at this shocking event.

I had been to the both the Presidents and Mr Swards since night, only a few hours before, and it was hard to realize that such fearful tragedies had been realized. The Marshal W H Lamon has several times within the last two months told me that

he believed the President would be assassinated, but I had no fear whatever that such an event would occur. I thought his life of very great importance to the rebels—He was disposed to be very lenient and merciful to them and to smooth the way for their return to their allegiance. I thought him the best friend they had among those in authority and that they were beginning to appreciate that fact, and that his life would be dear to them as to us. It seemed to me that the people in rebellion had many reasons for desiring the continuance of his life—none to wish his death—and I did not think any of the disaffected among us could be insane and fiendish enough to perpetrate the deed. It is one of the most stupendous crimes that has ever been committed, and I pray God that all the guilty parties may be ferreted out and brought to condign punishment. I am at a loss as to the class of persons who instigated the crime—whether it was the rebel leaders—the copperheads among ourselves in conjunction with foreign emmissaries, gold speculators, or the friends and accomplices of Bealle who was recently hung at New York. I am inclined to the latter opinion. But however this may be of the fearful fact of the Presidents murder there is no doubt; and the consequences may be exceedingly disastrous to the Country. It must, necessarily, greatly inflame and exasperate the minds of the people, and, I fear lead to attempts at summary vengeance upon those among us who have been suspected of sympathy with the rebellion, and hostility to our government. This would be followed by anarchy and the wildest scenes of confusion and bloodshed, ending in military Despotism. My only hope for the salvation of the Country is in reverence for and obedience to the law, and the constituted authorities, and every good man should inculcate this both by precept and example. And now, more than ever, wisdom, calmness & discretion are needful. Now more than ever we should take counsel from reason—not passion. This is the hour of our greatest peril. I have never feared what the rebels could do to us—I do fear what we may do to ourselves

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I was very hopeful that the war was substantially over, and that the measures of the administration would soon restore unity and prosperity to our unhappy Country; but this atrocity may

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blast all my hopes. It may inspire the rebels with some new, insane hope, and greatly protract the struggle. But whether this or not it will certainly retard the pacification of the Country, and the restoration of fraternal relations.

To my apprehension it is the heaviest calamity that could have befallen the country. But we are in God's hands. His dealings are mysterious—his ways past finding out, but we must trust to his wisdom & goodness

This is good Friday, and the anniversary of the fall of Fort Sumter

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Saturday Apl 15 1865 A dismal day. After breakfast I went to the Whitehouse. Soon after the body of the President was brought in, he having died at 7.20 this morning. The corpse was laid in the room on the North side in the second story, opposite Mrs Lincoln's room. His eyes were both very much protruded—the right one most—and very black and puffy underneath. No other disfiguration. The skull was opened under the supervision of Surgeon Genl Barnes & Dr Stone, and the ball removed. It was a Derringer ball, much flattened on both sides. It entered at the base of the brain an inch and a half or two inches back of the left ear, and ranging upward and transversely in the direction of the right eye, lodged in the brain about two thirds of the way from where it entered to the front. *He never had a moments consciousness after he was shot. Mr Stanton told me that he was at home last night—Quite a number of the Military had assembled at his house, and he had been making them a speech, which probably protected him, if designs were entertained against him He said that a young man ran from the Theatre to his house to inform him of the assassination of the President, and that he arrived he found a man hiding in the shadow of a tree in front of the house, the crowd having dispersed a short time before. When the young man arrived this other man left the tree, ran across the street and disappeared

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Robert Lincoln told me his mother did not wish to go back to Springfield, and did not want his fathers remains taken there, but to Chicago, if any where in Illinois. I did not see Mrs Lincoln—She was greatly agitated and in bed

I remained there till 2 P M—then called at Mr Swards and came home.

*Went back after dinner and Genl Todd and I called on Gov Oglesby at Willards

Sunday Apl 16, 1865 At breakfast this morning B A Hill, *Washing-
ton in talking of the events of the past few days, said, in a very excited manner, that there was now but one course to pursue—that the entire South must be depopulated, and repeopled with another race, and that all the “Copperheads” among us must be dragged from their houses and disposed of. I have heard similar sentiments expressed by others, and if this shall become the prevailing doctrine terrible scenes are before us. The mob will reign supreme, and slaughter and fire desolate the land till anarchy is succeeded by despotism It matters not that the man who uttered the sentiment is a coward—It still alarms me, for cowards are fermenters and leaders of mobs. At Church the Rev Mr Chester delivered an inflamatory stump speech—the first one I ever heard in an old school Presbyterian Church. He thought the President might have been removed because he was too lenient, and trusted that we now had an avenger who would execute wrath. In the afternoon I called at Gov Oglesby’s room and had a talk with him and some other Illinoisans. Col Parsons, Judge Hughes & Mr & Mrs Moore Washing-
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Monday April 17, 1865 Judge Hughes told me last night Washing-
ton that in the bar room at Whitneys yesterday morning, Hill said, in the presence of a number of persons that he was not surprised at the Presidents assassination, for he allowed himself to be surrounded and influenced by such copperheads as Singleton and Hughes, both of whom ought to be driven out of Town, and that he intended to call Hill to account for it. This morning he came to my office, and in my presence asked Hill if he had said so, stating to him what his antecedents were, and what part he had taken in support of the government against the rebellion, and that he could not allow himself to be denounced as a traitor & Hill positively denied it—said he never thought so, and, therefore, never could have said so. He did not think he said so, but that he was drunk yesterday morning, and not responsible for what Washing-
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he said, and that he would go, and make an explanation—which he did. After breakfast went with Genl Harrow and called on Secy McCullough.

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Then went to the Executive Mansion and again saw the corpse of the President which was greatly changed since Saturday, and was looking as natural as life, and if in a quiet sleep. The eyes were returned to their sockets, and all discoloration gone. Then called on President Johnson, and then attended a meeting of the citizens of Illinois to make arrangements for the funeral.

We all think the body should be taken to Springfield for interment, but Mrs Lincoln is vehemently opposed to it, and wishes it to go to Chicago.

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Tuesday Apl 18 This morning attended a meeting of Illinoisans at Gov Oglesbys room at Willards Hotel. We went in a body and called on President Johnson.¹ Gov Oglesby made a brief, pertinent address to which the President replied in a speech of considerable length, which I think indicated a radical policy. I then went with Col Parsons and called on Genl^s Grant and Rawlings, and had an interesting conversation with them. Genl Grant showed me a correspondence he had just received, which took place between Johnson² and Sherman on the 14th inst: which indicated the speedy surrender of Johnson's army on the same terms that were accorded to Lee. Grant expressed great gratification at it, and expressed his conviction that the policy he had adopted was the true one, and that severer measures would not do—The great masses of the people South, he said, must be received back as citizens. We could not get along in the work of reconstruction if we excluded more than half the people of the South from participation. He spoke in very high terms of Genl Lee—said he always respected him, and that his respect and admiration were greatly increased by the interview he had had with

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¹ Johnson's brief speech to the Illinois delegation on this occasion was typical of the general tone of his public utterances in the early weeks of his administration. Asserting that the assassins were not alone responsible for the murder of the President, he referred in sweeping phrase to "traitors," and declared that they must be punished. E. P. Oberholtzer, *A History of the United States Since the Civil War*, 1:8.

² Error for General Joseph E. Johnston.

him. Gen Grant seems cool, dispassionate and unselfish, and I have great hope of the salutary influence of his sentiments and example.

When I left him I went over to the War Department, and Mr Stanton sent for me to his room to talk over with him, Gov Oglesby, Gov Yates and some others the arrangements for the funeral. At night attended meeting of citizens of Illinois, at Gov Yates' room at National Hotel, to complete arrangements for the funeral, and for transfer of remains to Illinois

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*Wednesday Apl 19 Before 10 O'clock this morning went to the Executive Mansion to attend the funeral of the President. No persons were admitted without passes, and the East Room was not quite full. The appointments and ceremonies were very impressive At 2 p. m. the procession left the White House and proceeded to the Capitol, where the remains were laid in the Rotunda to remain till Friday morning, when they will be sent under escort to Illinois Mr Ashmun, Mr Corwin, Genl Cameron & myself were civilian pall bearers, but I was the only one of the four present. The pall bearers got four together in carriages. I got in mine and was alone, my associates having failed to attend. Soon after I took my seat in the carriage Genl Grant, Admiral Farragut and Com: Shubrick came past, going to the carriage in front. Genl Grant stopped to speak to me, and being three vacant seats they all got in with me, and we rode to the Capitol together—I had a great deal of conversation especially with Genl Grant. He told me that in the battles which occurred in the two weeks preceding the surrender of Lees army his, Grant's, loss in killed and wounded was 15,000, and that he thought Lees considerably exceeded his. There were he said 26,300 surrendered by Lee. He spoke in high terms of *Genls Sheridan, Wright and Ord, and said the Country was under the greatest obligations to Sheridan and Wright especially, and that the latter and Ord ought both to be made Brigadier Genls in the regular army. Told me that he was born in Clermont county Ohio, and was now near 43 years old

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Thursday Apl 20, 1865 Went in the morning to the White House and had a conversation with Judge Davis & Robt Lincoln.

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