

Recd. 30 April 65

Circular

No 1352

Department of State,  
Washington, 17<sup>th</sup> April 1865

Sir:

The melancholy duty devolves upon me officially to apprise you of the assassination of the President at Ford's theatre in this City in the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> instant. He died the next morning from the effects of the wound.

About the same time an attempt was made to assassinate the Secretary of State in his own house where he was in bed & suffering from the effects of the late accident. The attempt failed, but Mr Seward was severely cut on the face especially it is supposed with a bonnie knife. Mr F. W. Seward was filled by a horror blow on the head, from the assassin, and for some time afterwards, was apparently &

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Charles Francis Adams, Esquire.

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unconscious. Both the Secretary  
and Assistant Secretary are better  
especially the former.

Andrew Johnson has formally  
entered upon the duties of  
President.

I have been authorized &  
temporarily to act as Secretary  
of State.

Dear Sir

Your obedient servant

W. H. Hunt

Acting Secretary

Copy from the National Archives  
Record Group 84: Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State  
U.S. Legation Great Britain  
Notes [Instructions] From the Department of State