

Rec 13. May W. Brown
Lobby 1408
N^o. 936.

Legation of the United States,
London, 28 April, 1865

Sir:

I had the grief to receive the day before yesterday the telegraphic Despatches from Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War, and from Mr. Hunter, the Chief Clerk of your Department, announcing the afflicting event of the 14th Instant, which has thrown our whole people into such deep distress.

They also give a narrative of the simultaneous savage onslaught upon yourself in your sick room and upon your son, the Assistant Secretary, which had not at the latest date, and which I yet permit myself to hope, will not

prone
The Hon. William H. Seward.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

prone fatal to either of you.

I immediately took the requisite measures to communicate the intelligence to the different Legations on the Continent.

It is but consistency that a rebellion which began in perjury, treachery and fraud should close with private assassination.

The whole of the day was one of the greatest excitement. Few events of the present Century have created such general consternation and indignation. Many people called personally at the Legation to express their deep sympathy and many more sent me notes of the same tenor.

The notices taken by the press are almost all of them of a most honorable character.

A parcel

I transmit copies of the leading newspapers. There seems at last to be a general testimony borne to the noble qualities

qualities of the President and
the friendly disposition of the
Secretary of State.

If all this eulogy be found
mingled with the alloy of un-
worthy aspersions of the Vice
President who succeeds, he has
abundant consolation in the
reflection that, when his predecessor
began, he was not a whit better
treated. It is a weakness of the
press and the people of this Country
not to value some men properly
until they are lost. The case of
the late Prince Consort is a
remarkable instance.

The proceedings in the two
Houses of Parliament last evening
mark out the line proposed to
be adopted by the Government
on this occasion.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Charles Francis Adams.

Copy from the National Archives
Record Group 59: General Records of the Department of State
Despatches from the U.S. Legation in Great Britain