Rev. 26 Aprile, 1865.

To Hon. Charles Francis Adams, United States Minister, London, Burlington, D.C., 15 April, 1865.

Sir:

It has become my distressing duty to announce to you that last night His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was assassinated about the hour of half past ten o'clock, in his private box at Ford's Theatre, in this city. The President about eight o'clock accompanied Mrs. Lincoln to the Theatre. Another lady and gentleman were with them in the box. About half past ten during a pause in the performance, the assassin entered the box, the door of which was unguarded, hastily approached the President from behind, and discharged a pistol at his head.
head. The bullet entered the
back of his head and penetrated
nearly through. The assassin
then leaped from the box upon
the stage, brandishing a large
knife or dagger, and exclaiming
"die tyrants tyrants!" and
escap'd in the rear of the
Theatre. Immediately upon
the discharge the President
fell to the floor insensible,
and continued in that
state until 25 minutes past
7 o'clock this morning when
he breathed his last. About
the same time the murder
was being committed at the
Theatre another assassin pre-
tended himself at the door
of Mr. Seward's residence,
gained admission by repre-
senting he had a prescription
from Mr. Seward's physician
which he was directed to see
administered, and hurried
up to the third story chamber

where
where Mr. Seward was lying. He then discovered Mr.
Frederick Seward, struck him over the head, inflicting sev-
eral wounds and fracturing the skull in two places, in-
flicting, it is feared, mortal wounds. He then rushed
into the room where Mr. Seward was in bed, attended by a
young daughter and a
male nurse. The male at-
tendant was stabbed through
the lung, and it is believed
will die. The assassin then
stuck Mr. Seward with a
knife or dagger twice in the
throat and twice in the face,
infllicting terrible wounds.
By this time Major Seward,
eldest son of the Secretary, and
another attendant reached
the room, and rushed to the
rescue of the Secretary; they were
also wounded in the conflict,
and the assassin escaped.

Artery
Avery important blood-reded was severed by any the wound's inflicted upon him, but he was for a long time insensible from the loss of blood. Some hope of his possible recovery is entertained. Immediately upon the death of the President notice was given to Vice President Johnson, who happened to be in the City, and inform him of the office of President now devolved. He will take the office and assume the functions of President today. The murderer of the President has been discovered, and evidence obtained that these horrible crimes were committed in execution of the conspiracy deliberately planned and set on foot by rebels under pretence of avenging the South and aiding the rebel cause; but it is hoped that the immediate perpetrators will be caught.
The feeling occasioned by these atrocious crimes is so great, sudden, and overwhelming that I cannot at present do more than communicate them to you. At the earliest moment yesterday the late President called a Cabinet meeting at which General Grant was present. He was more cheerful and happy than I had ever seen him, rejoicing at the near prospect of firm and durable peace at home and abroad, manifested in a marked degree the kindness and humanity of his disposition, and the tender and forgiving spirit that so eminently distinguished him. Public notice had been given that he and General Grant would be present at the Theatre, and the opportunity of adding the Lieutenant General to the
number of victims to be mur-
dered was no doubt seized
for the fitting occasion of ex-
posing the plans that appear
not have been in preparation
for some weeks, but General
Grant was compelled to be
absent, and thus escaped
the designs upon him. It
is needless for me to pay
anything in regard to the
influence which this atrocious
murder of the President may
exercise upon the affairs of
this country; but I will only
add that, terrible as are the
atrocities that have been
resorted to by the enemies
of the country, they are not
likely, in any degree, to
fracture the public spirit, or post-
pone the complete and final
overthrow of the rebellion.
In profound grief for this
event, which it has become
my duty to communicate,

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To you,

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Edwin D. Stanton.