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NOTES AND QUERIES

THE FIRST LINCOLN ASSASSINATION PLOT

Dr. Lawson A. Long died April 30, at Holyoke, Mass. He was the first man to expose a plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln in Baltimore in 1861, while on his way from Springfield, Ill., to Washington to be inaugurated, and it is also said that he was the first physician to give to the world the fact that cholera and yellow fever were due to filth. He left Holyoke in the early '50s, going to New York City. Ill health caused him to go to Hot Springs to recuperate. While there he overheard a plot to assassinate President Lincoln, and got the information to the State Department. Lincoln left Springfield by another train, and the plot was frustrated. The Secessionists learned that Dr. Long had given away their plans, and he had a narrow escape from being murdered.

WHERE JOHN BROWN WAS HANGED

It is strange that almost all recent writers on John Brown, when referring to the place of his execution, call it "Charleston." Even your correspondent's letter from Topeka, Kan., printed in last Sunday's *Sun* shows that the inscription on the monument erected on the Isawatomie battleground in honor of the famous or infamous raider, according to the point of view, contains the same error; for part of it runs thus: "Who died and conquered on the scaffold at Charleston, Virginia, December 2, 1859."

Charleston is in Kanawha county, while Charlestown, the place at which Brown was hanged, is in Jefferson county, near Harpers Ferry. Charleston and Charles-Town (as the latter is now spelled to prevent this very error) are more than one hundred miles apart.

I was living at Harpers Ferry at the time of John Brown's raid and his execution at Charles-Town; consequently the confounding of the two places appears to me, at least, very strange.

HARPERS FERRIAN.

Sun, NEW YORK.

ISAAC VAN WART'S GRAVE

I am wholly at a loss to understand the motive of a recent correspondent of the *Sun* who disputes my statement that the grave of Isaac Van Wart at Elmsford, New York, is neglected, and describes the place as well cared for. On Saturday, June 10, I again visited Elmsford to see if any change had been made. I found the grave as I have already described it in my former letter to you, in a neglected little square, enclosed with an iron fence, the plot overgrown with weeds and brush, and rubbish from the other parts of the yard thrown upon it.

This is the condition in which I found it Sunday, May 28, and again on Saturday, June 10. The situation is so contrary to what it ought to be that I have to-day requested the authorities in the Dutch Reformed Church, in whose cemetery the grave is situated, to allow me at my own expense to put the place in proper condition and to hold a patriotic service there on the Fourth of July.

W. F. P. FERGUSON.

Sun, NEW YORK.