"MONTAUK" MONTAUK

APRIL 30 , 65

NAVY YARD WASH D C 31

APRIL 15th 1865. 9. P.M

DEAR BRO: THE FEW HOURS THAT HAVE INTERVENED SINCE THAT MOST TERRIBLE TRAGEDY OF LAST NIGHT HAVE SERVED TO GIVE ME A LITTLE CLEARER BRAIN, AND I BELIEVE I AM NOW ABLE TO GIVE YOU A CLEAR ACCOUNT AFTER THIS HOUR. YESTERDAY ABOUT 3 P.M. THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE DROVE DOWN TO THE NAVY YARD AND PAID OUR SHIP A VISIT, GOING ALL OVER HER, ACCOMPANIED BY US ALL. BOTH SEEMED VERY HAPPY AND SO EXPRESSED THEMSELVES, GLAD THAT THIS WAR WAS OVER, OR SO NEAR ITS END, AND THEN DROVE BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

IN THE EVENING, NEARLY ALL OF US WENT TO FORD'S THEATRE. I WAS VERY EARLY, AND GOT A SEAT VERY NEAR THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE BOX, AS WE HEARD HE WAS TO BE THERE. ABOUT HALF PAST NINE, HE CAME IN WITH HIS WIFE, A MISS HAINES AND MAY & HEATHBURN, AND WAS CHEERED BY EVERYONE. AS SOON AS THERE WAS A SILENCE, THE PLAY WENT ON, AND I COULD SEE THAT THE "PRES" SEEMED TO ENJOY IT VERY MUCH. ABOUT 10:23 P.M. A MAN CAME IN, AND WALKED SLOWLY ALONG THE SIDE ON WHICH THE "PRES" BOX WAS AND I HEARD A MAN SAY "THERE'S BOOTHE"AND I TURNED MY HEAD TO LOOK AT HIM. HE WAS STILL WALKING VERY SLOW, AND WAS NEAR THE BOX DOOR, WHEN HE STOPPED, TOOK A CARD FROM HIS POCKET, WROTE SOMETHING ON IT, AND GAVE IT TO THE USHER, WHO TOOK IT TO THE BOX. IN A MINUTE, THE DOOR WAS OPENED AND HE WALKED IN. NO SOONER HAD THE DOOR CLOSED THAN I HEARD THE REPORT OF A PISTOL AND ON THE INSTANT BOOTHE JUMPED OUT OF THE BOX ONTO THE STAGE

HOLDING IN HIS HAND A LARGE KNIFE, AND SHOUTED SO AS TO BE HEARD ALL OVER THE HOUSE, "SIC SEMPER TYRANIS" ("SO ALWAYS WITH TYRANTS"), AND FLED BEHIND THE SCENES - I ATTEMPTED TO GET TO THE BOX, AND I COULD NOT, BUT IN AN INSTANT THE CRY WAS RAISED "THE PRESIDENT IS ASSASINATED." SUCH A SCENE I NEVER SAW BEFORE.

THE CRY SPREAD TO THE STREET, ONLY TO BE MET BY ANOTHER "SO IS MR SEWARD." SOLDIERS, SAILORS, POLICE, ALL STARTED IN EVERY DIRECTION, BUT THE ASSASIN HAD GONE - SOME GENERAL HANDED ME A NOTE AND BID ME GO TO THE NEAREST TELLI-GRAPH OFFICE AND AROUSE THE NATION.

I RAN WITH ALL MY SPEED, AND IN TEN MINUTES THE SAD NEWS WAS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. TODAY ALL THE CITY IS IN MOURNING, NEARLY EVERY HOUSE BEING IN BLACK, AND I HAVE NOT SEEN A SMILE. NO BUSINESS, AND MANY A STRONG MAN I HAVE SEEN <u>IN TEARS</u> - SOME REPORTS SAY BOOTHE IS A PRISONER, OTHERS THAT HE HAS MADE HIS ESCAPE - BUT FROM ORDERS RECEIVED HERE, I <u>BELIEVE</u> HE IS TAKEN, AND DURING THE NIGHT WILL BE PUT ON A MONITOR FOR SAFE-KEEPING, AS A <u>MOB</u> ONCE RAISED <u>NOW</u> WOULD KNOW NO END - I WILL NOT SEAL THIS UNTIL MORNING, AND I MAY HAVE SOME MORE NEWS.

APRIL 24th

I HAVE HAD NO TIME TO WRITE UNTIL NOW, AS I HAVE BEEN A <u>DETECTIVE</u>. WE HAVE NOW 7 THAT ARE INPLICATED.WHY DON'T YOU WRITE. LOVE TO ALL. GEORGE.