

The Scene of the Murder.

In order to more fully understand the evidence in the assassination trials the members of the Court visited Ford's theatre on the 15th inst. The Washington Star refers to the visit as follows:

While the members of the court were waiting in the lobby for the arrival of some of their associates, it was suggested by Assistant Judge Advocate Bingham that the passage in the building adjoining the theatre to the south be opened, as there was some confusion of statement in the testimony of witnesses as to the point whether there was any entrance to the theatre at that side.

The keys were procured and the door opened when it was found that this passage communicated with the stage and with the third story of the adjoining building occupied by the brothers Ford as a sleeping apartment. The second story is an adjunct to the theatre communicating with the dress circle, and the room is known as the Promenade Saloon of Ford's, and is elegantly furnished, it will be remembered with mirrors, carpets, marble tables, &c. The lower story is rented out as a restaurant, and between the restaurant and theatre, as above stated, is this passage, which leads directly back to the stage, on a little lower level than the stage.

Returning from an inspection of this passage the court proceeded to the theatre, passing in by the usual entrance, and then to the stage. The stage is almost precisely in the condition it was at the moment of the assassination. The scene (third act "American Cousin") is set as at that moment, with the red curtained recess in the centre, used by "Asa Trenchard." The box used by Mr. Lincoln bears the same picture of Washington at its front, and a couple of flags are draped over the box as then, but not the Treasury Guards' flag, which caught Booth's spur on that occasion. The green baize cloth has a foot long rent at the point where Booth struck the stage but whether made by him in his fall is not known.

A close inspection was made of the stage box and its surroundings, and especially the point where the bar was inserted between the wall and the door, whereby access to the box was prevented while Booth was doing his bloody work.

The curious fact, not before remarked, was elicited that the excavation (some three inches in length and one in depth) in the wall, intended to admit the bar, had been covered carefully at some time previous to the assassination with a neatly fitting piece of wall paper, similar in color to that on the wall, and which had evidently been pasted over the excavation, covering it to the sight. This accounts for the fact, not heretofore explained, that such a disfigurement on the wall attracted no attention. This piece of paper—apparently a squareish, oblong slip, judging from the paste marks—is missing. Measuring the distance from the wall to the angle of the door, the brace must have been some four or five feet in length and prepared with some care to fit exactly. The box is in much the same condition as when the assassination took place, with the exception that the rocking chair used by Mr. Lincoln has been removed.

Returning to the stage via dress circle, it was noticed that the guard on duty were quartered quite comfortably in the spacious promenade saloon. The seats in the theatre were covered by a heavy coat of dust, adding something to the general feeling of unpleasantness about the sombre, dimly lit interior of any theatre by day; and which was a thousand times heightened on this occasion by the awful associations now so indissolubly linked with this building.

A close inspection was next made of the rear exit and its approaches, by which Booth escaped. Two doors were found in the rear, one of large size, perhaps fifteen feet by twenty, hung at the top by hinges, and used only for the passing in and out of large articles, stage machinery, &c. &c. This door, which is in the centre of the stage rear, was not open on the night of the assassination. The second door, and the one used by Booth, is at the northeast corner of the stage. It is a small door, not much higher than a tall man's head, and has a sash and wooden shutter, the sash, however, being unglazed.

This door is immediately in the rear of the passage between the slips and the wall on the north side of the stage, and it was quite perceptible that the scenes had been carefully set previous to the assassination by some accomplice of Booth, so as to afford much more than the usual facility of egress. Emerging to the paved alley, over the rough pebbles of which Booth spurred his horse on the fatal night, a large rough carpenter's bench strikes the eye prominently and is presently pointed out as the bench on which Peanut John lay and drowsed while holding Booth's horse. A half dozen soldiers were now seated upon it, occupying their time with carving ingenious toys from wood as relics of the place. Further down the alley to the right is a sort of tumble down shanty, used by Booth to stable his horse.

Immediately adjacent to the door through which Booth passed to the alley are a flight of steps descending to the room under the stage. North of the stage and on the same level with the stage is the Green Room and the room reserved for theatrical stars, the latter room being now occupied by the military guard as an office. Behind the slides at the scene shifters' stand was hanging a slip of paper, uppermost of a series of similar slips, what appeared to be stage directions for setting the scenes of a play named, curiously enough, "The Rebel Chief."

The court having made a minute investigation

idea of all the different bearings of the case, so far as this locality was concerned, proceeded in ambulances, under escort of a detachment of the Sixth West Virginia cavalry, to the commission rooms, Penitentiary building.

Important Letter from Joe Johnston.

[From the Charlotte (N. C.) Democrat, May 15.] We lay before our readers the following letter from Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, stating the causes which induced him to make terms of surrender with Gen. Sherman. We believe Gen. Johnston's conduct, and his refusal to continue the war after all hope of success was vain, is generally approved; but if any one has a doubt on this point, the reasons set forth by Gen. Johnston will clearly show that he acted correctly and wisely:

CHARLOTTE, N. C., May 6, 1865. Having made a convention with Major General Sherman to terminate hostilities in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, it seems to me proper to put before the people of those States the condition of military affairs which rendered that measure absolutely necessary.

On the 26th of April, the day of the convention, by the returns of three Lieutenant Generals of the Army of Tennessee (that under my command) the number of infantry and artillery present and absent was 70,510; the total present 18,578; the effective total, or fighting force, 14,179. On the 7th of April, the date of the last return, I can find, the effective total of the cavalry was 5,440. But between the 7th and 26th of April it was greatly reduced by events in Virginia and apprehensions of surrender. In South Carolina we had Young's division of cavalry, less than one thousand, besides reserves and State troops, together much inferior to the Federal forces in that State. In Florida we were as weak. In Georgia our inadequate force had been captured at Macon. In Lieut. Gen. Taylor's Department there were no means of opposing the formidable army under General Canby, which had taken Mobile nor the cavalry under Gen. Wilson, which had captured every other place of importance west of Augusta. The latter had been stopped at Macon by the armistice, as we had been at Greensboro, but its distance from Augusta being less than half of ours, that place was in its power. To carry on the war, therefore, we had to depend on the Army of Tennessee alone. The United States could have brought against it twelve or fifteen times its number in the armies of Generals Grant, Sherman and Canby. With such odds against us, without the means of procuring ammunition or repairing arms, without money or credit to provide food, it was impossible to continue the war except as robbers. The consequence of prolonging the struggle would only have been the destruction or dispersion of our bravest men, and great suffering of women and children, by the desolation and ruin inevitable from the marching of two hundred thousand men through the country.

Having failed in an attempt to obtain terms giving security to citizens as well as soldiers, I had to choose between wantonly bringing the evils of war upon those I had been chosen to defend, and averting those calamities with the confession that hopes were dead, which every thinking Southern man had already lost. I therefore stipulated with Gen. Sherman for the security of the brave and true men committed to me on terms which also terminated hostilities in all the country over which my command extended, and announced it to your Governors by telegraph as follows: "The disaster in Virginia, the capture of the enemy of all our workshops for the preparation of ammunition and repairing of arms, the impossibility of recruiting our little army, opposed to more than ten times its number or of supplying it except by robbing our own citizens, destroyed all hope of successful war. I have therefore made a military convention with Major General Sherman to terminate hostilities in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. I made this convention to spare the blood of this gallant little army, to prevent further suffering of our people by the devastation and ruin inevitable from the marches of invading armies, and to avoid the crime of waging a hopeless war."

J. E. JOHNSTON.

The Atlantic Telegraph. The manufacturers of the Atlantic telegraph cable repeat with great emphasis their promise to have their portion of the work done by the end of May. And the further conduct of the enterprise for some time thereafter will mainly devolve upon Capt. Anderson, of the Cunard steamship China, who takes command of the Great Eastern during the laying of the line. Capt. Anderson is to have a picked crew to man the vessel, the management of which nearly everything would seem henceforth to depend. The paying-out apparatus is said to be as nearly perfect as may be. The cable and each separate wire and coating, of which it is composed, have been subject to the most searching tests at every step as the work has progressed. And what is mainly wanted, in addition to these provisions against failure, we take it is a steady ship and a clear-headed and experienced commander. The public here would learn with satisfaction that one or more United States vessels had been ordered to participate in the enterprise as convoys to the Great Eastern.—N. Y. Times.

PUZZLE.

I often murmur, but never weep; I lie in a bed, but never sleep; My mouth is larger than my head, And is always full, though never fed; Without legs or arms I swiftly run, The more I fall, the faster on.

LINEN AND PAPER COLLARS

At

From the army hospital—the bloody battle field—the mansion of the rich and humble abode of the poor—from the office and the sacred desk—from the mountain top, distant valleys and far-off islands of the ocean—from every nook and corner of the civilized world—is pouring in the evidence of the astonishing effects of DRAKE'S PLANTATION BITTERS. Thousands upon thousands of letters like the following may be seen at our office.

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The following is from the Manager of the Union Home School for the Children of Volunteers: HAVEMEYER MANSION, FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET, New York, August 2, 1863. "DR. DRAKE: Your wonderful Plantation Bitters have been given to some of our little children suffering from weakness and weak lungs, with most happy effect. One little girl, in particular, with pains in her head, loss of appetite, and daily wasting consumption, on whom all medical skill had been exhausted, has been entirely restored. We commenced with but a teaspoonful of Bitters a day. Her appetite and strength rapidly increased, and she is now well." Respectfully, MRS. O. M. DEVOE.

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S. T.—1860—X.

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WRAPPING PAPER,

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