Ordinance Office,
War Department.
Washington, April 16, 1865

Dear Uncle,

You have of course heard all the particulars of the dreadful death of the President on the 14th inst. But as I was an eye-witness of the latter part I will endeavor to explain matters. At 10 1/2 o'clock I was looking out of a window of a house opposite the Theatre and seeing a large excited crowd rush from it I thought some one might have been shot ran down stairs and across the street into the theatre and then heard the awful words, Lincoln is shot. I ran off towards the stage over the seats trying to get in the wretched confusion and on reaching it saw a lady reaching over the stage box for second tier it was the daughter of Senator Daines of N. H. I clambered up, seized her hand and drew myself into the box and there on the floor lay Abraham Lincoln dying his wife near him shrieking and mourning, Major Rathbun and a few others near by. Several of us lifted him and carried him out to the street and finding his carriage gone I paid little him across the street he was carried into the house I had just left and deposited on a bed, his clothes
He stepped off: he was shot in the head on a line with his left ear about 2 inches towards the back of the head. The ball was round and entered about three inches in a line towards his right eye; he was looking very hungrily and his pulse fluctuated from 105 to 42 in about three hours. The blood soon began to settle under his left eye and blacken the whole side of his face. Mrs. Lincoln soon came over and was hardly come all night and is now quite low. Laura Keene came over with her but did not stop. His came in about eleven and was much agitated. Soon all the members of the Cabinet rushed in with grief and tears depicted on their faces. Many doctors and members arrived during the night; the floor was cleared of all strangers and a great military force stationed around the case. Stanton was there giving orders to all parts of the union and seemed to do most of the business. News came about eleven thateward was fearfully stabbed and it seemed to stretch even into the hearts of all. Maj. Rathbone was wounded badly in the arm and fainted twice before his wound was dressed and he got home. Mrs. Lincoln came into the room fifteen times during the night and felt dreadfully. She fainted twice and fell over onto the floor. I remained in the room all night long and did all I could to help the best surgeons ever there but no
attempt was made to execute the Ball as he was pronounced
fatally wounded at first examination he lingered
on till seven twenty a.m. when he breathed his last in
presence of the members of the Cabinet several Senators
and others. Mrs. Lincoln was not in the room at the time of
his death. The body at nine o'clock was taken to the White
House and has been embalmed I got a lock of his
hair and a towel saturated with the blood of the best
man that ever was President and a friend of the South.
They now have a President that will show them no mercy
and they deserve none. I will send a piece of the towel
for you as a relic.

The folks are all well and hope this
will find you healthy. Give my love to all
and excuse this writing as it is quite late and I am
very worn.

Love as ever Your Truly

(Signature)