

EXECUTION OF THE CONSPIRATORS.

Payne, Harold, Atzerot and Mrs Surratt were hung in Washington on the 7th inst. for being concerned with Booth in the assassination of President Lincoln and the attack on Secretary Seward.

All of the prisoners had spiritual counsel with them during the whole of Thursday night and Friday morning up to the time of execution, and without exception were benefited by it. They all exhibited a great deal of emotion and appeared very contrite. Mrs Surratt suffered from nervous spasms and her cries during the night were heart-rending.

Miss Surratt, herself, made the most strenuous efforts to obtain a pardon for her mother. Failing in this she, aided by her counsel appealed for a postponement of the execution. Her friends did everything in their power to assist her. Her efforts were almost superhuman. All day Thursday she visited first one official and then another, and her appeals for mercy were distressing. The Government was firm in its decision and withstood the influence brought to bear upon it.

A short time previous to the execution Payne, Atzerot and Harold, each made a confession in which they admitted their complicity, and freely developed the existence of a plot as extensive as the officers of the Government had surmised.

Up to the last moment Mrs Surratt proclaimed her innocence, and repeatedly stated that she was as clear of complicity with the murder of the President as Mrs Lincoln herself. She betrayed the utmost agitation.

When the prisoners were brought out of their cells, and conducted to the scaffold, Mrs Surratt continued to betray the greatest nervousness. It was with great difficulty that she could stand on the platform, and repeatedly asked the attendants not to let her fall. Almost her last words were "please don't let me fall!" When the rope was adjusted her lips moved as if in prayer.—She and Atzerot died easy—almost without a struggle; Payne and Harold struggled violently, and their contortions were fearful to behold.

After life had been pronounced extinct the bodies were cut down and given to their friends with the exception of Payne's, which was disposed of by the Government, as no one called for it.

O'Laughlin, Dr Mudd, Arnold and Spangler have been sent to the Albany Penitentiary.

From the Herald of the 8th we condense the following account of the hanging of Harold, Payne, Atzerot, and Mary E. Surratt, on the 7th inst:

After the announcement that the foregoing persons were to be hung, there was great excitement in Washington on the 6th, and much sympathy exhibited for Mrs Surratt. Efforts were made in her behalf to stay the execution, and a writ of *habeas corpus* was issued by Judge Wylie and served upon Maj. Gen. Hancock, commanding him to bring the body of Mary E. Surratt before the criminal Court of the District of Columbia, then in session. Whereupon President Johnson issued a special order, suspending the writ. Her spiritual advisers and her daughter both sought her reprieve, but President Johnson answered that he had already maturely considered her case and that a determination had been reached.

The morning of the 7th was extremely hot. The great anxiety evinced the day before to witness the execution had increased, but the ingress to the Penitentiary yard, where the hanging was to take place, was effectually debarred by sentinels posted in long lines facing inward, and admitting only those who had received passports. Of these, about three hundred gained admittance, among them the reporters for the press and artists for illustrated papers.

The prisoners had been so closely guarded that the avenue of escape was left open; so that all were found, as usual in their cells.

Last night of the assassins was said to have been painful. Payne alone, of the whole, exhibited anything of firmness and courage, bearing throughout, says the report, partaking neither of indifference and cowardice. He alone slept brokenly that night, and next morning of a hearty breakfast. The night of terror, seemingly prosaically of an ignominious ministered to by preachers of whom was attended by her sister, Walter and Weiget nearly surrounded by such comfort as his reading and reciting of Scripture. Atzerot and his minister. The latter, in a mature conviction, and expressing genuine contrition, expiating an enormous

execution, about half past seven was seated upon a scaffold drawn under him, and crossed his knees, with his whole attitude expressive of nothing like fear, to which he was entirely alone,

having given his final confession to his spiritual adviser, and was dressed in sailor's pants and shirt, the latter very low and open at the front—being the same dress in which he often appeared at the trial. Mrs Surratt was lying at full length upon her mattress, clothed in some white undress garment, looking very pale and debilitated. She was attended by two priests, who were about to administer the sacrament to their hopeless daughter. Two ladies were also in the cell endeavoring to calm the almost continual shuddering of her shrunken figure, and summon fortitude for her to bear the wretched fate that was at hand. Harold lay upon a cot, looking very pale and livid, with eyes rolling frenziedly and conversing in a low tone with his sisters, who were grouped around him in sitting postures. Atzerot was alone, with the exception of his minister, and, like the rest, was reclining upon his mattress, and though evidently seeking comfort in the spiritual advice of his companion, and nearly beside himself with fear at the nearness of his sudden death, had his feet elevated some two or three feet above his head upon the side of the wall, at an angle occasionally assumed by luxurious smokers, and thus in this singularly irrelevant attitude was he receiving and apparently consoled with the ministrations of his companion.

About a quarter to 12, the friends of the convicted began to arrive—Miss Anna Surratt being accompanied by a friend, and the sister of Harold and also a sister of Atzerot, each one clothed in black and densely veiled. Scarcely half an hour had elapsed before they all again issued, nearly swooning with anguish, and were borne to an inner apartment, where restoratives were administered. Many eyes were bedimmed as this mournful cortege passed from sight and hearing.

One o'clock had now arrived, and the heavy door opened for the procession to the gallows. First came Mrs Surratt, leaning upon two gentlemen, followed by Fathers Wiget and Walter, the latter of whom carried a small cross with an effigy of the Saviour thereon, and also a book of prayer. She looked very pale; her limbs seemed to fail her, and it required no small exertion on the part of the gentlemen alluded to, to lead her as far as the scaffold steps. Step by step she ascended, her hands manacled behind her, every eye united on her now shrunken cheeks. Her face betrayed more of horror than of physical fear; her upper lip, as sometimes seen in the newly dead, curled upwards from the now incomplete teeth, which added greatly to the ghastliness of her expression. She sat on a chair placed at the northwestern corner of the scaffold, and immediately the reverend gentlemen waiting upon her leaned forward, applying the crucifix to her ashen lips, and pouring into her ear the words of comfort.

Next came Atzerot, shackled hand and foot, and presenting to the spectator a face so full of fear, of woe, of horror and of supplication, that for mere relief they turned from him to rest upon the regal face of Payne. Atzerot was attended to and up the steps of the scaffold by the Rev. Mr Butler, and he too was bidden to be seated on a chair placed at the southwestern end of the grim white structure.

And next came Payne, manacled like Atzerot, dressed only in the navy pants and collarless shirt he wore during the long trial. So instinctively is the admiration which men feel for any man who in the last hours meets unmoved the king of terrors, that this youth with the bull neck and close shaven crown, short face and quiet blue eye, drew more sympathy than the fears of a thousand Atzerots could ever evoke. On he went to the steps, side by side with the minister of his choice, Mr Gillett. Checked in his gait, but seemingly unembarrassed, he reached the platform and sat down near to Mrs Surratt, and there he remained gazing, as he used to do in the court room, through the bars at the white fleecy clouds that shifted before the intense rays of a sun that glided with all the pomp of a summer noon one of the most solemn scenes ever exhibited in this land, so free hitherto from such crimes. Payne (we prefer the more generally known name) looked neither to the right nor to the left, but straight forward and upwards. It was evident that to him the crowd were nothing, his own thoughts everything. His face might be likened to that of a builder of castles in the air. Fear there was none, no more than on the face of a sleeping infant; braggadocio, or the morbid vanity that so often supplies courage, was not to be read in the quiet dreaming eye, whence the old wildness alone had fled, as the sun faced him as truly as he faced it. The photographer whose instrument stood in a window of the western wall will hand down Payne to posterity with a face on which no man could read either remorse for past crimes or the fear of a present punishment. The memory of his horrid crime, which had appalled a nation, was lost in contemplating his bearing, which at the very foot of the scaffold a soldier who had braved death from Chattanooga to Savannah, styled right regal. Last, and in every way least, came Harold, with bloodless, sallow cheeks, still sufficiently self contained to walk or hobble as well as his shackles would permit, and, attended by Dr. Olds, he too, mounted the stairs and sat between the quaking Atzerot and the quiet Payne.

When all were seated Mr Gillett stepped forward and returned the thanks of Lewis Thornton Powell, well known as Payne, for the kindness he had received during his imprisonment;

and breathing a fervent prayer for the soul of the convicted man. Payne still sat gazing upon the fast dissolving clouds. Dr Olds then returned thanks for Harold, and uttered a prayer; and so did the Rev. Mr Butler in behalf of Atzerot.

This being ended, an order inaudible from below was given, and Payne stepped forward to the noose prepared for him. The others moved up to their places, quivering and horror-stricken. Mrs Surratt was apparently more resigned. Atzerot and Harold were pictures of terror.

When the noose was placed over the heads of each one. Payne bent gracefully to it, and never resisted. Their arms were tied by strips of muslin above the elbows, and their legs between the ankle and knee.

The cap was now slipped over the heads of each. Atzerot exclaimed "Gentlemen, beware!" And as the cap was being placed on Harold, he said again "Gentlemen, good-bye." And at half past one o'clock, as the ministers moved back, he said again, "may we all meet in another world."

The trap was then sprung and swaying to and fro swung the four bodies.

The four bodies hung as motionless and straight as plumb lines in the glare of a summer meridian sun.

They were cut down successively—first Atzerot, then Harold, next Payne, and last Mrs Surratt.

The four boxes prepared for coffins were then brought forward, and the corpses being laid upon them, another examination was made, and it being perfectly evident that life was extinct in all, they were placed each in his narrow house and buried in the four yawning holes prepared for them.

NEWS ITEMS.

A terrible fire occurred last week in New York. Barnum's Museum caught from an explosion, (nature of explosion not known,) and the fire spread thence as far as the Herald office, consuming it and the intervening houses.

Governor Holden has appointed a Commission to proceed to Washington to gain official information in regard to the confiscation of the property of rebels.

Communication is now open from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Columbus, Ga.

The ship William Nelson, from Antwerp, for New York, with passengers, was burned on the banks of Newfoundland the 1st inst. Thirty or forty of her passengers were picked up and taken to St. Johns, N. F. The boats, with crews, &c., are missing, and it is supposed that four hundred lives have been lost.

Hon. James Johnson, the Provisional Governor of Georgia, is a native of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The expenditures of the government during the past year amount to the enormous sum of \$1,200,000,000, or over \$3,500,000 per day.

The latest phase of Napoleon's Mexican scheme is the rumor that Maximilian is about to issue a decree ceding the States of Sinaloa, Durango and Mexico to France as security for the war debt due that Government.

Rev. Dr. Palmer, formerly of New Orleans, who has been notorious for his secessionism, is endeavoring to organize a colony for the purpose of emigrating to Brazil.

An official order has been issued to muster out the remaining volunteers of the Army of the Potomac.

News from Virginia represents the condition between the whites and freedmen, as bad and growing worse. The whites trying to get rid of the freedmen, and to replace by white laborers.

The Committee from Richmond that waited on the President, for the purpose of persuading him to revoke the \$20,000 clause, returned unsuccessful.

The holders of notes on the Virginia Banks, it is thought, will not realize more than twenty per cent. on the dollar.

It is reported that the trial of Mr Davis will probably be postponed till September.

MRS. GOV. VANCE.—We are pained to learn that the wife of Gov. Vance has been for a number of weeks and is now very ill at her residence in this place. Her condition requires the unremitting attention of friends, night and day. This is the more to be deplored, inasmuch as her husband, whose affectionate and delicate attention she so much needs, is still immured in prison in Washington city.

Since the above was written, we are pleased to learn, that upon information of Mrs Vance's critical condition coming to the knowledge of Gov. Holden, he promptly sent a dispatch to the Secretary of War, requesting that Gov. Vance be paroled.—*Statesville American.*

FIGHT IN MEXICO.—A fight occurred at Bagdad, in Mexico, a few days ago, between some rebel soldiers and the Union forces, in which several persons were killed and wounded. The Mexican soldiers interfered and put a stop to the fracas.

THE INDIAN WAR.

The origin and history of this conflict is unknown at the South, yet from a recent dispatch, it would seem that the difficulties have originated with the traders.

Gen. Pope has arrived in Washington by order of the President and Gen. Grant to confer concerning the treatment of the Indians in the Department. It is believed the Government will prohibit traders from coming in contact with Indians, and that the whole management, including trading, will be taken in hand by the Government, as the best and probably only means of preventing continual hostilities with the various tribes of savages in the Northwest.

Another dispatch, dated Fort Laramie, July 3, states that it is ascertained, beyond all dispute, that the Arapahoe Indians, who for some time have been fed by the Government at Fort Halleck, as friendly Indians, have been the perpetrators of most of the outrages committed on the overland mail route, west of Denver. They ascertained by some means, that they were suspected, and have now taken the war path openly and defiantly. Troops are in pursuit. No friendly Indians are east or north of Denver or Camp Collins, neither can any peace be expected until they are severely chastised. The success they have met with during the past year has made them exceedingly bold and daring in their exploits.

There are three columns of infantry, cavalry and artillery preparing to march against hostile Indians on the frontier. A column consisting of the Second Missouri Light Artillery, equipped as cavalry, and the Twelfth Missouri cavalry, have passed Columbus, Nebraska, on their way to the Powder River country. Various reports show that there is to be a very vigorous campaign against the Indians unless they yield to the suggestions of the Government and adopt means for conforming to the requisites of civilized life. The Cherokee Indians, who were associated with the insurgent States, are in a very destitute condition, and near starvation. Texas has been appealed to for relief.

BRAXTON BRAGG.—This old and prominent citizen of Louisiana, whose fortunes have been so varied during the late war, arrived in our city by the Mobile boat yesterday morning, and stopping at the St. Charles. General Bragg is in excellent health, and looks as if he could "give 'em a little more grape" yet, as in the more halcyon and glorious days of the republic. Like all the generals of the Confederate army, he recognizes the march of events, and is only ambitious to retire, as before the war, and fulfill the duties of an American citizen.—*New Orleans Picayune, June 28.*

TROUBLE IN TENNESSEE.—There is great trouble in Tennessee concerning the franchise law. It is being violently attacked in public speeches by certain candidates for office. Gov. Brownlow has accordingly issued a proclamation informing the people that it is the supreme law of the State, and denouncing its enemies as rebels. The civil authorities are directed to arrest the assailants of this law. Emmerson Ethridge, formerly a member of Congress from Tennessee, has been arrested as being one of the haranguers.—*Northern News.*

Unfortunately, the people of Tennessee are cursed with a brutal and tyrannical man as Governor. They are suffering much from the restrictive rule of Brownlow. If the people of Tennessee have not the right to advocate the repeal of an obnoxious law, we should like to know what rights they have. Emerson Ethridge has always been a better Union man than Brownlow, yet he is arrested by "Governor" Brownlow because he is in favor of repealing a most unjust and tyrannical act of the Legislature. It is expected that the "loyal men" of Tennessee will soon repudiate and ignore Brownlow.

A colored boy named Cherrin was arrested for committing a rape on a white woman. This is the third case that has occurred in this county in the past two months.—*Salisbury Reporter.*

Davidson College.

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Davidson College will be held at the College on the 18th inst. Business of the utmost importance to the Institution will require the attention of the Board.
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E. NYE HUTCHISON, Secretary.

30,000 Shingles wanted

At Davidson College. Apply to R. I. McDowell, Esq. or to the President of the College, or to E. Nye Hutchison at Charlotte.
July 10, 1865. 21

M. McINNIS, COMMISSION MERCHANT & WHOLESALE GROCER,

(At his old stand,) No. 16, North Water Street, Wilmington, N. C.

All Produce consigned to my address, either for sale or shipment, shall have personal attention. Liberal cash advances made on consignments after the receipt of Bill Lading.
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