Washington City, D.C.
April 15, 1865.

Sir,

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was shot by an assassin this evening, at Ford's Theatre, in this city, and died at the hour of 1:22 on the morning succeeding. About the same time at which the President was shot, an assassin entered the dress circle of the same theater, Mr. H. Stewart, Secretary of State, and shot him in several places, in the throat, neck, and face, mortally wounding him. Other members of the Secretary's family were dangerously wounded by the assassin while making his escape. By the death of President Lincoln, the office of President was devolved upon you.

The exigency of the Government demands that you should immediately qualify according to the requirements of the Constitution, and Upon the duties of the President of the United States. If you will please make known your pleasure, such

Mr. H. Seward,
Secretary of State.
arrangements as you deem proper will be made.

Your Obedient Servants

Andrew Johnson

Vice-President of the United States