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TRAGEDY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THE
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OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
IN
FIVE ACTS,
BY
AN AMERICAN ARTIST.

GLASGOW :

PUBLISHED BY JAMES BROWN & SON,

19 UNION STREET.

THE

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OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

IN

Entered at Stationer's Hall.

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19 Union Street.

TO THE READER.

THE poem which I have the presumption to offer, was commenced soon after the death of Mr. Lincoln, under the following circumstances. Mr. N. K. Richardson, a noted public reader in Philadelphia, honoured me by including selections from several patriotic and other poems of mine in various programmes recited by him during the rebellion. Upon one occasion, having so given one entitled "The Death of Lincoln," an auditor came and complimented me still further, by urging me to undertake a tragedy founded upon the lamented President. I stated then the conviction of my inability to do so, and though feeling impelled to make the attempt, and every endeavour to learn the marked points in the life of such a man, I have realised since more and more my incapacity to grasp so lofty a theme. The play had been well started, and anticipated, in the States, whilst everything was fresh, some of the striking points particularly, after a long interview with Mr. Lincoln's old companion and friend, the now celebrated John Hanks. Though completed in this country some years ago, it was thought hardly fit or proper to introduce it on the stage, particularly the American; but some three years since I was induced by parties who had perused it, to submit it to the judgment of the lamented Harcourt Beatty-Bland, who suggested its early adaptation for the stage. I may not state here—although it is well known to some—all the praise he kindly bestowed upon it, as it might be thought egotistical; suffice it to say, that he requested a second perusal, and stated among other things, in giving back the manuscript, that if I had presented my subject correctly, he did not think a better one than the noble Lincoln, for a stage tragedy, had ever lived and died.

I need not repeat more of his words, but to his kind opinion, and that of another, long and favourably known in connection with the Theatre-Royal, and other theatres of this town, rather than my own, you will considerably attribute the publicity here given to it, imperfect as it is.

THE AUTHOR.

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THE AUTHOR

INTRODUCTION.

It is doubtful if history has ever given a more striking subject to the tragic muse, than the assassination of the noble Lincoln; yet a play only depicting the incidents surrounding, or associated with, his death, would fail in giving the great lessons that such a life as his imparts. As it is no less doubtful if many lives have furnished greater contrasts, or more striking incidents for dramatic effort than his—leading from the rude prairie cabin to the Presidency of the United States, probably at the time of their most perilous vitality—the author endeavours in this play, to portray selections from the startling events, crowding such a stride from comparative obscurity to undying fame and violent death; plot and poetry have been kept mostly subordinate to facts, though some license has been taken with names, dates, &c. To give continuity and harmonious unity, some characters have been made to take the parts of others, who, if introduced, would too greatly extend the *Dramatis Personæ*; still it is affirmed, that no play built upon reality ever adhered more closely to real transaction than does the effort now offered.

As in adhering closely to Mr. Lincoln's life, the author found it impossible to carry the early associates of his penury and poverty on into the society and exalted position finally secured him by his exceptional talents, the characters of some, who might otherwise be entitled to appear, have been blended in those of others made to figure throughout the piece. We may add that several are so united in John Hanks,* thought necessary by the author to continue on, until the final destruction of Mr. Lincoln's assassin. Kind, affectionate, even tender as our subject ever was, still very little of the romance of stage love can accord with the strong points in his career, and, so far as introduced, is aimed to give the character of the man, and the frontier life in which he was such a hero. Sorry that he is not worthy to treat the great subject in the spirit it so eminently deserves, the Author, in presenting his weak effort, would say to the public, be as charitable as you can.

* The author gained many facts from this early associate of Mr Lincoln, never elsewhere seen.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF U.S.A.

JOHN HANKS, afterwards PEARSLY.

PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY.

GEN. U. S. GRANT.

W. H. SEWARD.

H. GREELY.

E. M. STANTON.

SIMON CAMERON.

B. F. BUTLER.

CHAS. SUMNER.

CAPT. afterwards COL. STODARD.

JUDGE MAYBERRY.

MR. TODD.

COL. GOODALL.

MR. ARMSTRONG.

MR. HANSOM.

BLACK BOB.

SOUTHERN CITIZENS, RAILROAD MEN,
And NEWSBOYS.

YOUNG ARMSTRONG.

WILLIE BROWNLEY.

BOOTH, Principal Assassin.

RED WING, Indian.

COL. RANSOM.

MISS TODD afterwards MRS. LIN-
COLN.

MRS. ARMSTRONG.

MRS. BROWNLEY.

MISSSES SUSAN and SARAH MAY-
BERRY.

SUSANNAH STUBBS.

• ELLA FINDLEY.

UMPIRES, HUNTERS, WRESTLERS,
RUNNERS, POLITICIANS and JUDGES,
SOLDIERS, SERVANTS, etc., ASSASSINS,
KNIGHTS, and men of "THE GOLDEN
CIRCLE."

TRAGEDY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ACT I.—SCENE I.

Forest and Prairie with Log-Cabin.

JOHN HANKS (*splitting rails*).—It may be rite, this thrumin' over books,
This toilin' over sheets, whar type an' ink hev lef thar blacken'd tracs to puzzle brains.

Parchance I haint sufficient ov the last
Tu comprehen' the nature of the fust.
But, why a chap that stan's nigh six feet now,
Shud load his "coon-skin" with sich paltry stuff,
Is mor' 'an I ken rattle thro' my mug.
I swow tu cats I wud'nt 'low my dorg tu read
This law stuff, fear the purp wud get the fits.

[*Lincoln is heard driving cattle.*

Thar cums the libr'y and post orfis tu !

[*Lincoln appears with a gun strapped on his back, a book in one hand, and a whip in the other.*

(*Hanks laughing*)—Ha ! ha ! law, literatoor, an rail-splittin' tu !

LIN.—So, John, my friend, you don't quite like my rig ?
You think too many guns I carry, eh ?
And may be not the ballast for my sail ?

HANKS.—Wall, Abe, my coon, the noshun's got about
That larnin's kinder softnin' down yer brain,
An' spilin' yer fur shootin', an' fur work.

LIN.—I know it, Jack ! and they who challenge me
To test with theirs my strength to-day, will see ;
And if I fail—well, Hanks, we part this night :
You'll have to break this prairie up alone !
Two axes make more music, Jack, than one.

[*Lincoln laying aside gun, whip, etc., after apparently securing his cattle, proceeds to split rails with Hanks.*

We'll split this lot, and put the place to rights :
They've named the hour of four, to meet us here.

HANKS.—But, Abe, old chap ; this trial's all for fun,
An' when you've beat them all, they'll crown you king.
You've nary en'my in the clearin, hoss,
Nor elswhar', less 'tis Douglas down below ;
An rival, he is jealous-like, yer know.

LIN.—What, Douglas ! Steve ! no enemy is he ;
He's studied hard to get ahead of me.
I often wish I had his head and brains !

HANKS.—Yers aint so all-fired hansum, Abe, I own,
'Twould do tho', if you'd let those books alone.

This is my last—(*stops work, looking at the rails*)—yours finishes
the lot ! [Picks up Lincoln's gun.

LIN.—That's my committee on reports to-day,
And when reported, is discharged, you know.

HANKS.—Wall, let her du her best, fur “Sue” an’ “Sal,”
 An’ other gals are ’spected out, I hear.
 It aint yer cut, tu hanker much for gals.
 (*Aside*)—He’s got sich feelin’s ater them I swow,
 As I hiv got fur catamounts an’ bars!
 I’ll drive the cattle hum’ an’ cum rite back.

[*Exeunt Hanks, driving cattle.*]

LIN. (*taking out his book again*).—Among the lists there’s not a
 lad I see,
 In all these sports, I have not beaten oft.

(*Trying to fix his mind on his book.*)

It may turn out that what Hank’s says is right;
 That these warm friends would have a little spree
 Before my duties at the store commence——
 This selling conscience, like my goods, so much per yard.
 They now should come, I hope they’ll be in time;
 I never was too late—they’re coming now.
 I’ll put this “Blackstone” up. (*Hiding his book.*) They’d laugh at me.
 [*Enter HUNTERS, WRESTLERS, JUMPERS, JUDGES, SPECTATORS, &c.*]

1st HUNTER.—Well, Abraham, as father of the tribe,
 ’Tis best, perhaps, to see you first on hand.
 (*Looking at the rails*)—Have split the rails for all creation yet?

LIN.—I’ve split enough to fence you fellows in,
 But don’t intend to leave you any *stakes*!

1st H.—First rate; it’s believed, I know, that you’ll take them.

1st RUNNER.—If running tongues can win, you chaps stand well!

[*Judges, Umpires, etc., coming forward.*]

UMPIRE.—From this small stone; and round to this here tree,
 (*Pointing*)—Who passes first, can call this purse his own.

[*Shows a purse. All prepare to run.*]

LIN.—As I in innocence am like the lamb,
 Like him you’d have me gambol with my legs.
 Think’st thou upon a *bank* I’ll make a *run*?

JUDGE.—I should, perhaps, an explanation make:
 There is an object—noble it doth seem,
 To which each winner gives what he has won;
 And we—they’ve made me chairman of the board—
 Here pledge ourselves with those who win the sums,
 To give each farthing to the scheme at heart.

LIN.—Well, since I now the object understand,
 Let me but add my mite, I’ll do my best; (*gives a bill which is taken*)
 The race is short, these legs a trifle long.

UMPIRE.—Here! all upon this line, no dodging now!
 At the count of three each runner starts.
 There! One! Two! Three!—(*they all start*)—it’s right,
 (*To the Judge*)—They’re off, you see. [*To Hanks, who comes up.*]
 What think you, if he wins will he consent?

HANKS.—He’s sure to win, we’ll make him du the rest.
 The plan is good, an’ he desarves it tu;
 Another way he’d never tetch a cent!
 But when he’s red the resolushuns o’er,
 Our plan tu raise the spelter jist fur him.

That he's the honest chap, an' sitch like stuff,
 He'll twist an' wriggle like a half-sucked cub!
 But see! he's comin' full a rod ahead!
 Now don't forget tu make him promise sure.

(Loud shouts are heard as Lincoln comes in ahead).

JUDGE.—Now for the leaping, 'tis the best in three.
 So Stodard declines, we'll not shoot to-day,
 As Abr'am has scared the others, they say.

[Proceed to jump according to stage facilities, Lincoln winning each and all].

HANKS—*(To a boy, as the Misses Susan and Sarah Mayberry appear, with another young lady, a stranger, having apparently arrived on horseback).*—You groom these hosses while I groom the gals;
 Tu make things chime I'll try an' ring these belles.
 Is that you, Susan? ah! Miss Sarah tu!
 How's all the folks tu hum? Come this way, du.

(To the stranger)—And miss—

(To Susan)—Sue, What's her name? you stan' right here.

SUSAN *(introducing)*.—Friend John, Miss Molly (Cousin) from Kentuck.

(To lady)—Moll, don't blush so! now have a little pluck!

(To Sarah)—But Sarah, see, she's got her eyes on Lincoln!

How white she grows—I wonder what she's thinkin'?

[All watch Miss Todd closely.]

Miss TODD *(aside)*.—'Tis he; I could not well mistake that face,
 They say he's ugly, common, but to me—
 He's coming and I will not stay the sports;
 Another time I'll make him hear my thanks.

SUSAN *(introducing)*.—Abr'am,—our Cousin from your native State!
 By Papa's orders we just took a ride,
 To show our interest in the men who ran,
 And maybe crown the victor of the games.

SARAH.—And, from the shouting as we rode along,
 The winner of the last we recognize:
 I b'lieve, all but the final feat, we miss.

(To Lin.)—They form a ring for wrestling, I suppose—

(In sport)—I'll give my Cousin to the man who throws.

LINCOLN *(blushing and looking to Miss Todd)*.—She may perchance
 have just one word to say.

(Aside.) Did she consent: I'd die or win the day!

Why, Sallie, are your keenest sallies aimed,

Unmeasured, poisoned, straight at bashful me?

Like game of dice, who throws the biggest, gains;

From off his pins that giant I must twist!

And farewell now,—*(Leaves)*. *(Aside)*—Yet for that living crown
 I'll struggle bravely, whether up or down.

[Lincoln is seen to throw the best.]

Miss TODD.—Shame on you, Cousin mine, to be so rude!

And worst of all, to chafe me to the face—

Well to his face; I'd have it least of all—

SARAH *(interrupting)*—Ah, ha! so, ho! you've seen that face before?
 Yes, yes; I see! that throw—*(pointing to Lin.)*—may yet win you.

HANKS.—Come, Ladies! now tu see the crowning sport;
It needs sum Caliker tu grace the court.

JUDGE (*to all*).—Respected citizens, my friends and all,
Somehow it seems the honour's fell on me
To tell you now, what you can plainly see,
That this "rail splittin' lad" has bagged the tin.

[*Great cheering for the rail splitter.*

The settlers on Sangammon hereabout,
Have pledged themselves! I b'lieve that this is so.

[*All answer 'yes.'*

In case they won tu give up every cent;
It seems that these won cents lump up in gold,
Five hundred dollars handsome, in hard cash,—
And I as chairman, all these dollars hold;
But to the point, does Abr'am Lincoln now,
Before us all, most solemnly devote
And pledge, upon a hoosier's sacred word,
Each penny to the lad I now make known?
We'd hear him speak, don't crowd around the lad.

[*Cheers.*

LIN.—Your honour, Judge! Kind citizens and all,
By your fires I've warmed, at your tables fed,
You know I'm poor, as we all are at home;
But e'er I'd touch one cent of what I've won,—

(*Hanks aside—Not when you know the lad in just three jiffs?*).

I'd disavow my kindred and my kind:
But bring the lad, I'd see him—take the cash!

HANKS (*Rubbing his hands and dancing about*).—It's rich, too rich!
I swow tu cats, it's good!

LINCOLN (*to Hanks, smiling*).—If you're the honest chap, why,
step right up!

JUDGE (*Giving Lincoln a paper and motioning to Hanks*).—You'll
see him now, just read that when you've time;

(*To all*)—You've seen the contest, friends—the thing is fair—

[*All exclaim "It is."*

I now commission Hanks to take this purse,

(*Lincoln is overjoyed.*)

And place it safely in friend Lincoln's hand.

(*Lincoln is utterly overcome, as Hanks, hugging him with delight,
exclaims:*

HANKS.—Wall, Hoss! what think you of this honest chap?
[*Cheering and great excitement; Hanks crowds the purse into Lincoln's
pocket.*

LIN.—Some crushing actions in our life-time strike
Too rudely on the heart's o'er-burdened strings,
To let thro' words, its aching music forth;
Thus strangely out of tune, my heart-strings speak.
You say I've won the prizes; had I failed,
Your kindness still had thrust them in my hands;
Well, somewhere in the far-off future time,
I'll pay you back by what I then may be!
It strikes me now I've seen this modest lad:
I bid you all good day! God bless you all!

[Amid great excitement, Lincoln is carried away on the shoulders of the crowd.]

HANKS (*throwing his cap in the air*).—You didn't know you'se so desarvin, Abe!

(*Trying to kiss a hoosier girl, he gets his ears boxed*).

Down this way, boys! I've got a roasted bar! [Great cheering.]

End of Scene First.

ACT I.—SCENE II.

Scene, Drawing room in Judge Mayberry's house.

MISS TODD (*Solus*).—To me what were all other loves but his!
Soft words, suitors, music, the world beside,
Such dimness and obscurity assume,
As form a fitting background, for the one
That with the hallowed light and tone of love,
Embodies all the touches mind can give
To stamp him hero of my very life!
It seems a dream, but oh! he must be mine,
I've seen my presence thrill him to the soul!
I would be womanly, discreet with all—
But what the world calls fashion, I will pass,
To gain this priceless treasure whilst I'm here.
Philosophy at play with Earth and Sky,
And all the subtle agencies they hold,
Has shaken wonder, in its grand results;
But oh! The heart! This little human heart—
How it defies all scientific skill,
And jeers all cold philosophy to scorn!
It fashions awkwardness to natural grace;
The common, dresses up in beauty's garb;
On the ungainly stamps perfection's seal;
As God draws rugged rocky regions grand,
E'en making their contortions picturesque.
Creating, and interpreting its own
Irregular features, love can paint divine!
For it, wealth cannot garnish up a grace—
It rears this Lincoln, God-like, in my soul,
And from him, pride, position, wealth, and fame,
But shrink, and leave him all the world to me!
When taken from the water in his arms,
Conveyed as with a giant's careless ease,
In coming to, how tender was the touch
That swept the dripping tresses from my brow—
What sympathy and pity in his eye!
If not the wife, I'd be the dog or bird,
To win caresses from a man like him;
I'd watch him, guard him, shield him from all harm:
If I could only see this honest Hanks,
Whom, rumour says, doth idolize this man
By diplomatic tact—

[Enter Susan.]

SUSAN (*surprised*).—Why how is this! Who had you here just now?

Miss T.—Save imaginary presence, I've had none!

SUSAN.—I'm sure I heard some animated talk:

Well coz., this secret, are you for a scold?

'Twas Sall that teased, I only smiled assent.

But tell me, with the rest, what made you pale?

[*Approaching and putting an arm around her.*]

Miss T.—Ah! Sue! not Sarah or yourself, I blame,

When kindness cuts, the wound is easy heal'd.

I have a secret,—though you'll laugh I know,

When in your ears I've emptied all its dregs:

I love, this homely man—this Abraham.

Some six years back, at peril of his own,

He saved my worthless life, and gave it me,

As though the act were naught, and hied away

To shun, as 'twere a contact with our thanks!

SUSAN.—All this is fine, but what am I to do?

Well, well! so you're in love! it must be fine;

Now truly, coz., just say what I'm to do?

Miss TODD.—I'd meet him, as a stranger meets the same,
And learn, if what I've heard, is really true.

And more—by accident I'd have him told

I am the same, whose life he once had saved.

I'd have each word and action closely weighed,

To see from all, if I can fashion hope:

Now, Susan, can you smother fun awhile,

And help your cousin, in this work of love?

SUSAN.—Oh! I will help you—seriously I will;

It must be nice, I wish I had a beau.

But who is there befitting such as I?

There's Slimpy Jim, with ramrod legs and arms,

So green and soft, you'd wring him like a rag—

And what a nose,—I wonder how he'd do?

But 'bout this Abe of yours, I tell you what,

He's not o'er pretty, but he's got a heart,

So big and warm, you feel it outside round,

Like sunshine, yeilding life to all about.

I think my father looks for him to-day!

I'll lay my plans, then lay the seige straitway;

But see, (*looking out the window*) he comes,

The very man we want!

Miss TODD (*looking*).—'Tis he, I'd like to meet him, but, not now;

I'll see him, if I get a good report,

And, getting bad, he ne'er shall see my face.

I go, now don't forget the trust I leave.

[*Exeunt.*]

SUSAN.—Not I; I'll read him in the largest type.

Solus (*fixing her dress*). As Bill's away I'll have to let him in;

Ah me! it must be rich to be in love!

If I could find a chap, I'd try it on.

But there, he knocks (*knocking is heard*),

I'll screw my courage up.

[*Enter Lincoln.*]

Ah, good day, Abr'am; come right in—come in!

LINCOLN.—Good day, Miss Susan; it's a pleasant day—
All well at home? the judge expects me here.

SUSAN.—We're well! all well—my father is just out.
(*Aside*)—[*Oh! how shall I commence?*] Please take a seat
Till he comes in! Sit down! you came off more than conqueror,
last week!

LIN.—We'll pass that if you please—I like it not;
Tho' still I'm grateful for all friendship shown,
But deem the money loan'd—shall pay it back!

SUSAN.—I guess not Abr'am, who would take a cent?
You'd have to scatter it for miles around.
To change, why stared you at my cousin so?
If I saw right you almost made her blush.

LIN.—Well, can you keep a secret if I tell?

SUSAN (*aside*).—Another secret—I'll have my hands, and ears, and
may be heart, all full.

(*To Lincoln*)—A secret, well, I'll try if 'taint too big.

LIN.—You see, your Cousin so resembled one,
That years ago, I for a moment met,
And held as 'twere, so near this awkward heart,
That ever since I've felt her nestling there—
It staggered me, 'till I bethought that she,
Of whom I long had dreamed, was far away.

[SUSAN (*aside*).—*I think I've found one hope for Moll, at least.*
But it has passed, and I could meet her now
As I could meet an Indian, face to face.

[SUSAN (*Solus*).—*I'd like too see them meet. To Lincoln.*
But Indians, are such *awful chaps* you know.
You never told us of your early love.

LIN.—Her father in a mansion lived, whilst I
Slept in a cabin on the forest edge:
One day, whilst plunging in the rapids near,
A boat against a rock gave one wild dash,
And went from 'neath that struggling girl; and one
Who proved her brother, when her life was saved.
Him, as by chance, the rushing torrent caught,
And hurl'd all pow'rless, far beyond her reach.
Twice sank she in the boiling waves from sight,
Ere I was forced to use this brawny hand,
And catch her by that wavy, wealth of hair!
I saved her, and I know not if 'twas love—
But when I thought of her estate, and mine,
And hied away, to clear the gaping group,
I felt that in exchange for that dear load,
I'd got at heart, a burthen heavier far,—
Which has not lighter grown, in six long years.

[*Susan aside*.—That's just the time, it must be he I'm sure.]
'Tis pass'd; I hear that she is married now.

SUSAN.—At least, I'll tell you one thing, very strange,
My cousin thus was saved, at such a time,
From just the awful fate you have described;
But I will go and look my father up.

[*Aside.*—This secret's growing big for one small girl.]

Excuse me for a little moment, please.

[*Exeunt.*

LIN. (*greatly excited*).—So like, what's this, and saved like her I saved:

Oh, would it could be her! what if it could,
The same deep gulf divides us, if it's her;
Twice, I have heard that she was married, sure.
Here comes the judge.

[*Enter Judge.*

JUDGE.—Good day, my boy! I'm 'fraid I've kept you long!
I've something to propose; and why my heart
So long has held it from my tongue, is strange.
If from your duties in the store, you've time,
You're welcome to my library—and beside,
If I can serve you, ask me what you will.

LIN. (*overpowered*).—Kind friend—

[*Judge interrupting.*—There, there, no thanks! I know what you would say; you'll stay to tea.]

Well, Judge, to-day I'd rather not; 'tis late.
My mail is yet to sort—the carrier waits.

JUDGE (*teasingly*).—You haven't thought of sorting *fe* mails yet.

[*Lincoln preparing confusedly to leave.*

You off, and leave no answering joke behind?

LIN.—Judge Mayberry, you'll hear of me some day.

[*Exeunt Lincoln.*

JUDGE.—I rather think that time I hit a corn.

[*Enter Susan and Miss Todd.*]

SUSAN.—Well, papa, what d' you think, 'twas this same Abe
That saved Moll's life, down at the roaring forks.

JUDGE.—It couldn't have fallen into better hands,
Not if he had it there to keep for life,—

I'd give my full consent; what say you, Moll?

Alas, poor Abe! he's no time left for girls!

SUSAN (*aside*).—Alas, poor Abe! I guess he'll find the time.

JUDGE.—But, Moll, you'll strike for beauty, money, ha?

And does he know 'twas you whose life he saved?

[*Miss Todd is affected.*]

But how is this, you seem to take it hard?

Miss T.—'Tis but a dizzy spell I sometimes have.

[*The girls prepare to leave.*]

JUDGE (*aside*).—I had such spells when my wife was a girl.
Upon my word, there's something in the wind.
The bag is open, and the cat is out.

End of Scene Second.

ACT I.—SCENE III.

View, Bend in Sangammon River—Flat Boat, partly built—Lincoln and Hanks at work in the foreground.

HANKS.—Wal, lost you much in closin' out the store?

LIN.—'Twas all a gain in money and in mind;

For me, it suited neither legs nor brains,
 To run as others bade me come and go,
 And blather up old last years goods as new.
 But, John, I've added to my little bank,
 And in my time for studying the books—
 As counsel, given freely by the Judge,
 I've polished off the angles of my ways;
 An' e'en the Judge says, in a month or so,
 *I may "tie up," and stick my shingle out.

HANKS.—Wall, Abe, I'm all tu hum on tyin' up;
 But dang it, sticking out one's shingle's new.
 For me, I'd stick a plank rite out at first,
 And go the wholesale grunter, pigs and all.

LIN.—You see in law, the thing is something thus:
 Your shingle out, you make the clients *plank*.
 But, neighbour Hanks, whilst on this theme of planks,
 We've got to fix that deck before we load;
 You know we launch our craft to-morrow night,
 In just six weeks, we must be back at home.

HANKS.—Say, Cap'an in the book-lore, and the law,
 Your stickin' out your shingle and the like,
 You'll skarsely make a confidant much more
 Of me, and tell me all the little things
 You used tu unload at my very ears.
 But, boy, yeou know I've been your partner long:
 Thro' sunshine and in storm we've bunked in pair,
 You've never been tu proud tu tell me, clean.
 Are you and Molly Todd agoin' tu hitch?
 Are you, who darsent look at any gal,
 Agoin' to turn me out, and take her in?
 If Moll's to take my place, I'd know it now.

LIN.—Your first surmise, I answer, is not so!
 The latter one, I fear me, may be true.
 I'll not turn out John Hanks whilst I've a bed;
 If Moll takes me, she maybe taken in:
 But while I have a cot, and it a door,
 To you the string hangs out forever more.
 If made the President of these great States,
 The greatest in the land will find in me
 No better, truer friend, than him I see.
 I'll tell you Jack, what—had a thought occurred,
 Or I but known myself all I had wished—
 I might perchance have told you long before;
 For awkward, looney, as to most I seem,
 I fancy Molly has a kinder eye,
 That paints me better than I really am:
 To morrow night I go to learn my fate,
 And until then we both will have to wait.

HANKS.—Abe, if yer nominated in the fall
 To go to Congress, will you stan'—that's all?

* To locate in life and put out a sign.

LIN.—The Legislature, not the Congress John,
Will be honoured, if I go at all;
My friends, their minds may change, and cut me dead,
And come I not with glory from this war:
I would these “Sacs” and “Foxes’d” kept their holes,
I’d had far less in many of my plans.

HANKS.—Ha, ha! that’s good! but hoss, I reckon now
You’d have the whole kaboozle knock’d in holes,
Before you’d have one *sac* from little Moll!

[*Lincoln stops apparently lost in thought.*

There, there, old boy, I will not twit on facts!

I only——

[*A boy is heard calling “post master.”*

LIN.—Young Snyder for his mails,

[*Taking of his hat and looking among papers and letters.*

It isn’t here, I guess I’ll have to leave;

Well, anyhow it’s getting late I see,

You finish that and then you’d better stop.

[*Exeunt Lin.*

HANKS (*laughing immoderately*).—Now if I didn’t know that chap
so well,

I’d think he’s dazed, I wud I swow tu kits!

’Mongst all the other irons in his fire,

I b’lieve he’s nocculated now with love.

He’ll trap that gal too, sure’s my name is Hanks;

He never tried and didn’t do—I swow—ow,

From pleadin’ cases, up tu holdin’ plow.

He studies ’long the road, whilst in his cap,

He keeps the mail for all the clarins ’roun’.

Cap’an of the Greys, cap’an of this craft,—

He’s lawyer, merchant—still I’ve heard him pray.

That’s strange! but stranger still nor all the rest,

They say he’s never known tu cheat or lie:

An’ good luck does’nt spile him, not a bit;

That chap is bound tu cum tu somethin’ yit.

Wall, Moll has iled her feathers if it’s so,

But I will follow them where’er they go;

And if he goes tu Congress—I go tu—

I’ve stuck tu him so fur, I’ll see him through.

[*Enter Miss Todd disguised as an old lady.*]

MISS TODD.—Am I addressing Mr Hanks, kind sir?

HANKS.—I’m never mistered much; I’m Hanks—John Hanks.

(*Aside*)—That’s good! Moll Todd, strait out, I swow tu cats;

I think the wind seems settin’ fur sum fun:—

Your sarvant, madam, but jiss call me Jack.

[*Taking out some tracts.*

MISS TODD.—You’ll pardon if I offer you a tract?

HANKS.—It needs no pardon mam, but bless you, still

I’m better follerin’ far, nor readin’ tracts:

But Abe takes readin’ as I take my grog,

An’ I but listen, he will read me dum’.

MISS T.—Of whom was that you spoke—a friend of yours?

HANKS.—Don’t know Cap’an Lincoln—“Abe”—“honest Abe.”

Wall, when you know him once, you’ll know a man.

(*Aside*)—She cums tu pump, I'll overflow tu onct—!

LADY.—Oh, yes; I've heard, and still I would hear more:
I take great interest in the young of course;
What do you know about this wondrous Abe?

HANKS.—What do I know?—(*aside*)—I'll salt her mutton so 'twill
keep awhile!

You see we're reckoned friends,
An' what I speak, I 'spec that you'll keep mum;
He'll fool somebody yet—he drinks like wrath,
And lately's turnin' dazed about the gals;
It staggers you? Wal, facs will out, old gal,
And then if he don't change, he may git shot;
It somewhat shocks you—no relashun, ha!

Miss T.—No; but if he is bad, I'd know it not;
I know of one 'twould pain to hear such news:
Is there not some mistake? I've heard of him
Self sacrificing, gen'rous, noble, true!

HANKS (*aside*).—I'll stop, I've gone tu fur, I—I—know you don't—
Now aged one just hark! I'll tell you facs,
I kennet larf at other people's tears;
I'll tell yer what I know of this ere chap,
I know he's honer's shadder, truth distilled:

[*Miss T. aside.*—I hope I am not known.

All brains from head tu heels, an' back;
His nerves are made of iron, his heart ov oak!—
Yer brighten up!

Miss T.—How's this, you change?

HANKS.—Wall, yes; I do not like tu cut a gash
Jist for the fun of droppin' in the salt;
I foun' yer didn't like the other yarn,
An' started this, it suits yer better, eh?

Miss T.—Well, does he drink, or risk the fatal shot?

HANKS.—I know it well, that he both eats and drinks;
An' if he fites the Injuns, may get shot.

Yer haven't axed about ther gals—but see!
I know he's found out somehow, Molly Todd's
The gal whose life he saved long time ago,
An' talks, an' dreams ov her, by day an' nite;
I know if he shud ax her fur to splice,
An' she knows what I know, he'll not ax twice;
And more 'an all, I know, despite that cloak,
An' curls, an' paint, that you are Molly Todd.

[*Miss Todd in distress wrings her hands.*

Now don't do that, I swow I'll never blow!
(*Aside*)—I wish I'se Abe, I'd swaller that gal hull.

End of Scene Third.

ACT I.—SCENE IV.

Scene, Judge Mayberry's Parlour.

LINCOLN.—I wait again on fortune, fate, or luck,

Or He who shapes them to His creatures' good.
 I know not why, but as I now look back,
 Sometimes pointing, and sometimes beck'ning me,
 Outstretched, the hand of Providence I see;—
 And often wonder where 'twill lead me yet!
 With scarce a month of most incipient school,
 My lib'ry little else than Nature's book,
 A few years since a shoeless ragged boy,—
 I stand astonished at the change I've seen,
 And almost doubt if I'm myself to-day.
 Hence, I have come to ask a timid girl,
 More beautiful than brightest day of Spring,
 Descendant of a stainless hue of blood,
 To link her life—such hopes as hers—with mine.
 What positives and negatives to join!—
 A living type of "Beauty and the Beast;"—
 And can I do it with my conscience clear?
 It is not yet too late, I'll tell her so!
 And now—(*listening*)—for sure I ought to know that step;
 Not her's!—she keeps me waiting long to-night.
 Now that I thought her near, my heart felt weak:
 I fear I've held her image there too long,
 To pull it like some venom'd barb away,
 As Providence directs I still will act.
 This time I *know* the step—I would 'twere past.

[Miss Todd enters.]

(*Saluting*)—Ah, Mollie!

MISS T.—Abr'am, have I kept you long? You'll pardon
 When you know what 'twas!—You're well?

LIN.—Just so; the *pains* I take to keep me well,
Well keep all *pains* but those I *take*, away.
 What news? You got some by the mail to-day.

MISS T.—Ah, yes; and for detaining you so long,
 I'll offer papa's letter, as excuse!

LIN.—Well, Molly, is it yes or *no*, with him?
 Impressed upon that face, I see not no,
 And yet I somehow fear to hear you speak.

MISS T.—He sends me yes! And more, almost as good;
 He's painted me a portrait of yourself—
 Just struck the outline out in words you see—
 It's splendid, though it flatters not I know.

LIN.—Well, if it's like, it must be *pretty*, Moll!

MISS T.—It's like, at least, what many cannot be,
 And yet not quite the original to me.

LIN.—Have you well turned this matter to the light,
 And weighed what 'tis you give to such as me?
 Long time I've wandered, groping for the dawn
 To usher in this happiest day of days,
 When life seems yielding what I most have asked.
 On me, such blissful glory seems ill cast;
 O'erwhelmed, I doubt my right to act, and ask
 You to advise,—who stoop so far to me,

Which of these waiting paths I see, to take ;
 One beckons on to ruin, gloom, and death ;
 The other flashes with perennial light,
 And yet o'er you its radiance throws a shade.
 In battling with the world I've shown some strength,
 But kindly tell me, which of these two ways !

MISS TODD.—I answer then, the one that leads with me.
 I've loved to think our paths in one will blend ;
 I rather *soar*, than stoop to such as thee !
 If brighter gems there be than hearts like thine,
 I ask them not—they need not flash for me.
 On such an arm as thine I long to lean,
 And feel within its clasp, how safe I'll be :
 I know 'tis love that shows you what you fear,
 And this but teaches what a love it is !

LIN.—Well, from this hour, I shake all fear away ;
 Such new resolves you'll love to help me keep,
 And bless me, when you find how well they're kept.
 Now wing and gild the intervening days,
 To speed the hours that seal our fates in one.
 Shall we, when up the river I return,
 This sacred transfer of our hearts foreclose,
 Or see how from the "Blackhawk" war I come ?

MISS TODD—I'd be thy wife ere on the Indian trail
 You leave, perchance to never more return !

LIN.—Ah, then, 'tis fixed, thank God ! and on that day
 Forged to this heart, you will be truly mine ;
 And by that heart, I'll try and make you feel
 In all and all, how little you have lost.

[*Looking at his watch.*]

How swift impassioned moments waft us on,
 When love both forms and fills their golden wings.

(*Preparing to leave*)—Be careful, dear, when I'm away ; its late.

[*Drawing her to him and looking up.*]

MISS TODD—When on the Mississippi's bosom borne,
 May'st be as safe as thou art here by mine,
 I'll count each moment, 'till one comes with thee.
 Our Father keep us both.

[*They embrace.*]

End of Scene Fourth.

ACT I.—SCENE V.

Drawing-room in Judge Mayberry's house.

Reception of "The Bride and Groom," and Calathumpian Serenade
 —The Bride's Father—The Judge—Mr and Mrs Lincoln—and the
 Misses Mayberry in attendance.

MR TODD—A great mistake, young man, I've seen you oft,
 And knowing you were plotting thus with Moll,
 I hardly think your merits would have weighed.

MRS L.—What plotting, Papa ? that is pretty good :

The whole has come and gone just like a flash.

It's been all worked out in my visit here.

Mrs. L.—Time has done something since you saved me, Abe!

Mr T.—Ah! you but gave her then, to take her back!

LIN.—My first reception was a damper, sure;

Our second (looking about) will not be so chilly, think?

I b'lieve I saved her once again last night!

Mrs LIN.—'Twas I took pity and saved you, you mean.

LIN.—Well now we both are saved, let's try and *save*.

JUDGE—Well, *save* the mark, but saved or lost, I'll say

The wear and tear of courtship has been *saved*

If nothing else, by cutting matters short—

(*Aside*)—(The youngsters acted openly and frank).

(*Takes up a glass.*) Nothing but fun we'll have to night, your health!

As you are both *linked* to make one *Lincoln*,

So may you never to unlink, be thinkin',

But may the chain—each little *Link*' you add,

Be like its ma—the image of its dad!

[*Mrs Lincoln gives the Judge a good beating.*]

LIN.—The wine is good for *berrys* ripe too soon,

May-*berrys* must be green enough in June,

But since as Judge you tied us both in one,

We'll hold you good for any damage done.

[*All drink.*]

[*Sarah M. (as black Bob the Fiddler) is shown in.*]

Whisht! see here's Bob! Bob, toast the bride and groom!

BOB.—Toas' him, honey? sure he's gone dun brown.

(*Fills glass.*) Wal, Massa Linkum, facts are stubby things, you know—

I'se too overpowered for suppression!

De momentum is too momentous like,

Fer de luscion molicum of dis yer child,

Dafour I makes my toas' superfluous sar;

I jist wish both yer, sacs and gobs of joy!

(Many of Lincoln's former and recent companions, hunters, &c.,

enter, among which an Indian, styled "Red Wing," and Stodard are seen, who pay their respects, and, excepting the Indian, leave.)

Miss SUSAN.—Now, Red Wing, you must give the folks a toast!

RED WING.—Eh, eh! Burnt Bison! Toas' good, burnt bread—ha!

Eh! warrior love to give young brother toas'—

Give white brave whisky, cabin, rifle, life!

Tall Pine go fight bad Indian, Red Wing go.

LIN.—Red Wing, you don't know what my sister means!

When you go to drink wish us (points to his wife) some good!

RED WING.—Indian dum baby! learn new kind of toas'

Eh, eh! wish brother, sister, great uncounted time

Dis side, Red Spirit's hunting ground beyond!

Eh, Red Wing talk too much! say nuffin too.

[*Shakes Mr and Mrs Lincoln by the hand, and walks directly out.*]

LIN.—He's true as steel, he goes with me as scout.

Mr TODD.—I'll make it pay you to give up that trip!

LIN.—Captain to desert his men—at such a time?—

[*1st Hunter and others are shown in.*]

1st HUN.—Wall, Abe ! Ole hoss ! you've picked your flint I see
Is this yer gal ? I wish yer tarnal joy ! (*Shakes both by the hand*)
Mr and Mrs Armstrong are shown in, when Lincoln leaves all to go
forward and give them a most hearty welcome.)

LIN.—Mollie ! father ! judge, cousins, one and all,
Mr and Mrs Armstrong ! Two good old friends,
Who've journeyed far, to be with us to-night ;
They served and helped me, when I'd scarce a friend,
I'd have them welcome as myself—Here, wife,
These are the two who taught me how to read !
(*The Misses Mayberry step forward and are introduced with whom
they retire.*) I'll serve those two a kind turn yet sometime.

[*John Hanks now makes his appearance.*]

Another hero, I must offer you ;
My groomsman, friend, and chum, kind friends ;—
John Hanks ! I'd press his hãnd in any court
To those not knowing, find him out straight forth.

HANKS.—Ambassador—Penitentiary—profound !
Somehow, I make my bow just now—I swow—ow !
Mrs L., bearin yer presents, and the rest,
Your're pardon ! I'm not used to sitch ere stuff !
And when I strike tu hard, just cry enuff !
Abe sed as I'se to make myself tu hum
Down here to-night, if I wud only cum ;
So I pitched on these fixins an' am here ?
Tho' dang it all ! things do look kinder queer.
(*Fills up his glass*) Here's tu Old Abe ! railsplitter of the west,
In anything he undertakes the best !
And Mrs Abe ! a lucky gal, I swow—ow—ow—
Ah, hold ! I aint agoin, to finish now —
Here's to Abe Lincoln ! who'll jump higher,
Dive deeper, swim longer, an cum out dryer,
Than any "white" "red" "Indyan" or "niggar"
(*Sees Bob*) Is that you, Bob ? I swow tu ca—a—kittins ;
(HANKS.—Disgusted with the frequent use of that expression, makes
strange work hereafter in trying to avoid it.)

No yer didnt, old, young, little or bigger—
Wall, ther's my toas' an now yer promise, Abe—
Yer tole me, hoss, that I'se tu buss yer bride !

LIN.—Yes Molly ! John must have a kiss to-night ;
That is if "Sue" dont happen to be by.

HANKS.—(*Whipping his hands and puckering his lips*)
Wall, sure enuff, (*looking around*) the critter hasn't cum !
She sed she's cummin roun' tu take a trot ;
Now, Abe, look on and see the thing dun rite (*gives a kiss*)

SUSAN.—Is some one killed ! I thought I heard a shot.

HANKS.—I'm double-barrelled Sue, jist wait your tarn,
One good tarn deserves a half-a-dozen,
Now both ! yer might for once, throw in a hug !

*Opens his arms as Mrs L. retreats, quickly followed by Miss Susan
Mayberry, just as the door opens and Susannah Stubbs enters.*

Ah, Susan and Susannah ! what a fix !

Tu Sues, an neither like to bring a suit,

LIN.—If your suit, suits so badly, seek redress.

HANKS.—(*Pretending arrangement.*)

It doesn't suit; Susannah you're in time.

[*She is cordially received.*]

JUDGE.—Its getting late ! Abe, my boy, the dance, the dance !

LIN.—True, true, the dance ! we'll not forget old Bob—

He's better drawing bows than most the gals.

BOB.—Ees Massar Linkum, clar de floor for sure !

They commence a dance, in which first the Judge leads off with Mrs Lincoln ; Mr Todd with Susan Mayberry, Mr Lincoln with Mrs Armstrong, Mr A. with Miss Sarah Mayberry, and John with Susannah—secondly, John Hanks leads off with the bride, Mr Todd with Susannah, and otherwise as Stage Manager elects, when a western country dance is fully illustrated. The dance concluded, congratulations are exchanged, and Mr and Mrs Lincoln are left to themselves.

LIN.—Well, Moll ; what think you of my western friends ?

Mrs L.—They're rough, but kind and honest I should think ;—

LIN.—Yes, 'neath the homespun, as 'neath cloth of gold,

The kindest promptings of a heart may throb—

What's that ?

[*The Calathumpians are heard.*]

Mrs L.—(*Holding her ears*) Oh my ; what dreadful sounds are those ?

LIN.—(*laughing*) Ha ! ha ! I might have known those boys would come,

They're bound to have their food and drink, or play.

Mrs L.—Its open insult—you'll not treat them, sure !

LIN.—Fun ! only fun ; they're all old friends of mine.

The following instruments are distinctly heard, viz. the famous Calathumpian fiddle ; made by rozening the opposite sides of an empty dry goods box, and a long rough stick of timber or rail, and pushing or pulling the latter over the former, like a fiddle bow (to which noise nothing earthly can be likened) cracked clarionets, tin horns, tin pans, drums, bells, toy whistles, with imitations of pigs, cats, dogs, donkeys, etc.

Mrs L.—Well this is too much—ask them in, pray do !

[*Both hold their ears.*]

LIN.—Its rather steep, I guess we'll grease their pipes.

Mrs L.—Hurry ! hurry ! pray ask them in just now,

I havn't got a cultivated ear.

Lincoln goes to the door and invites a motley crowd in all disguises to enter ; some of them who have just left his company ; many have their instruments.

Lin.—Upon your strings the night air must be bad ;
Take something warm, then give us just one pull.

[*Refreshments are brought and healths drank.*]

Now just one dulcet strain, to please my wife !

LEADER.—We'll try and strain you one mellifluous strain.

(Mrs Lincoln holds her ears, they give one horrid blast, and the curtain drops.)

End of Act First.

ACT II.—SCENE I.

Scene, Library in Mr Lincoln's house. Springfield, Ill. Eight years having elapsed since closing of the last Act.

LIN.—(*Solus*) It is said that wealth and fashion most secure,
The honors, friends, position, fame, we seek ;
Not either of these gilded baits I cast,
But with stern poverty's half covered barb,
I've hooked more honors than I really want—
Of friends it seems I've made a wondrous haul !—
Fame and position, just begin to bite—
Scenes, I had drawn as swampy slimy pools,
Have turned to fairy lakes, o'er which my bark
From gilded prow has flung but silv'ry spray ;
In far-off prints I read about myself,
With comments on my marvellous career,
With extracts from my lectures, speeches—jokes—
Some famous jokes they coin and lay to me.
They've garnished up that Mississippi trip,
In that old scow that Hanks and I put up,
Tending store and pigs, holding plough and court,
My wrestling, jumping, splitting sides and rails,
As each were on some noble virtue based.
Now, face to face with Douglas—on the stump—
They've thrust me ; and how I wonder what he'll think.
That "little giant" of the mighty west !
Just one more meeting and the contest's through ;
This time I'll try and get him "on the hip"—

[*Knocking is heard.*

'Tis strange, but John is showing some one in.

[*Servant shows in a lady.*

Ah ! Mrs Armstrong, how are you ? Sit down !

Mrs A.—Oh Mr Lincoln ! God will bless your heart !
My boy ! my boy ! you've given him back to me,
And oh, to think that if he had been hung,
Or thought a murderer whilst being saved.
He lives ! and not a blood-tint dims his name,
To trickle on his race for coming years ;
And I have walked the way to pay and thank ;

[*Pulling out and offering a roll of bills.*

For you, this cash my many friends have raised—

LIN.—Oh put that by, we'll have a little talk ;
Not as a lawyer pled I for your son—
Who taught me how to read. My offer see !
So as you ne'er engaged, I charge no fee.

Mrs A.—But, see ! just hark ! the money's plainly yours,
I have not counted, but they say who have,
There's nigh unto a thousand dollars there.

LIN.—Well since its mine, I'll tell you what I'll do

[*Writes on a paper.*

There see ! I'll make it over to your son,
 He'll need it for the time and money lost ;
 I never hope too busy yet to be,
 Or rich, or proud, or have a heart too hard,
 To save an old friend's child, his honest life.

Mrs A.—Oh Mr Lincoln, I am stricken dumb !
 This money's John's and I'm to take it back !
 You will not take it from me ; bless your soul.

[Mrs A. gets up to go.

LIN.—Not a cent, but stay ; you've far to go,
 Ah, boy look here ! (*Servant appears*)

[Points to a door.

So, so, in there ; you'll some refreshment take ;

Ah don't refuse, you'll take a cup of tea. [Exeunt Mrs A.

(*Solus*) To think for doing right, we would be paid,

Where else but in this life can one earn Heaven ?

And for the devil, would folks blindly buy

What conscience doth approve, with gold ?

The real murderers first put the law,

Then circumstances on this young man's track

To save their wicked lives by hanging him,

I felt that I could clear him, and, 'tis done ;

But pay would rather steep the act in scorn ;

Oh no ; when I remember whence I sprung,

To e'er forget the poor becomes me not.

[Door opens and Mrs Lincoln enters.

Mrs A.—(*returning*) God bless you, Sir ; Oh Sir, most noble
 Sir ! [Exeunt.

Mrs LIN.—Dearest, poor Bob, whose mother is a slave,
 Has called for what you promised you would give.

LIN.—I promised him his mother should be free'd,
 We lack two hundred of the sum he named,

[Looking in the drawer.

I've but one hundred with me, by-the-by,

As I'm expecting Hanson 'bout the bridge,

Will you, dear, run to Marshall's, cross the way,

And ask the other for a day or so ?

Mrs LIN.—I will with pleasure—do not toil too much,
 I fancy o'er this work, and case, you're pale !

LIN.—'Tis anxious love that dims my Molly's eye,
 I ne'er was half so well as I am now,

These kindly acts, refresh both mind and heart !

Mrs LIN.—Well, well, I'll serve this black man, well as you.

[Exeunt as servant announces Judge Hansom.

LIN.—Ah yes ; he's prompt, just show him in at once ! (*looking
 at the clock as the Judge enters.*) You and the pointers, Judge, are
 at the hour.

JUDGE.—I would not trespass on such time as yours ;
 About this bridge case, that I wrote you of,
 I had such counsel as I thought would do,
 Now, without you, they swear they'll leave the case
 And me too, in a rather ticklish place ;

What say you? you'll not have much work to do,
What are your terms, to put the matter through?

LN.—I'll take a thousand as my fee at start,
If we gain, leave the balance to your heart.

HAN.—Good gracious! what? sure you are jesting now;
I've read you gen'rous in each trivial act;
And last week, did you not for nothing plead
"Asault and battry case," for Hardfare Frail?
The honour of this case you see is great,
Its interest affects one half the State.

LIN.—And did I not well charge such men as you,
When these poor women call, what could I do?
This great case, of great men and the State,
Methinks the pay, should, too, be something great;
I measure all my clients by their purse,
Then strike an average 'twixt the bad and worse;
I never barter; will my terms suffice?

HAN.—I have no choice, but to accept your charge.

[Counting out the money.]

Tis fixed; at ten to-morrow, I will call,
And bring my papers, and my counsel all.

[Enter black Bob in great haste, with his hat under his arm.]

BOB.—Oh Massa! Halalewyer, bless de Lor!
I'se clar broke down, I'll hab my mudder now.
(Kneels in great excitement and clasps Mr Lincoln around the knees.)
I bress de day, I followed you out har.
(Mrs Lincoln, affected, comes in and looks on, while even Hansom
is touched.)

End of Scene I. Act Second.

ACT II.—SCENE II.

Scene in hotel, Springfield.

Several politicians, among whom is John Hanks. On a prominent
board, the following drinks are enumerated in bright colors,
"Hot Punch," "Egg Nog," "Tom and Jerry," "Rail Fence,"
"Jersey Lightning," "Tangle Foot," &c.

1st POL.—(holding a newspaper) It seems the Wigwam chaps
are gettin hot,

On Cameron, the Keystone boys give out,
An "Abe" our Springfield Nag, is leadin all;
He's smart I own, he's picked up some of late—
He'd make a pretty President though I swow.

HANKS.—Now what dye mean by purty? hold a bit;
I've known this man since he's a ragged boy,
And never saw his ekel or his like!
I've chopped, and howed, and mowed an slept with him;—
I've seen him give a squaw his last red cent;
At work or play, I never saw him beat:
Gentle as a dove, kind as any gal,

I've known him turn a lion at a word.

Who but him, e'er took "Steve Douglas," down?

2d POL.—Steve licked him though, when once they cum to vote.

HANKS.—Them Egypt fellows allus vote one way,
Steve owned in speechifying he was throwed,
The last time that he spoke, I heard him do't,

1st POL.—Abe's smart enuff but on the "nigger" wild,

[*To Bob (aside) who is seen grinning at the window.*
Clear out there "Snow Ball," or I'll wool you sure.

HANKS.—Yaas, on the nigger wild, that same old gag,
He bleves the outside shade don't reach the heart,
That man's no right to chain his fellerman,
Or sell his wife and children off like sheep,
Stock slaves, upon our prairies' stead of free,
Build slave pens here, instead of churches, skules;
I say he's right! and you a pack of fules.

3d POL.—Hurrah for Hanks! you titched him on the quick,

[*Several join in the laugh and propose to "licker" up.*
That time you tole the truth old boy, ha, ha!

Out in Kansas one of these masters cum
An bought at least ten miles of land around,
To work the whole cobosh with boughten nigs,
To keep the eastern boys from settlin' there.

1st POL.—Why you're a reg'lar abolitionist Simms,

3d POL.—Well, call me what you like, they say a rose
By any other name will smell somewhat,
(*all laugh*) Or something of the sort. I'm just free sile.

1st POL.—Wal here's one little fact, you all can bet,
The South, if he's elected will not stand
An' see a "nigger shrieker," rule the land,

HANKS.—Oh, they'll pull wool, an eat fire wont they now?
Just mark my word, if he's elected, and
He will be, if he's nominated, sure,
He'll take his seat, and keep it tu, just mind,
Till all this abolition cry is hushed.

1st POL.—All bosh; the South will rally to a man,
Take Washington, and drive these Yankees home;
If Lincoln reaches there alive—

[*Loud shouts are heard, and martial music. A man rushes in with a telegraphic dispatch, hands it to Hanks, who reads, "Wigwam, Chicago, 2.30, P.M. Cameron and Seward withdrawn, and the 'Rail Splitter' nominated, by a unanimous vote. All Chicago is in a blaze. A committee is appointed to inform Mr Lincoln of his nomination. By order of the committee."*

HANKS.—Now, boys! three rousers, and a tiger too;
Hip, hip, (*the hotel is fairly shaken with the cheerin*)

3d POL.—Put up the barrel on the counter there,
An let the critter run as free as air.

[*Bar keeper puts up the barrel and all who wish help themselves.*

1st POL.—Well, go it coons, you're bound to come to grief,
Old Breckinridge will win, or I'm a thief,

3d POL.—It seems you are, whither he wins or no.

1st POL.—Ah, ha, what! zounds who said that ar to me!

[*Draws a bowie knife.*

You barkin' woolly dogs, who darsen't bite,
Crawl in your holes, I'll show you how to fight.

[Rushes towards 3rd Pol. with knife, while Hanks coming up behind with one hand catches the handle of his knife, and with the other pushes his cap down over his eyes.]

HANKS—Say what you will, and vote for who you like!

But I'm tu hum, when once you cum tu strike.

[*Holds him while two revolvers are taken from his pocket.*

These are your arguments, when others fail!

[*Some are about to kick and cuff him.*

Now all stan' back, 'we'll sentence this ere chap.

[*Several rush up to help 1st Politician, but are roughly pushed back amid cheers for "Old Abe," the "Rail Splitter," &c.*

You chaps that's drawn no weapons, you retire!

Free speech, free thought, we rather much admire,

For knives and pistols never care a rap;

What shall we do with this ere lousy chap?

3rd POL.—Let's take him to the pump, and 'neath the spout

Prepare to put his southern fire out,

Then give him just one hour to leave the place,

Never again to show his hansum face

On pain of "tar and feathers," and the rail!

Or sumthin' worse, in case the others fail!

[*Amid cheers and shoutings they are kicked and hustled out.*

[*Pointing to the drinks.*

Ha! "Rail Splittin," "Rail Ridin," an' "Rail fence!"

[*Capt. Stodard enters here, and helps to sing.*

Another drink than that would hev no sense!

That's it upon the counter, by the way,

I've only tasted half a cask to-day.

2nd POL.—We'll try a dozen yards to clear our throats,

This drinkin lightly make us feel our oats!

[*All drink and sing, in which Bob joins, "De Kingdom's coming."*

End of Scene Third.

ACT II.—SCENE III.

(Corner of Street, near Lincoln's house—Time, Night—Hanks and Armstrong enter.)

ARMSTRONG—I watched my chance to get a word with you,
You know the funds that Lincoln gave to me—
Perhaps you have not heard about it, Hanks!

HANKS.—I rely know not what you mean, my lad!

ARM.—My friends had raised a purse, to pay his fee
For saving me in my late awful case.

HANKS.—I know he cleared you, but about the rest?

ARM.—Well, one day mother brought it here afoot,
And think you, not a cent of it he'd touch!

HANKS.—Ah, lad! I sure could well hev told you that—

ARM.—He took and signed the money all to me—

And now I know how I can pay him back !
 Last night, Jim Jones came over to our house,
 With startling news from Baltimore, direct—
 The “ Union League ” have ascertained somehow
 An oath that’s passed the “ Golden Circle ” Lodge;
 They’ve hired assassins to way-lay poor Abe—
 And at the depôt, shoot him like a dog !

HANKS.—Shoot Abe ! how’s that ? say that agin, my boy !
 Ah ! now I’ll do what I had thought to do !

ARM.—Just wait, I’ll tell you what I’ve got to say.
 All in hard cash, I’ve got that money yet—
 That rifle cane of mine, that’s some, you know—
 I’ll take it, then, when dress’d in some disguise,
 With “ Black Bob,” and my money, I shall start
 For Baltimore—from all but you unknown.
 I know the Union boys will have their men,
 But do they miss, I’ll be upon the ground.

HANKS.—And I’ll be near you, boy; I’ve promised Abe
 To go an’ see the ’nageration. Mind,
 If man shoots him, and don’t get shot, henceforth
 John Hanks, a renegade, will shrink away.
 Art sure that this is truthful news you bring ?

ARM.—Are you a member of the “ Union League ? ”

HANKS.—I am !

ARM.—Then, sure, you need not question me.

HANKS.—’Tis right ! while he an’ they are splurgin’ round,
 We’ll beat them inter Baltimore, a week—
 Well, well, I’m mighty glad you told me lad.

ARM.—’Twas that that brought me all the way to-night,
 The serenade will be all extra, see—

HANKS.—Well, Abe shall know it when the fuss is o’er,
 And Hanks your service will not soon forget;
 I’d give my life for Lincoln’s, any day—
 And is this all ? yer see it’s gettin’ late !

[*People begin to come.*]

Hallo ! the crowd begins to come, we’ll stay ;
 Well, then, to-morrow evening at eight,
 We’ll meet you at the cars, and make things straight.
 [The great crowd (among which is a brass band and torchbearers)
 call loudly for “ Lincoln,” who soon appears at an upper window
 of his house.]

LIN.—Friends, fellow-citizens ! brothers, all !
 I’ve asked myself, and found no answer yet—
 What’s in me ? what I ever yet have done
 To earn the honours that you make me bear ?
 Why, out of mighty minds, that crowd our land,
 You jostle giants by, and, grappling me,
 Exalt to highest seat of earth, a man,
 To fame, and glory, most as yet, unknown !
 Long since, the lightning flashed athwart the land,
 The verdict that our ballot box had given,
 And then, as now, you made our town alive

With deaf'ning cheers, and music, light, and joy,
 The cannon thundered forth, the rockets gleamed ;
 Congratulation in unbroken sound
 Has feasted me on smiles, and shouts and tears—
 Ah ! tears of joy I've seen from honest eyes,
 Like raindrops falling on my hand when clasped !
 What shall I promise to all this, or say ?
 Those knowing me, know what I'll try and do—
 Justice alike to our extended land ;
 And they who know me not, will waiting, learn,
 That free from prejudice—aye, party too—
 I'll strive to be the President of all.

My heart and mind, and more than all, my tongue,
 Seems far too weak, when measured with the glow
 That flashes from this host of kindred friends,
 To form my deep emotions into words !

As these are moments when the heart, run wild,
 Will jingle all the senses out of tune ;
 Accept thus all the thanks my tongue would shape,
 And could my o'er-wrought heart, but let it speak.
 To keep that heart, and guide my mind, I ask
 When I am gone, your thoughtful fervent prayers !
 I bid you all good-bye ! God bless each one !

(Band plays, amid great cheering, "Hail to the Chief." Then cries
 are raised for "Goodall." One says:—Goodall ! Goodall ! let's
 have some fun ! Goodall, mounted on a box, finally delivers
 himself.)

GOODALL—We know, my boys, "Old Abe" is not a fool,
 If he only went but seven days tu skule !

He doesn't know what's in him—what he's ever done

We chaps kin tell him if he doesn't know :

He stands to-day an Ajax in this land—

A cross of aligator, hoss, an bar !

Before his tarm of orfiss has gin out,

He'll 'nex the smaller hemispheres to ourn ;

You'll see our eagle roostin' on itch pole,

A crowin', flappin', like "Ole Chapman's cock,"

An broodin' all creashun 'neath his wings.

We'll cram our banner full of rajiant stars

'Till nary space is lef' for enny stripes !

[Some one crows.

Oh, squeak away yer locyfocy skunk !

Each week we'll have a inderpendence day—

[Some one brays, another cackles.

There's dimicrats about ! Salt River's full, I s'pose !

When all the airth ole "Yankee doodle" hum—

An "Hail Columbia" swells her stanzas sun.

Mind you, my friends, he'll rather make things cum,

An' now I wish I had a swig of rum ;

I feel as I cud soar, and so—o—o—

[A package of crackers explodes, the box upsets, and he is borne off,
 crying, "Locofococo by thunder !"]

End of Scene Third.

ACT II.—SCENE IV.

An alley leading to Rail Road Depot, Baltimore. Assassins plotting to shoot Lincoln.

1st ASSAS.—Yov've got the programme in your noddle drilled ?
'Tis understood, when Cap'an shoots the cuss,
He passes thar, an once on Lightfoot's back,
On for the rebel grouns, with hosses fresh
Awaiting him most every mile, he goes !—
At first, we act the blind, to balk pursuit ;
If need be, get the poliss on our track
An be arrested—if it cums to that—
The pay is good ; you know we're sure of that !

2nd ASSAS.—Oh ! that's all right, and we've to look him out—
But from this picter (*shows a photograph*) that should not be hard—
Full dress or black, an rushan stove-pipe hat—

[*Hanks, Armstrong, and Bob are seen.*]

I'd prig him in the darkest night, I would—
'Twill not be long now, till the cars arrive !

2nd ASSAS.—His eye is mild (*looking at picture*) I'd kinder hate
tu shoot—

[*Listening, he seems to hear a noise.*]

Hist ! what is that ? I seem to hear a noise !

[*Hanks and party shrink away.*]

1st ASSASS.—Your gittin' skeery ! now thar's no one 'bout ;

[*Engine whistle is heard.*]

But thar's the whistle at the upper curve !

[*They move towards the cars, which are seen to arrive.*]

HANKS (*and party following*)—A pretty brace ov retches those, I
SWOW !

YOUNG ARMSTRONG.—And after all, another wretch will do't.

HANKS.—I'd like to set these peepers on the coon ;
But thar's one point they don't expec'—disguise !
When Abe is dressed, they say he dus beat all !
He's cumin' secon' class they tell me, too ;
Now, put yer blinkers on that car ; d'ye mind ?

ARM.—Just so ; but tell me 'bout ole Abe's new dress !
Explain what new contoglements he's got !

HANKS.—Wal, when you see a grey Scotch plaid, and cap,
Pull'd down like this, 'tis him yer see !

Ole Abe yer know, was lengthy ; now, he'll stoop.

Now mind ! is that ar cane of your's O.K. !

ARM.—O.K. ! All cocked ! and primed ; if some one fires,
I'll shoot the dog who does it, in his tracks !

HANKS.—I b'lieve it, but they've laid their plans for nix ;
But jine me ef yer hear these critters bark !

[*Shows a pair of revolvers.*]

Thar's lots of Union Leaguers scattered round,
If once thar play begins, thar'll be a muss !
I have a little bizness with that hoss,

They'll not use Light feet much to-day, I guess—

Bob, go an' bring that hoss's hind off shoe.

Mind, coves, I'm known as John Hanks now no more. Mean time I'm known as *Pearsley*, till I change,—

[*Bob leaves.*]

So don't forget! thar cum the cars, I swow?

Somebody's 'spected, but they'll think 'taint him!

(Cars are seen, and among the crowd, porters moving trunks, boys selling papers, as also the assassins, with Pearsley and Armstrong, watching them and the cars; whilst a person, disguised as before mentioned, is seen walking quietly off, with an old carpet bag in his hand.)

PEARSLEY.—Wall now, I never! who'd a thought that's Abe! I swow tu cats, if Moll wud know him now—

He's had ther knife for twenty years, I know :*

Zouns! but he ought to have another sure.

(*Bob comes up with the horse shoe, and points out one of the assassins, who is watching Lincoln rather closely.*)

Is that yer game? don't go ter close, my buck—

(*Bob hands the shoe.*)

That shoe may shew us somethin yet!

So, so! he aint the man yer want!

Don't answer to the picter, does he, ha?

An, Bob, see thar! how Armstrong watches Abe—

(*A shot is fired near by.*)

Halloo! what's that? but we will stan our ground!

(*A man looking something like Lincoln should, is brought into view, wounded, and a crowd gather.*)

ARMSTRONG.—(*Coming back*)—Well, that's too bad, but still it isn't Abe!

(*The cry is raised that Lincoln has been shot.*)

1st ASSAS. (*coming nearer*)—Judge Ransom, the slaveholder, has been killed.

(*Aside*) He duz look like the picter, that's a fac!

PEARSLEY (*aside*).—Now, blast yer picter if he don't, I swow!

Wall, Armstrong, one of their own ones has got rubbed—

I'm sorry; but its better so nor wuss;

But Abe is safe—an through this devilish hole—

An I must have a yell, ef I get shot! (*so that all can hear*)—

Fur Abram Lincoln still alive—three cheers!

(*Many join in the cheering, when the assassins and others menacingly draw nigh.*)

1st ASSAS.—Who are you that cheers that old gorilla here?

PEARSLEY.—Me! I'm a man! I dusement fight for pay!

But stan yer back! I'll shiver yer to shucks!

[*Revolvers are drawn.*]

Don't talk tu me, yer hon'ry braggin pups!

[*Stones and clubs begin to fall around, and firing is heard. Bob snatches a knife from 1st Assassin's hands, and rushes like a tiger on*

* The ugliest man is said to be presented with a knife, which he carries until he meets one uglier than himself.

the 2nd, who is about to strike Pearsley from behind ; others rush on Bob, when Armstrong, and finally Pearsley, joining in, they knock the rioters right and left.)

RIOTER.—Yer sneakin, stingy, dirty Yankee curs—
Yer can't pass through this city, to and fro.

PEARSLEY.—If I hit you, you'll think the moon has fell
Right on your head cur slung, with both horns down !
We cant ! How bout thar Massachusett's boys !
A hanful licked yer all they say last week—
We'll pass yer city, or we'll sink it mind !
An now stan back or else we'll rub yer out.

Then closes a Baltimore riot, in which, with revolvers, canes, and pistols, Pearsley, party, and friends have the best of it.

End of Scene Fourth and Act Second.

ACT III.—SCENE I.

Cabinet Room, White House.

LIN. (*solus*)—Farewell repose ! Retirement, ease, farewell !
I miss thee now as I do miss those scenes
In which I revelled—prairie, wood and lake—
All artless, careless, ignorant, but free.
As from those scenes I've struggled on towards fame,
It seems I've staggered just so far from thee !
One wave of trial cleared, a dagger shunned—
A sea of danger passed, and still ahead
I see an avalanche of weightier cares !
And had not Curtin proffered that disguise,
'Tis sure I would have found that peace, ere this.
Which through an open grave, attracts but few ;
But it has passed, and I forgive them all.
Still later—on inauguration day—
It pained me that above the shouts of cheer,
I heard an army shouting, under Scott :
For the first time to guard their chief elect
What have I done ? What have I done—alas ?
To wring such venom from my brother's hearts !
I feel it in my bosom's aching core—
Not love of power, or wild ambition's voice
Was it, that lured me to exalted state ;
I had no wish but greatest good to all.
For toiling hard to learn what course was right,
And thinking I had found it, it would take,
Why name it, differing though we may—a crime ?
Some, who with reeking clutch, would rend away
These hallowed temples—altars—by the hands
Of fathers long since dead, so proudly reared—
By some strange process of the brain, may deem
'Tis voice of duty bids them bare those palms,
And paint with brother's gore these very walls—
Bids them launch here the blazing brand, to flash
Mad devastation forth ! With lapping flames

The records of the past to eat away!—
 Some conscience from within may bid them act :
 Mine tells me, with my trust in freedom's God,
 To watch and pray within these walls, and die—
 If dying, I can leave my country life !
 Well, if for this they'd strike I bend my neck !
 What glory in a death that brings such life !
 All they who'd kill me, err in their intent ;
 They know me not, and know not what they do !
 What object's theirs, I've come too far to halt.
 I've sought for counsel with our greatest men—
 In secret wrestlings I have prayed to God
 For mind to bring this "proclamation" forth.

[Rings the bell and black Bob appears.]

Bob, you've a scar burnt in your back I b'lieve ;
 Twice you have ventured to that land of chains ;
 Among the slaves you've met the well-informed—
 The giant minds, outliving whips and brands :
 The causes, consequences now, at last—
 Of this vast war, the hope of freedom's dawn—
 Our Father up in heaven must direct !
 And as His humble instrument I'll act.
 I've talked with white folks, Bob, I'd talk with black ;
 Now, listen ! Should I by to-morrow night
 Proclaim on paper every chattel free,
 On master as on slave, how will it act ?
 Don't be afraid, but tell me what you think !
 Be quick, my boy, before the Cab'net come.

BOB.—Oh Massa Linkum, dis is mose too much !
 De Presidant to ax advice of Bob !
 Well ef I muss, I'm boun I spose I muss !

LIN. (*gently pushing Bob into a chair*)—
 Come Bob, sit down, and strike right at the root !

BOB.—I'll tell yer what I know es straight es shot
 Wall den, in the fust place, secontly, sar :
 De blacks, dey was dey cause of dis yer war !
 De quincequences of it thirdly sar
 Will be to cause dese cullured folks to fite
 If dey are backed up by yer honer's oaf ;
 And when dey come aroun de union camp,
 Der soldiers do not dribe dem off like sheep ;
 Dey tink so long as deyre acknowledged slaves,
 An driven from our line, dey aint much use :—
 Fendin de picaninnies—hoein' de rice,
 Dey hear about de fitin goin on,
 An for the jibilashun wait an wait !
 Oh Massa ! when dat proclamation cums—
 Den gosh a mity ! wont de niggers rush ?

LIN.—Well, Bob, now tell me, if they're once set free,
 Will they like fiends to massacre resort ?
 And kill, and wrong the innocent at home ?

BOB.—Ah Massa ! Massa ! Sure dat ye don't believe !
 Dey've suffered much, but dat dey wouldn't do !

Beneaf der scars and bruises, sar, dey've hearts—
De whites might do it ef they'd born so much—
Not many darkies cherish up revenge.

LIN.—This is a confirmation I have sought.
Bob, I've known you long, too, have helped you some ;
I want the promises of all the slaves,
By meetings held throughout the furthest south,
That lawlessness and murder shall not be ;
Then by such proclamation I can stand,
As by my conscience and the world approved ;
Through Douglas and the rest, you'll promise that ?

BOB.—For you dey'd do dat, ef dey's never free. [Bell rings.]

LIN.—Attend the bell ; report me matters soon.

[Bob shows in Captain Stoddard.]

LIN.—Ah Captain. Yes ; I sent for you last night—
Friend Pearsley got my promise of your aid,
And with no questioning Staunton gave consent.
I b'lieve you're posted up about the work—
I know that he is running some great risk,
And know 'tis for his country, and for me—
In private, give him ev'ry aid he needs.
Are Milly and the babies well at home ?

CAPT.—All well—at least they were all well last week.

LIN.—Do you remember Bob? Bob, here! Look here!

[Bob shows himself.]

CAPT. S.—Ah, Robert, is that you? You don't know me?

BOB. (*overjoyed*)—Goodness grashus! Massa Stoddard. Is dat you?

I kinder thort I knew you—I declar.

But 'pears you're twice as big ; and den dat suit ?

CAPT.—Bob, do you scrape the cat-gut any more ?

BOB.—Dun got no time ; I've laid der fiddle by.

LIN.—You're waiting for the jubilorum, Bob—

We'll murder music when this war is o'er.

BOB.—Oh, gemmen, when dat happy day arrives.

LIN.—See, Bob, you'll serve the captain any time.

BOB.—I understan' : I'll serve him like a book.

STODDARD (*aside, preparing to leave*)—The great and lowly are to
to him alike,

How simple, yet how God-like What a man.

[Exeunt.]

BOB (*looking intently at the Captain*)—

Sakes alive, what's de matter wid him now ?

Gone sure he's got de milyatory cramp.

End of Scene First, Act Third.

ACT III.—SCENE II.

SCENE—Bar-Room in outskirts of Washington, with Pearsley,
Armstrong, and Capt. Stoddard.

PEARSLEY—For what I know this country may be free ;
I sometimes think we're far too free, I sw—I guess
This Washington 's a gallows hole at best ;

I swow tu cats, if I but had my say,
 I'd sift a few chaps out, and let her sink ;
 "Old Abe" was far tu honest tu cum here,
 I know'd it, felt it, told him so at fust ;
 The party that elected him are mad—
 Or sum of them at least—I won't say all—
 Fur not gwine blind, nigger wool and lip ;
 And caus he was elected, don't yer see ?
 The "Cops" are mad, as mad as they can be.
 The "Grey backs" they are madder than the rest
 Because we've got a man tu put them thro'.
 They cannot buy or sell "Old Abe," that's so:
 Wherever duty pints he's sure to go:
 They're coaxing at him this way, swearing that,
 But there he stans, as true as my old hat !

ARMSTRONG.—What's all this proclamation fuss about
 The papers are a harpin on each day ?

PEARSLEY—Now you've got me, but Stoddard's posted up :
 He'll make the matter plain as day tu both.

STODD.—Well, gentlemen, you see the facts are these:
 These human cattle that the rebels own,
 Tho' not quite safe with guns can use the spade,
 Hoe, plough, and reap, and build intrenchments, too,
 Can care for things at home, whilst rebels fight ;
 Some think, if Lincoln says these slaves are free,
 'Twould much reduce our enemies, you see,
 And want him to proclaim them free as air.

ARM.—Why don't he do it ? Sure the thing is fair !

STODD.—Yes, fair. But would the Southernns let them
 go ?

They wouldn't heed his proclamation that (*snaps his fingers*).
 And then, he's hoped to win them back again
 By giving time to still lay down their arms.
 You'll see, when time and patience have expired,
 The wish'd-for proclamation coming forth !

PEARSLEY—That's good ; I'd free 'em, let 'em fight,
 I would. But say, I meant tu ask the thing before:
 What think you really brought this war about:
 Till it began wasn't abolition scarce ?

STODD.—Just so ; numbered scarce a Corporal's guard.
 But men in Congress told the jealous South—
 Too willing to believe—that you, and I,
 And all who voted not with them, were such,
 But abolition en'mies to the South.
 The sympathizing Northern Press arose,
 Gave column after column, but to prove
 Our ev'ry act and wish, but showed intent
 To hurt and injure all our Southern friends ;
 They taugt and wrote in Press and Congress thus,
 And from such sources came such seeming facts,
 That masters, maddened at the seeming wrong,
 After long years of frenzy thus acquired,
 Most falsely leaning on a rotten strength,

The Omniscient power above forgot !
 O'er shackles, chains, and tears, their rights upheld,
 And falsely dreamed that God would bless their cause,
 I tell you both, I tell the wond'ring world,
 That speaking, writing, teaching have done more
 To stir and fire the jealous Southern heart
 Than any real act that both had given:
 From such false teaching sprang this cursed war.
 They'd called "Old Abe" an Abolusionist, see,
 Thro' Congress and these Northern hireling skeets,
 Swore he would set their shackled millions free—
 Seek ev'ry cause to aggravate the South,
 Till hoof and horns, tail, spear, and all, they saw
 A devil, and would curse him ever more.

PEARSLEY—Well, Stoddard, since you speak I b'lieve you're right !

Long, long I've known just what Old Abe believed.
 How has he been belied and they deceived ?
 I—blast that swow—if he could clasp them all,
 He would have hugged all colours, great and small !

ARM.—We'll own one thing, these "grey back" chaps can fight.

However wrong, they've got the pluck at least !

STODD.—Ah, there you're right ! and were they *right* as you,
 No human power their valour could subdue :

Divinity will shape the end, till right

Above all error, yet shall show its might !

(*To Pearsley*) But to the business that brought us here:

Art still determined on your scheme, old boy ?

It's dangerous work, but if you still insist,

We'll straightforth lay our plans to give you aid ;

We know the "lodge" room, where the circle meet,

Whilst you the password, grip, and summons have.

PEARSLEY—I'm boun to try the thing, you see ! that's so ;

I'll go as far as I kin go, on oath ;

I mean a white man's oath, some one must do't—

I spec thar'll be a row, I'll bet a fite,

I'll try ; they can't do more 'an rub me out ;

I want yer near at hand, and when I give a yell

Just take it as a hint somebody's hit !

STODD.—I'm staying in the city just for this ;

And soon as you are safe I'm off to work.

PEARSLEY—Wall, Cap'n, everything is fixed, I b'lieve ;

But Armstrong says yer wife has writ a song

An sent it on ; that lifts a fellow's heart !

If 'taint too much trouble, Cap'n before you go,

Jist trill a verse or so, 'twill do us good.

STODD.—Yes, wife, dear wife ! she sends me good advice ;

It's like herself all bravery, truth, and love.

I cannot sing it right, but I will try !

PEARSLEY.—Ah, thankee, Cap'n, don't know how it is,

But seems tu me, that music gives tu words

A truer aim, tu make em hit the mark.

Sum strains but make us sink, and sum to rise,
 With grief now down, with joy now to the skies !
 Sing, Cap'n, sing, if we can find the key
 We'll help you thro' the chorus tu, yer see. [Stoddard sings.]

“LOYAL WIFE TO HER HUSBAND.”

SONG AND CHORUS.

CHORUS—Stand my husband by our banner,
 Face the foremost rebel foe ;
 Where your brothers battle fiercest,
 There, my darling, bravely go.

I am weeping morn and ev'ning,
 Dreading what thy fate might be ;
 Still with home and country ruined
 What were life and love to me ?

(Chorus.)

With our infant to my bosom,
 Our united hands on high ;
 We will plead with God to shield thee:
 Turn each bullet harmless by !

(Chorus.)

Who could clasp a shrinking craven
 To a wife's devoted heart ;
 Or divide with him its treasures,
 Who essayed the coward's part ?

(Chorus.)

Battle, then, tho' death may call thee
 From these arms till time's no more ;
 I will join thee—true and loyal—
 On the bright unchanging shore.

(Chorus.)

PEARSLEY—Wall, thankee, Cap'n, thankee, thar she's rite !
 She cudn't luv a chap that wudn't fite !
 It's so, just any way yer cook it up—
 A coward is a dirty on'ry pup.

It must be fine tu hev a wife like that !—
 'Twould ile the springs of anything you'se at !—
 I've sometimes had a noshun to hitch up—
 If I live, through, I think I'll taste the cup.
 On Sangammon's banks my Susannah stands,
 With pouting lips, a wavin ov her hands !

[Smacks his lips and hugs himself.]

STODD.—Be to a wife as to your country, true,
 And, Pearsley, as a husband, you will do !

PEARSLEY.—Thar Cap'n, thar now, don't begin on that—
 Nors jis for blarney, yer can take the hat !

ARM.—I am no judge, but thank you for the song.

STODD.—You're welcome boys ; and now I'll move along ;
 All's fixed, we know the place, the night, the hour.
 If the cry is raised you'll find me with a power.

PEARSLEY—All right ; I'll take my part as Col. Trump,
 Yer watch ter see which way the cat'll jump.

End of Scene II, Act III.

ACT III.—SCENE III.

Corner of an Alley, Washington ; Assassins in consultation.

1st ASSAS.—Come closer, boys, what's on the docket now?

2nd ASSAS.—Thar's nothing bloody goin', jist a talk ;
Things does'nt move so smoothly as they ought,
Lee and his generals are too dirty far,
To finish up this cussed nigger war.

They will not countenance at all, they say,
The plans we've laid to surely win the day—
Refuse ter pay fer wipin' out these Yanks,
And give us cusses, 'stead of honest thanks !

1st R.—Now, Slinkey, do you tell me that's the play ?
My time is up, I'll jine the Yanks straitway !

2nd R.—Now hold a bit ? and hold yer coward tongue !
A privet puss is raised tu meet our case,
An tho' the thing smells bad the pay is good.

1st R.—Fust, last, an all the time, I work fur pay—
If they've "the ready needful," then I'll stay !

2nd R.—Wall, 'mongst us all I guess its understood,
We work for money, not the public good !
But 'side from pay our matters don't move right,
An that is why we're meetin here to-night.
Bill Johnsing and his Greek fire has been took—
His syfurs read jist like a last year's book ;
Whilst our own lodge, an one at Baltimore,
Are all—throughout the north—of eighty-four—
Who cum tu dots for usin' fire an knife,
Jis fur abbreviatin' Yankee life.

3rd R.—The offer's good fur snuffin Lincoln's wick :
The South will think it but a cruel trick :

2nd R.—Ah ! on that point I wish ter drop a word,
"Three times an ont," yer know is allers heard ;
So oft has fortin favored that lank cuss,
Thar's spies about us, an thar'll be a muss ;
'Tis spicioned that a secret guard is set,
A watchin us, we'll foil the niggers yet !

PEARSLEY (*showing himself round the corner*)—
Maybe, an maybe not, ole greaser ha !

2nd R. (*aside*)—'Tis true thar's been some dust put on our springs.

PEARSLEY.—I rather guess they'd hardly do sich things.

3rd R. (*aside*)—Well, spies or not, they're far too dumb for us,
An at the serenade I'll try and end ther fuss.

PEARSLEY (*showing a pistol*)—Skeersely, I think I hear this
critter say—

1st R.—I cum up last night with my secret dots—
And here are news will make some people wink.

3rd R. (*alarmed*)—Thar's some one proulin round, quick come this
way !

[*Rebels leave in haste, while Pearsley and Armstrong consults.*]

PEARSELY.—I'm jist so dumb that paper I must have—
It must be did! Now yer snuff Slinkey's wick!
I'll plum that other, so he'll never kick!
Now mind your eye, and quick let fly!

[*Both fire, and Armstrong leaves and returns with the papers.*]

ARM.—How number three made tracks! We've killed enough—
I wonder now if Lincoln's wick they'll snuff?

PEARSELY.—I swow tu cats, I didn't like tu shoot:
I'll keep a good look-out, read the items loud;
Jist glance it o'er—I want ter twig ther heds!
So, so, superb, the cat's agoin tu jump.

ARM.—“On Teusday next, at 5, the Rebel Ram
(The Merrimac) goes down to Fort Munro.”

PEARSELY.—Horn-spoons and forks, I'll give old Wells the tip:
They'll go and let the “little cheese-box”^{*} slip:

ARM.—An here's a lot about the “K.G.C's.”

PEARSELY.—Wall dun, we've gone and bagged a nest of fleas!
All 'bacca, for the pipe of Col. Trump:
Quick here, there comes a party on a jump.

[*Exeunt.*]

End of Scene Third, Act Third.

[The following may be played or not.]

ACT III.—SCENE IV.

Scene—Ante-room to Lodge of the K. G. C's.

PEARSELY (*alias Col. Trump, in disguise*)—
Soap suds and celery, I swow tu dogs!
In sich a suit tu peas what you are not;
(*Looks at himself*) Dang my brass buttons if this aint a fit;
Let me get in there, we'll see who is trump,
Wade on old Pearsley if you're squeezed a bit.
But stay, I'll practice colonel just a piff.
(*Struts about*) That's hunkey Col. Trump of the G. S. A.—
The fourteenth Georgy, and division K.—

[*Looking at paper.*]

Jist so, that's what that covey's papers say;
A job might happen, I'll take in my tools.

[*Secretes his knife and revolver.*]

And here's for it now, a stiff upper lip!
I think that'll do, so let her rip.

(Four men armed with swords come out and address him.)

GUARD—“The path is narrow, rough, and drear—
And none but brave men enter here.”

[*They seize him roughly and enter.*]

(Scene opens disclosing Lodge-room of the “Knights of the Golden
Circle,” draped in black, with skeleton lettered “Old Abe,” hung
by the neck, Paraphernalia, Officers, members, etc.)

PRESIDENT.—Attend, brave knights of chivalry and right,
In majesty becoming sons of light;

* So the first American Monitor was called.

Aware what dest'nies to your acts belong,
 My brothers make our circle long and strong ;
 Look forth and say, if to our sacred cause
 Spy or traitor bows, let my brothers pause !

[*They look and shake their heads.*]

So far 'tis well, an humble suppliant waits—
 A native of the mighty Southern States :
 In arms, and fighting for a blessed rule,
 Whose deeds, our children's sons may learn at school.
 It is not well in private scenes to pry,
 A few prime tests, and pass him quickly by ;
 With due precaution, let the brave appear,
 For only such as they, can enter here.

(Blindfolded, with a sword at his breast, they commence the ceremony of initiation, a blue light burning in the centre. Thirty-six knights in squads of twelve, six facing six, cross their lances, forming an archway, beneath which the novice wends his way, an executioner moves along on either side, presenting towards him the points of drawn swords, as he is questioned between the squads, by the Grand Knight, and finally by the President.)

GRAND K.—Are you for Southern rights and Southern laws ?

PEARSLEY.—My Lord, you know I am, have done this stuff.

GRAND K (*at the next squad*)—And by all means, would you secure this end ?

PEARSLEY.—I'm not a jackass—don't you know me well ?
 And all I know, do you suppose I'll tell ?

[*Some object to his answer.*]

MEMBER.—Are such replies as that to pass, my Lord ?
 I hold such jesting out of order here !

PEARSLEY.—And when yer hold, yer'd better hold yer tongue !

[*One of the executioners, at a sign, pricks him.*]

All right : I *feel* the *pint*, so put me through !

GRAND K.—You see his cut, we know the thing is right,
 He'll reach the test ; we've twenty more to-night.

[*Pearsley passes and is questioned again by the same.*]

GRAND K.—On oath, do you most solemnly believe
 That our most sacred object to achieve,
 'Tis necessary Lincoln should be killed ?

PEARSLEY.—Oh, now, you talk of claret bein spilled,
 I'm in ; but on this point will put it flat,
 Your hired assassins must attend to that !

GRAND K.—I see you'll do, and well are christened Trump—
 We'll put him through, and take him in the lump.

[*Passes on, and is questioned by the President.*]

PRES.—Do you on oath, as born a Southern man,
 Approve, uphold, our latest solemn plan
 Of spreading death by poison, fire and knife,
 Thro' all the gathering haunts of Northern life ?
 Of burning churches, theatres, and boats,
 And cutting all the cussed Yankee throats ?

PEARSLEY (*pausing a moment*)—You've got me foul : you put it
 rather thick :
 When I'm tu hum, I'm called a reg'lar brick ;

But as tu pison, cuttin' throats, an' such,
I think, Sir Knight, you're askin' rather much.

[*Reaches under his coat.*]

I never was a murderer or thief,

And never will be, jest to make things brief.

(Draws his revolver and knife, and rushes to the door, three men who attack him are wounded, he is slightly hurt, but kills two as—rushing to the door and looking back—he exclaims :

“I'm *Pearsley*, an' you'll find my mark on sum.”

End of Act Third.

ACT IV.—SCENE I.

Room in White-house, Washington.

LIN (*Solus*).—There gathered, oh my country, at thy birth,
Such god-like relics of time's grandest wrecks,
As fired by Freedom, fresh baptized in blood :
Tried by such hearts as only great minds moved :
Bless'd by Jehovah's unmistaken smile :
That thou dost seem to hold the germs of all,
Bound by a new world's throbbings to be free.
And here alone, not dropt to party ears
For orators to build new speeches on,
I'd offer hope, and life, and all, to save
From these o'erwhelming waves of strife and blood,
Thy scarred and battered members for that time,
When in the sunshine ever following storms,
No more the shadow of a living slave
Shall cast its blotch of infamy and shame !
Nor from the block be wives and children sold,
Beneath the flaunting of thy freedom's flag ;
And chattels, modelled in both form and tint,
To masters, rather than reputed sires,
Shall shrink no more from the accursed lash,
Or blood-hounds reek their fangs on fugitives
Through Freedom's realms, who but that freedom seek !
Then one by one, though hallowed altars fall,
And liberty her red libation yields,
Till martyred millions to its crimson flood
Give every drop, to drench their homes in gore !
Though one by one, upon our honoured walls,
The watch fires of our Nation pale and die—
The planks and hull of our “old ship of state”
Spread bleached, and rotting, on some trait'rous sands :
Still truth, unsullied truth, eternal truth,
From darkness, wreck—from blood and death shall bend,
And write consistency in words of fire !
I read upon the shaft that cuts the clouds,
Liberty, Freedom, Equality to all—
The sod o'er its foundation thrown aside,
I on some crumbling stones, as plainly read,

Tyranny, bondage, cruelty, and crime !
 Oh God ! If purging, washing out with blood,
 Cementing with it, granites, where these blocks
 Dissolve by tears, and foul injustice wrought,
 Will let the marr'd and mangled column stand,
 Oh ! let it run, and that the only price,
 'Till rivulets from patriot bosoms oozed,
 Shall redden all Columbia's pleasant fields !
 How have I prayed, and wept, and wept and prayed,
 And felt the blood that from my brothers well'd,
 Forever bubbling from my own torn heart,
 Till it doth seem of resolution bleached,
 And childish weakness has sapped out the strength,
 Or what I fancied strength, in its weak cells.

[*The bell rings.*

I—but strength ! the bell, none shall see me thus.

[*Enter servant.*

SERVANT—A sin'glar man, who seems to force his way
 And having dogg'd me up, will not hear no !

PEARSLEY (*crowding past*)—I guess not, hoss, “Old Abe” and I are
 friends.

[*Servant tries to push him back. Lincoln motions to let him alone.*
 Here ! you get eout ! I know him like a book ;
 How are you, Abraham ?

(*To the Servant*)—Get out, you skunk.

(*To his dog who growls*)—Shut pan yeou dorg, he isn't worth a growl.

[*Exit Servant. Looking back Pearsley modifies his disguise and Lincoln takes him by the hand.*]

LINCOLN—Well, welcome, welcome, any way you come !
 Old comrade, how do matters move with you ?

PEARSLEY—Jest so so, Abe, tu get here was the thing ;
 By playin' fool, my whisperin's I bring ;
 I've entered, seen, an hearn, an now disclose,
 The dev'lish acts, those K.G.C.'s propose ;
 My plotting took, and without taking oath
 I've seen the botton of their hellish acts.
 As Colonel Trump, with well worn suit of gray,
 I with such vengeful ardour entered in,
 They tho't it nonsense to impose a test :
 Beyond the door oath, any man could swear,
 Who knows what good thar still is left the South,
 But tu the pint ; I soon must be away :
 I yet must meet a Southern Scout at nine !
 What Cam'ron told you was about the thing ;
 'Bout burnin' churches, theatres, and sich—

[*Throws down a paper.*

But there's the items, read em when you've time.
 To shoot you down, arrangements had been made
 For 12th of April, at the Serenade ;
 It's given up, the feller had tu leave (*aside*),
 (I helped him off,) its but a short reprieve ;
 What think you of the plot, how will it work ?

LIN.—What think I? mad, misguided, misled men!
 I fain would serve them all, both friends and foes;
 They know me not, but 'tis not by the South—
 Thou sayest right—these hellish plots are hatched;
 They know I'd save them, serve them too,
 Could I but save my country, with them all.
 But still, at heart, I do not seem to fear,
 Enough; on what you've said, I'll surely act.

[*Pearsley preparing to leave.*]

They knew you not in passing through the hall?

PEARSLEY—Not one, nor hev they ever guessed, I trow;
 Of all my suits, this suits me best, you think?

Wall, good-bye Abe; I'll fetch 'roun' once'n a while.

LIN.—My toiling, trusting, more than friend, good-bye.

[*Pearsley leading his dog out is heard to say:*]

PEARSLEY—Wall now, I swow tu kittens, Abe's a trump.

End of Scene First, Act Fourth.

ACT IV.—SCENE II.

Outside the Camp of Union Army preparations are made for
 shooting a soldier.

COL. STODDARD (*to his men*)—'Tis doubtless law this, shooting down
 a boy:

They say such acts are mercies under mask;
 I like not masks (*shaking his head*); I'd let the young one live—
 My George is 'bout his age. 'Tis hard I say to cut him off,
 When scarcely wean'd from home!

His curls still savour of a mother's hand—
 Her parting kiss upon his whiten'd brow
 Seems burning yet;—I'd rule for just one hour—
 The time is drawing nigh; 'tis cruel this.

'Twas hinted that a scape-goat would be found,
 Or something to appease this hungry rule. [*The drum is heard.*]

But hark! the time is up! There goes his knell.

[*John Hanks, still disguised as Pearsley, rushes in.*]

HANKS.—Blue Bird's here! The captain!—
 Where's General Grant? (*Flies wildly about.*)
 Help raise a muss! I've most important news;
 This boy must live, or Pearsley must peg out.
 Hurra! I say, drum up the General quick!
 I have no straps; but now I'll have a say.

[*The General coming in.*]

GRANT (*to soldiers*)—Fall back there!
 Halt! Please let this scout advance.

PEARSLEY (*coming forward*).—Your pardon, General, but a
 moment's time.

I have no order, no written order here,
 But in God's name, (*hands a card*), I beg you pause a while!
 Did you but know of what I feel assured,
 You'd stay this execution for an hour.

GRANT (*looking at the card*).—Ah, Pearsley. Yes, I've heard of you before.

But this—quite right—can have no bearing now,
The only pow'r to save is far away.

Stern pity reek'd in tears, may rend his heart,
Still with the soldier duty must control.

I'd yield a full year's pay—aye, yield this sword
To let this young heart with its hopes beat on!

[*Advancing and halting at the place of execution.*

The truest aim in such is kindest act:

Be firm and circumspect, yet kind—but stay!

[*Loud shouts are heard as a horseman is seen coming.*

In wild tornado haste, a horseman comes—

Hold! Beyond a carriage too, at similar speed!

Oh! This is Randolph—the equipage too—

I sure should know—the President, at last!

He's saved—thank God!

(Messenger hands a letter, which, whilst the cry, "He's saved," is wildly shouted on all sides, Colonel Stoddard, the General's aid, reads aloud at his order, The following is a copy, penned *en route*, and despatched by courier.)

(The letter to General U. S. Grant, commanding, &c., &c.)

MY DEAR GENERAL—

In case I do not reach you in person, take this order, to spare the life of the Sentinel, William Brownley, who was convicted of falling asleep on duty; at any rate I shall not be far away when this reaches you.—I am most kindly and truly,

A. LINCOLN.

[*Lincoln coming up is received with a perfect ovation.*

PEARSLEY (*aside to soldiers*)—I did the business right, Abe comes in time.

LIN (*modestly disregarding any applause*).—A trifle is the act, I claim no meed!

If in result most glorious, it is well;

Let me with you, our grateful thanks unite:

How many life-beats fresh as this young man's

Will cease to throb, e'er this dread struggle ends!

Oh, would some simple word of mine could stay

Like this, the end of each doom'd shaft of death!

I'd see the lad, and take him by the hand.

GRANT.—Ah sure, it should be so, bring up the boy!

LIN.—Your life is spared, my boy, now use it well!

So, never mind, you need not try to speak;

I know again at such a post as that,

Which nearly cost your life, you will not sleep,

And by your look—that beaming of the eye—

I look for future deeds to more than pay

(*To the soldiers*)—My boys, keep taunt and taint from this young lad,

I've ridden, striven, thus to-day, to save.

GRANT (*pointing to Pearsley*)—I've here another hero to present, What he has done, we'll not pass idly by.

LIN. (*aside*)—(What ! Hanks again !
Without his ruse, ere this, the boy had died.)
My old friend Pearsley here—
How turned this up ?

PEARSLEY.—Wall, Abe, my man, I care not if you know !
I came like you, to save the sentinel's life—
We've done sich things as this in days gone by ;
I knew your ev'ry step, was dogg'd to death
By Orfis seekin' skunks, an' sich like trash,
An fearin' arter allyou mite be late,
I pulled some wool to shut the General's eyes.

[*The lad rushes to thank him.*

Thar, don't du that ; I'm glad your're living, true,
But I was wonct a boy, an so war he :

[*Pointing to Lincoln.*

Just show em in the future what you'll be ;
I have a call to make ; good-bye, good-bye !

[*Shakes hands with the boy, Lincoln, Grant, &c., and starts.*

GRANT (*to the soldiers*).—Three cheers for Pearsley, every "boy in
blue !"
[*All cheer.*

Our morning duties take a pleasant turn,

[*Pointing to Lincoln.*

How proud we all should be of such a friend.

[*Caps are swung, and the air is filled with huzzas.*

Report this squad at quarters A. Return !

(Grant falls back for Lincoln, who insists upon following him with
the lad's arm in his. Cheers and shouts arise, as curtain drops
the soldiers file off.)

End of Scene II. Act IV.

ACT IV.—SCENE III.

Cabinet-Room, White House. Messrs. Seward, Sumner, Cameron,
and Greeley, in waiting.

GREELEY.—Sumner, how takes the plan, you've broken it ?
These makers of our masters, open eared,
Await the startling summons from his pen,
That striking off their chains shall arm a host !
The people north, will not be pacified—
No other than a Lincoln could withhold
The fiat that his party will, so long ;
'Tis strange that I the man have so misjudged !
I cannot make him out !

SUMNER.—Ah, gentlemen, long since had but the edict fell,
Transforming driven enemies to troops,
A half a million to our "boys in blue,"
Tho' black, to fight as never Roman fought,
It sure had riven rebeldum in twain !
Set free its slaves, its system could not stand ;
How could the body work without a hand ?
But to the point—your visit is in vain ;
Unmoved by all combined, he still will take

The even tenure of his careful way.
 Unending arguments I've often used,
 In all the eloquence my soul could shape,
 But to awaken arguments more deep,
 Or melancholy joke, as it might be—
 Beneath his ev'ry joke there seems a tear ;—
 'Tis useless, but I wish the man would come.

GREELEY.—What thinks he of the meeting in New York ?
 The votes and resolutions offer'd there ?
 Does he forget what party placed him here ?

SUM.—Forget ? Has that man power to forget ?
 If having it in fullest strength displayed,
 An army of reminders he ne'er lacks !

GREELEY.—I've charged a bomb, expressly for his ear,
 And long to touch the fuse, and see the shock !

SEWARD.—Well touch, but guard against a sure recoil,
 Replies seem crowding others from his tongue
 So fast (*Lincoln is heard*)—there's Lincoln now, just draw him mild.
[*Enters Lincoln shaking hands.*

LINCOLN.—Ah ! Sumner, Greeley, Seward, time once was
 I'd give each friendly hand a shake,
 And deem it “no great shakes”—another joke !—
 I thought my jokes too deeply frozen up
 For even friendship's glowing warmth to thaw ;
 Well, who fires first ? lets have the biggest gun ;
 Suppose you empty all your muzzles into one :
 Then in one common aim make common fire—
 Be capped and primed, and sure you fizzle not ;
 In candour gentlemen, I know your mark ;
 You radicals like hungry wolves in packs,
 For months my ev'ry step have dogged,
 With very nightmares even crammed my sleep ;
 None but my country's drudgery I'll do ;
 Your votes, but made me President of *all* !—
 The slave than President, would be more apt ;—
 Some think, perhaps, that I've turned Democrat,
 That honied words will make me grind their axe ;
 And “Cops,”* in meek committee sally forth.
 Beyond what it is just, I'll favour none—
 From duty's line I will not swerve an inch,
 For all the gold our treasury may hold !
 Or more—to save my life a single hour.
 You've coaxed, and ordered, flattered, swore and urged,
 And would have forced to foul miscarriage oft,
 Hope long in travail, to some monstrous birth !
 Not prematurely now, but full timed, she bears
 This freedom's proclamation child. [*Showing his proclamation.*

SUM.—Saved ! saved !

GREELEY.—I thought 'twould come.

[*In great excitement all congratulate.*

* Copperheads, northern friends of the South.

LIN.—Go spread the news ! bid lightning do her work,
And to our land emancipation give ;
Affix, prefix, no paragraph to say,
'Twas coaxed, or forced, or bargained from my pen !
Now Heaven knows I've done what I thought right !
If but my country's bleeding heart it heals,
'Twill more than pay each dreadful pang it cost.

SEWARD.—We will not say a word, though coming late,
We know and love the hand from which it sprung,
What we'd to say, were useless now if said—
You've guessed our errand well—

GREELEY—But, Seward here (*pointing*).

SEWARD.—'Tis Cameron sure you mean !

CAM.—Intent on argument I came, I'll shrink not back !
Yet deem it better that the charge is drawn ;
I wish the "babe" had found an earlier birth,
But coming late, we'll nurse it, tend it well.

(Black Bob is seen outside the hall-door, conversing sotto voice, with
Mrs. Brownley, mother of the Sentinel.)

WOMAN (*trying to get past*)—Pray, let me in, I know not what you
say !

BOB.—Jist hold a bit, 'pears thar's a sumfin' born ;
Hush ! didn't Cam'ron say, dey'd nuss de chile ;
I'm boun', it 'pears dat gemman's wife should know.

(*Woman trying to get past*)—Jist gib poor Massa Abe a breavin
spell ! [*Lincoln's friends shaking hands retire by another door.*]

WOMAN—What's that you call the child ? me let it breathe !

LIN.—Ah, peace, peace ! when shall I again know peace ?

BOB.—I guess dat, dat'll do, I'd better slope.

[*Shows in Mrs. Brownley and retires.*]

LIN. (*aside*)—So soon ! ah woman, come this way and take a chair.

Mrs. B. (*mistaking Mr. Lincoln's simplicity*)—Kind Sir, if right, is
Mr. Lincoln in ?

LIN. (*aside*)—I should be he, sometimes I think I'm not ;
I'm Mr. Lincoln, can I serve you friend ?

Mrs. B. (*on her knees*)—My Lord, your pardon ! how could I
mistake ?

LIN.—Of Him you speak we have but One, arise ! [*Raising her.*]

Mrs. B.—At Petersburg my boy, poor William fell,
E'er since his father's death I've leaned on him ;
His father, sir, had fought at Lundy's lane,
And kindling at the mem'ry of his tales,
When first the drum and fife passed by our door,
I told poor William of his father's deeds,
And bid him follow up the "Stars and Stripes !"
He 'listed—how he looked all dressed in blue !
We made his regiment a flag, they left ;
I'm seventy now ; he used to send his pay !
Last week 'twas hinted, that for such as me
Our Bedlam poorhouse would do very well.

LIN. (*startled*)—Pauper ? Can soldier's widows be such here ?
No ! Not while I've one single cent to give.

Nor shall a Union soldier's mother want
 Whilst I can hold a pen, or shape a law.
 I know, I've learned such cruel tales by heart.
 (*Gives a purse.*) 'Twill do you much more good than me, take that,
 Your tears speak better thanks than softest words ;
 For such as you there'll be a fund—but stay !
 What is the name ? Just give the name in full ;
 I keep a list, and read them o'er at times.

Mrs. B.—No shame upon our name ! 'tis Brownley sir.

LIN. (*excited*)—Ah Bradley—Brownley—William was his name ?
 Who told you ? Did they tell you how he fell ?

[*Rings bell and asks for a paper which he reads.*]

Give me your town, his regiment and all.

Mrs. B.—'Tis Yarmouth, sir. Poor William joined the 8th.

LIN. (*aside*)—*I dare not break the joy, 'twas him I saved !*
 There must be some mistake, I think he lives.

Mrs. B.—Lives ? Lives, sir, did you say ? Oh speak again.
 My boy—my William lives ! They said he's shot.

[*Tottering to the door.*]

Oh show me ! let me see him ere I die.

LIN.—Be calm ! Last night the news had reached your town,
 I sent the word myself that he was safe.

[*Speaking to his secretary.*]

Just now your son is far away from here,
 We'll send for him straightway, you'll see him soon.

Mrs. B.—Oh thank you ! gen'rous noble sir, I'll go.

LIN. (*to his Sec.*) This friend will see your every want supplied.
 Be calm and hopeful, he will tell you all.

[*Exeunt Sec. and Mrs. B. Bell rings.*]

Oh ! Oh that bell will be my funeral knell !

[*Servant hands card.*]

Ah ! Staunton, Butler ! attributes of power—

Yes, show them in. Now heart play bold again.

STAUNTON—We bring great news, just gathered by the way.
 Come forth ! be quick, for Richmond now is ours !

[*Bells and cannon are heard.*]

I've ordered every bell to ring it forth.

LIN. (*overcome*) Thank God ! I felt in His good time 'twould
 come.

I'll go : I hear the thousands shout ! Thank God !

[*Exeunt all.*]

End of Act Fourth.

ACT V.—SCENE I.

Room in Mrs. S——t's house ; murderers in conclave.

BOOTH—Do places where unwelcome ears may sip
 Such evidence, as by court distilled

Would lift us dangling by a piece of hemp,
 Adjoin us anywhere ? Without and search !

[*Parties leave.*]

I've fancied that the very air about

Must guard our efforts with unnumbered ears

[*Safety is assured.*]

To honest work ; each man repeat the oath :
 Stand in a circle, round, and look at me.
 (*All repeat*) As we hope or wish in life or death,
 By Bible or religious faith construed,
 We in our secret hearts renounce such hopes,
 And call on God to blast our dying wish,
 If what we know, or may know, we reveal
 Of aught that's said, or may be uttered here,
 Concerning, most remotely, Lincoln's death:
 Or others, that stern justice may require ;
 Or fail to aid, by act, or deed, or wish,
 The consummation of this sacred work ;
 So help us hope in life, or death, or God !

BOOTH—Art sure ? is some one on the watch without ?

(1st ASSAS (*looking out.*)—Aye, aye, sir ; Madam's on the stair
 below.)

BOOTH—Short work to-night, but give us your reports.

3rd ASSAS—If it's in order, I'll just say my say ;
 Rob, all his papers had pulled out tu read,
 When full a dozen Yanks, as I'm alive,
 With clubs and pistols, pitched right into me,
 We plom'd 'em all but two, when Robby caved ;
 Then I took Slinkey, wounded, on my back,
 And carried him, till he gave up the ghost—

BOOTH—Let that suffice, they got his paper off,
 And Robby being killed, killed not his man !
 Now mark me well, if you had, too, been shot
 You'd got not half you earned (*commotion*), but hear me out !
 The man who breathes of matters here like that,
 Or thinks aloud at corner of the street—
 Aye even in the "circle" hints a hint,
 Since that damn'd Yankee's advent tother night,
 Dies if I stab him to the heart myself ?
 I'd take this matter, from the circle's hand.

(*To 3rd Assas*)—Your pardon, Sir, no doubt you suffer'd much,
 But Lincoln, well survived the serenade,
 And for your wounds, and trouble, you'll be paid.

(*To 4th Assas and others*)—How stands our funds, is everything in
 shape ?

Are relays for my speedy flight assigned,
 That hitch, or drag, may not by chance occur ?
 The nag that should have served in Baltimore
 Will do me now, when once the deed is done ;
 Then life and death depends upon the chase.
 When first the public vultures sniffle blood,
 And old Thad Stevens whistles out his hounds,
 Strive by each act that I have drilled you in
 To turn these hounds upon mistaken scent ;
 First have me seen in New York going North,
 Next, shipp'd for Europe in the Scotia, sure.
 On these plots much of all I hope depends ;
 By ev'ry artful scheme turn search all wrong.

2nd ASSASS.—And if by chance Lincoln goes not out
Upon the special evening that is named—

BOOTH—Hell and fiends infernal, do you know me?
No other work I find till that man dies!
'Tis almost certain he will go as fixed;
If not, submissive slave, I wait his wish;
And be it day or year, I'll know the hour,
And wait its coming to redeem my oath.
In case he fails, I'll summons you straightforth.
Once more—this Pearsley—devil, fiend, or what—
In some disguise, will prowl around the place.
The man who shoots, or stabs, or strangles him,
On certain proof will get a "thousand" down,
Is there no way to track the hoozier out?
You all have ready weapons I believe,
How holds the ammunition out?

6th ASSAS.—We've lots and gaubs of that on hand just now.

BOOTH—Well, now, the filthy *stuff* bring forth,
And as I number, give to each his purse.

[Numbers and the money is given.

(After a thought)—Are any here who believe that there's a God?
If such there be, I bid them now stand forth!

[Four men advance.

The rest can go, let each well keep his oath.

[Exeunt all but the four.

And you believe, that 'round, about, above,
Within, of all, o'er all, there is a God?

[They bow.

To please a mother, I pretended to—

(Affected)—Ah mother, mother! yes—well never mind)

She was so like, just what a God should be,
In ev'ry noble act—I once believed

In some great central something, God or soul,

My brothers too—yes, mother, brothers, all—

Yes all but me, believed—but back—not now!

Well, what I want you see my men, is this:

Our awful oath with some, may pass for naught!

I'd have another vow; I'd have you swear

As *you* have hope in death, or in thy God,

To watch these others, as you'd watch a snake—

You see, I double each believer's sum:—

[Gives money.

For, over all, I take it—gold is God—

Here is a Bible, swear strong, kiss the book!

[They comply.

And now my *pious* friends, I'd be alone!

Each take a different way when you go out.

[Exeunt.

SOLUS—I count their hate of Lincoln more than oaths!

(Looking at the Bible)—Strange book!

Thou canst not now shake my resolve;

Not to thee, but the hand that gave, I've paused before!

This time, I swear—by God or man inspired—

Thou shalt not make my resolution quail,
 And shake my will, 'till like a bended reed
 Stript of its true intentions by a blast
 Of filial love, it withers to the root !
 What devil prompted me to bring thee forth ?
 Why do I bear thee so within my reach ?
 I see ; I promised her to keep thee here !—(*to his heart*),
 Thy presence brings that sacred image up,
 Till o'er me mem'ry rolls unmeasured waves
 Of love, that madden as I gaze back to't.
 Thee and this bloody work, my hands have sought,
 Cannot together rest about this place ;
 Just now I'll lock thee somewhere from my sight—
 What if thy precepts she was wont to teach,
 With hand upon my head, and eyes brimfull,
 Should prove as true as she believed, and taught !
 Oh why a loving mother's mem'ry damn !—
 My fam'ly and profession, curse with shame !
 Cold-blooded murder is unknown to both.
 Shall this frail hand at one stroke do so much ?
 Cut off a human life it can't recall ?—
 Bring widowhood and orphanage to life ;
 Unseal the blighting founts of public shame,
 And let them in infamy's eternal flood
 Roll back, oerwhelming all I ever loved ?
 Shall I do this--all this ? (*To the Bible.*) Ha, ha !—Well, well !
 Paper, print, cover, clasp, a simple book :
 What more than last year's almanac art thou ?
 Ha, ha ! Well, well, I am not conquered yet.

[*Throws down the Bible.*]

Lay there, till I have drawn my plans at least !
 Yet will the glorious South be masters here ;
 And I, avenger of their direful wrongs,
 The sealer of the second Nero's doom,
 Will hear my name in acclamation borne
 In honour over "Washington" and "Tell."
 To gain but this I'd make a sea of blood
 And swim it, with the crimson to my lip.
 So, so ! I feel myself a man again.

[*Takes up the Bible.*]

Twas hardly fair to treat thee thus I own :
 I'll lay you for a season out of reach.

[*Exeunt.*]

End of Scene First, Act Fifth.

ACT V.—SCENE II.

Scene—Opening on an Alley near Ford's Theatre, Washington ;
 little girl crying on a step, when Pearsley comes up.

PEARSLEY—Ah, young 'un ; what's the matter now ? Don't cry !

GIRL—My pap and mam are sick—we've got no bread !

PEARSLEY—Is't here about yer hang up, little dear ?

GIRL—Just out in Quay Street sir, aside the yard.

PEARSLEY (*aside*)—If 'twasn't fur the theatre, an' Abe—
I swow tu cats I'd go an' see this house—
To-night I must not leave my post, for gad
I got a despret hint about this work.

(*To girl*)—But here's sum cakes an' crackers, jist fur now;
Say, what's your daddy's handle—name, I mean?

GIRL—It's Robert Findlay, sir; Bob Findlay, up the stairs.

PEARSLEY—All right, all right! Jis take this Green-back now,
I kinder guess you need it more'n I—
Thar, little un, don't cry, I'll fix yer up.

(Takes off a shawl, and while he is wrapping it about and caressing her, three ruffians approach from behind, throw a blanket over his head, then a rope, and after a desperate struggle two of them pull him into the alley.)

3rd RUFF.—Thunder an' lightning! now that job'll pay—
Well, he'll not stand in Wilkes's way to-night.
We'll see if his old chum is prowlin' round.

(Armstrong comes cautiously across at the moment, and tracks them into the alley.)

Scene opens:—Showing through private box in Ford's Theatre where part of the "American Cousin" is being played, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, Major and Miss —— watching the play.

LIN.—Ha, ha! Dundreary beats the cousin there.

MAJOR—In Great Britain that's the greatest part, they say.
(Booth, with revolver concealed, is seen looking on, and hisses through his teeth:—

Yes, old gorilla, laugh! your time has come!

No cut throat Pearsley's here to save you now.)

Mrs. L.—How dreary poor Dundreary look'd just now!
They ought to let him have just one good sneeze.

(The play proceeds, as Booth is seen to fire; dropping the pistol, and exclaiming, "Sic Semper Tyrannus," he jumps over upon the stage, falling and wounding himself by catching his foot in a flag, hung over the box front. Mr. Lincoln falling back is surrounded by Mrs. L. and companions, who scream in anguish and consternation, and the cry prevails that the President is shot. Surgeons are called, and officers with others gather.)

GEN. GRANT—Immediately surround the house! all haste!

[*The pistol is handed to him.*]

And this frail thing has done so vast a wrong:
Lived there a man with nerve to still that heart!
Gracious heaven! what will our country do?

STAUNTON—Dead! dead! they say that Godlike man is dead.
Better be him, like Cæsar in his fall,
Than be the hunted miscreant who struck—
I cannot follow—cannot look again!

BUTLER—God will'd this blow, to seal his deathless fame!
(As they start to remove the dying Lincoln, another cry is raised on all hands that Seward and his son have been killed.)

End of Scene III, Act V.

ACT V.—SCENE IV.

(Stone wall, with trees and bushes, and open country in distance—
Stoddard, Pearsley, Armstrong, Brownley, Black Bob, Officers,
etc., in search.)

STODDARD—Why think you this his route, I see no signs?

PEARSLEY—No signs, no signs! why Cap'n jist look here!
Why here's his horse's measure to a T.

2nd OFF.—Horse's measure, explain yourself, my man!

PEARSLEY—Wall, Armstrong, Bob an' I, I swow-ou-ou!
At Baltimore, jist fastened on this shoe,
Or fastened off, I'd better say, I guess;

[*Fitting it to the tracks.*

You see it fits the measure to a pin!

2nd OFF.—Well, sure enough, he can't be far away,
Push on my men, make search, he's near at hand!
I hate to look upon so vile a wretch.

PEARSLEY—But you knew Lincoln as a public man—(*weeping*).

STODDARD—We knew him long ago, it matters not—
I understand, I comprehend your grief—
It matters not, we have our orders strict,
We take Booth living, if it can be done
Fire not upon him till you hear the word!
Push on! push on, and follow up the track.

[*Exeunt all on search.*

(As they leave, a wretched looking, half-starved man, limping, peers
from the bushes, and gazes on the party.)

BOOTH—They've tracked me! gods, I see the game is up!
Gold, stronger than affection, buys one's friends;
Yet homeless, foodless, countryless, I feel—
But for this leg, I yet would have a chance.
The thought but struck me, as I struck the stage,
Was it not God, who crushed these gritting bones;—
Some Providence thus cutting off my flight!

[*Looking after his pursuers.*

That devil's shadow, Pearsley, has escaped;
And were I on that horse's back just now,
That riderless and unrestrained they track,
The sooner might this gath'ring tempest break
And smother out this doomed worthless life,
And launch me into death's untrodden courts
Beyond the reach of mocking millions' sneers—
Of being strangled by a common rope!
As that freed horse goes dashing from me now,
Go hopes and aspirations ill matured:
That promised welcome, if I reached but here,
In isolation changes to a coarse disgust—
No hand to dress this bruised dragging limb;
And this the chivalry for which I struck!
I thought to be an idol—hero—here:

Where are the worshippers, of which I dream'd ?

[*Two men are seen gazing at some hand bill.*

Now staring at these government rewards.

Avenger and deliverer—to be—

All wounded, starving, sleepless, here I stand—

Life's golden visions into nightmares turned,

That waiting not for night come all the day,

Their demons marshalling on my heart and brain !

I look to where ambition's finger waved—

Perdition absolute and night brood there,

And crushing though the space that intervenes,

Dark seething waves of blood and shame, roll on,

Tearing from me all I ever loved :

I hear fresh sounds again—I'll seek my lair.

(Hides again, as two men draw near conversing.)

1st CITIZEN—A hundred thousand dollars, think of that !

2nd Do.—Wal, thar it is. I think the thing was right,

Or least I think it had tu be, and war—

1st CIT.—Think you if we hook him they will come down ?*

2nd.—Wal, yeas, I think that Jonathan will fork.

1st CIT.—Then let us try, 'twar this way he was seen.

[*Exeunt both.*

BOOTH (*stepping out and looking around*)—

I know not if 'tis gold or blood they snuff !

I'd sooner rush to yonder soldiers' arms

Than let these patriotic traitors win—

'Tis getting late and I must crawl away ;

Oh for a crust to hush these pangs within !—

That gnawing at my vitals lap for blood—

Wounds, disappointment, hunger, thirst—then death !

How soon has all I wished for changed to these !

But curses on the earth : this air I breathe :

Aye ! curses on Divinity assumed—

Black curses on my country and my kind !

Nor food nor consolation, bed or drink,

They offer, or escape ; I curse them all !

(Selects a big stick for a staff, and begins to hobble off under the shadow of the wall.)

If strength to wield my weapons yet holds out,

Some more I'll send to settle their account.

On finding my unmounted horse, I fear

They may return, and take me weakened thus—

I must have food to manufacture strength.

[*Exeunt.*

End of Scene IV.

ACT V.—SCENE V.

Scene—Early morning, old barn and out buildings, with plain country in the distance. Officers, Soldiers, Pearsley, Armstrong, Brownley, and others surrounding the barn.

* Means to pay.

ARMSTRONG (*sotto voice*).—My God, I wish he would give up at once !

(*Looking through a crack*) He stands doom'd man, revolver in each hand.

And other arms—a human beast at bay !
But in defence were we allowed to fire
Just through this crack, how soon I'd end his pain.

1st OFFICER—'Tis at one's peril if a shot is fired.

PEARSLEY—He's but a beast, an' sich will not stan' fire ;
I've got a plan if all else fails tu work,
He's worse nor wolves, we used tu smoke them out.

BROWNLEY—Poor Lincoln saved my life—I'd give it now
To catch the murderer of that noble man ;
But if from out the grave his voice could speak,
He'd plead, he'd pray 'gainst such a cruel act !
What burn, and by that act a martyr make !

PEARSLEY—You wrong me, lad ; ne'er fear he's goin tu burn ;
I've seen it tried on injins and on whites,
Horn spoons an' forks ! They'd rather swing than roast.
They thought they'd got me caged, an chain'd tu—ha ! (*musings.*)
Ah ! yes ; tu think they caught me nappin' so—
An stole me from my friend. Poor Abe ! Poor Abe ! (*overcome.*)

STODDARD—Our friend is right, but let me try a word.

[*Puts his mouth near an aperture.*]

Lost man ! there's not a chance for your escape !
Although all time cannot your crime excel—
Our orders are to harm your person not,
Unless perchance all other measures fail.
Come forth and stand before a righteous court,
And force us not to kill you like a dog !

BOOTH (*from within*)—What care I for your righteous courts or dogs ?

Come one, come all ! I go not hence alive !
I have twelve shots, eight die who enter first.
I've killed the greatest of your tribe—come on !
Come on ! I hunger—thirst for blood—more blood !

1st OFFICER—Have done with imprecations vile, and threats ;
Would you with hope of mercy shed more blood ?
Your skirts are crimson now with precious gore.
Secure by giving up, some time to pray.

BOOTH—To pray ! Who asks for time to pray ? Not I !
Come on ! I'd kill a dozen more and die !
If I have been deceived I've earned a name ;
I'd redden up the record yet—advance !

PEARSLEY (*sotto*)—Now Captin, let me speak ! I'll put it strong.

1st OFFICER—'Tis idle ; but you have the leave to speak.

PEARSLEY—Young man, just let me speak ! You've got the pluck—

As far as game's consarned, we call you game.
Brute that you are, you're kinder sorter brave.
We would not roast brave men like pigs, come out !
Don't think like hungry fishes to a hook,

Right at your muzzles we will run our heads
 Give me my chice, I'll die some other way—
 Come out, and if you kill me let it went ;
 Remember tho', I shoot you if I like—
 That is, of course, if I hev leave tu fire ;
 But this I don't intend to do, jest now—
 Before we'll ventur in, we'll singe you out ;
 I tell you hanging's nothing like to fire !

BOOTH—I know that lovely voice, 'tis Pearsley speaks—

[*Pearsley dodges as a shot is fired.*]

Take that, I've got a plenty for some more !

PEARSLEY—You missed me, young un, tho' the shot was good ;
 Captin jest fire that barn, and he'll come out !
 I'll bet roast punkin on it, he gives in.

STODDARD (*sotto voice*)—When all else fails, I'll try the plan you name !

(*To Booth*)—You've had our promise of no harm ; once more—

I'd take not yours, nor for it sacrifice

Another life, till so compelled to do—

All parley ends—ten minutes is the most—

Then if you come not forth, we'll fire the barn !

[*Another shot from within strikes near the Officer.*]

BOOTH—You've got my answer, kindle up your fire !

PEARSLEY (*pointing his gun at a crack*)—Captin' with your leave
 I'll cut this matter short !

I swow-to-kits we're losing precious time !

OFFICER (*counting the minutes with his watch*)—

He's got three minutes, then if not out we'll try your plan

(*Low to Pearsley*)—But never let him burn !

All watch and if the flames then move him not,

Before he suffocates you'll have to shoot !

(*To Booth*)—Your time is up ! we now shall strike the match !

PEARSLEY (*striking and throwing in a match as another shot is heard*)—

I tell you when the smoke and flames crawl close,

And not 'till then, you'll see him crawling out.

BROWNLEY (*looking through a crack*)—

Dodge Pearsley ! dodge ! he's aiming thro' at you !

[*Three shots are heard as Pearsley jumps aside.*]

PEARSLEY—I thank you, boy, he'd like to rub me out !

[*Fire and smoke are now seen through the crevices.*]

BROWNLEY—My God ! I'm 'fraid the madman means to roast !

(*Pointing up*)—He's on that side now breathing thro' a hole !

ARMSTRONG (*looking*)—The flames sweep near, he's rushing for the door !

STODDARD—Watch close, if he attempts to fire, why shoot.

(*The wretched smoke-begrimmed, half-starved looking man, comes out with a revolver in one hand and a long knife in the other, and seeking where to bestow more of his five remaining shots, falls mortally wounded as his pistol goes off in the air.*)

PEARSLEY—I fired tu high, but for the best my lads !

[*They lift him carefully and try to restore him.*]

STODDARD—The wretched, misled man—perhaps 'tis well !

BOOTH—I killed—kill—ed the gi—ant of them all !

ARMSTRONG (*carefully holding the head of the dying man*)—
Poor man ! he's mutt'ring of his mother hear ?

PEARSLEY—I'll never strike a fallen foe ;

I sw—e—u—ou he's got a pretty face, was full ov pluck !

I wonder why he shot poor Abe, I do,

But blood for blood, he will'd it so to be !

(Booth gives one long gurgling groan and falls back dead, as all
gather around.)

PEARSLEY—This had tu be, an was I spose, jist so !

Poor Abe is dead—his murderer is dead—

I'll have tu go and *try* tu be, John Hanks !

I dun' no, dun-no—wonder why its so !

Curtain Drops.

THE END.

To honest work ; each man repeat the oath :

Stand in a circle, round, and look at me.

(*All repeat*) As we hope or wish in life or death,

By Bible or religious faith construed,

We in our secret hearts renounce such hopes,

And call on God to blast our dying wish,

If what we know, or may know, we reveal

Of aught that's said, or may be uttered here,

Concerning, most remotely, Lincoln's death:

Or others, that stern justice may require ;

Or fail to aid, by act, or deed, or wish,

The consummation of this sacred work ;

So help us hope in life, or death, or God !

BOOTH—Art sure ? is some one on the watch without ?

(1st ASSAS (*looking out.*)—Aye, aye, sir ; Madam's on the stair below.)

BOOTH—Short work to-night, but give us your reports.

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Rob, all his papers had pulled out tu read,

When full a dozen Yanks, as I'm alive,

With clubs and pistols, pitched right into me,

We plom'd 'em all but two, when Robby caved ;

Then I took Slinkey, wounded, on my back,

And carried him, till he gave up the ghost—

BOOTH—Let that suffice, they got his paper off,

And Robby being killed, killed not his man !

Now mark me well, if you had, too, been shot

You'd got not half you earned (*commotion*), but hear me out !

The man who breathes of matters here like that,

Or thinks aloud at corner of the street—

Aye even in the "circle" hints a hint,

Since that damn'd Yankee's advent tother night,

Dies if I stab him to the heart myself ?

I'd take this matter, from the circle's hand.

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But Lincoln, well survived the serenade,

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Are relays for my speedy flight assigned,

That hitch, or drag, may not by chance occur ?

The nag that should have served in Baltimore

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When first the public vultures sniffle blood,

And old Thad Stevens whistles out his hounds,

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To turn these hounds upon mistaken scent ;

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And wait its coming to redeem my oath.
In case he fails, I'll summons you straightforth.
Once more—this Pearsley—devil, fiend, or what—
In some disguise, will prowl around the place.
The man who shoots, or stabs, or strangles him,
On certain proof will get a “ thousand ” down,
Is there no way to track the hoozier out ?
You all have ready weapons I believe,
How holds the ammunition out ?

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And as I number, give to each his purse.

[Numbers and the money is given.

(After a thought)—Are any here who believe that there's a God ?
If such there be, I bid them now stand forth !

[Four men advance.

The rest can go, let each well keep his oath.

[Exeunt all but the four.

And you believe, that 'round, about, above,
Within, of all, o'er all, there is a God ?

[They bow.

To please a mother, I pretended to—

(Affected)—Ah mother, mother ! yes—well never mind)

She was so like, just what a God should be,

In ev'ry noble act—I once believed

In some great central something, God or soul,

My brothers too—yes, mother, brothers, all—

Yes all but me, believed—but back—not now !

Well, what I want you see my men, is this :

Our awful oath with some, may pass for naught !

I'd have another vow ; I'd have you swear

As *you* have hope in death, or in thy God,

To watch these others, as you'd watch a snake—

You see, I double each believer's sum :—

[Gives money.

For, over all, I take it—gold is God—

Here is a Bible, swear strong, kiss the book !

[They comply.

And now my *pious* friends, I'd be alone !

Each take a different way when you go out.

[Exeunt.

SOLUS—I count their hate of Lincoln more than oaths !

(Looking at the Bible)—Strange book !

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Not to thee, but the hand that gave, I've paused before !

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Thou shalt not make my resolution quail,
 And shake my will, 'till like a bended reed
 Stript of its true intentions by a blast
 Of filial love, it withers to the root !
 What devil prompted me to bring thee forth ?
 Why do I bear thee so within my reach ?
 I see ; I promised her to keep thee here !—(*to his heart*),
 Thy presence brings that sacred image up,
 Till o'er me mem'ry rolls unmeasured waves
 Of love, that madden as I gaze back to't.
 Thee and this bloody work, my hands have sought,
 Cannot together rest about this place ;
 Just now I'll lock thee somewhere from my sight—
 What if thy precepts she was wont to teach,
 With hand upon my head, and eyes brimfull,
 Should prove as true as she believed, and taught !
 Oh why a loving mother's mem'ry damn !—
 My fam'ly and profession, curse with shame !
 Cold-blooded murder is unknown to both.
 Shall this frail hand at one stroke do so much ?
 Cut off a human life it can't recall ?—
 Bring widowhood and orphanage to life ;
 Unseal the blighting founts of public shame,
 And let them in infamy's eternal flood
 Roll back, oerwhelming all I ever loved ?
 Shall I do this--all this ? (*To the Bible.*) Ha, ha !—Well, well !
 Paper, print, cover, clasp, a simple book :
 What more than last year's almanac art thou ?
 Ha, ha ! Well, well, I am not conquered yet.

[*Throws down the Bible.*]

Lay there, till I have drawn my plans at least !
 Yet will the glorious South be masters here ;
 And I, avenger of their direful wrongs,
 The sealer of the second Nero's doom,
 Will hear my name in acclamation borne
 In honour over "Washington" and "Tell."
 To gain but this I'd make a sea of blood
 And swim it, with the crimson to my lip.
 So, so ! I feel myself a man again.

[*Takes up the Bible.*]

Twas hardly fair to treat thee thus I own :
 I'll lay you for a season out of reach.

[*Exeunt.*]

End of Scene First, Act Fifth.

ACT V.—SCENE II.

Scene—Opening on an Alley near Ford's Theatre, Washington ;
 little girl crying on a step, when Pearsley comes up.

PEARSLEY—Ah, young 'un ; what's the matter now ? Don't cry !

GIRL—My pap and mam are sick—we've got no bread !

PEARSLEY—Is't here about yer hang up, little dear ?

GIRL—Just out in Quay Street sir, aside the yard.

PEARSLEY (*aside*)—If 'twasn't fur the theatre, an' Abe—
I swow tu cats I'd go an' see this house—
To-night I must not leave my post, for gad
I got a despret hint about this work.

(*To girl*)—But here's sum cakes an' crackers, jist fur now;
Say, what's your daddy's handle—name, I mean?

GIRL—It's Robert Findlay, sir; Bob Findlay, up the stairs.

PEARSLEY—All right, all right! Jis take this Green-back now,
I kinder guess you need it more'n I—
Thar, little un, don't cry, I'll fix yer up.

(Takes off a shawl, and while he is wrapping it about and caressing her, three ruffians approach from behind, throw a blanket over his head, then a rope, and after a desperate struggle two of them pull him into the alley.)

3rd RUFF.—Thunder an' lightning! now that job'll pay—
Well, he'll not stand in Wilkes's way to-night.
We'll see if his old chum is prowlin' round.

(Armstrong comes cautiously across at the moment, and tracks them into the alley.)

Scene opens:—Showing through private box in Ford's Theatre where part of the "American Cousin" is being played, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, Major and Miss —— watching the play.

LIN.—Ha, ha! Dundreary beats the cousin there.

MAJOR—In Great Britain that's the greatest part, they say.
(Booth, with revolver concealed, is seen looking on, and hisses through his teeth:—

Yes, old gorilla, laugh! your time has come!

No cut throat Pearsley's here to save you now.)

Mrs. L.—How dreary poor Dundreary look'd just now!
They ought to let him have just one good sneeze.

(The play proceeds, as Booth is seen to fire; dropping the pistol, and exclaiming, "Sic Semper Tyrannus," he jumps over upon the stage, falling and wounding himself by catching his foot in a flag, hung over the box front. Mr. Lincoln falling back is surrounded by Mrs. L. and companions, who scream in anguish and consternation, and the cry prevails that the President is shot. Surgeons are called, and officers with others gather.)

GEN. GRANT—Immediately surround the house! all haste!

[*The pistol is handed to him.*]

And this frail thing has done so vast a wrong:

Lived there a man with nerve to still that heart!

Gracious heaven! what will our country do?

STAUNTON—Dead! dead! they say that Godlike man is dead.

Better be him, like Cæsar in his fall,

Than be the hunted miscreant who struck—

I cannot follow—cannot look again!

BUTLER—God will'd this blow, to seal his deathless fame!

(As they start to remove the dying Lincoln, another cry is raised on all hands that Seward and his son have been killed.)

End of Scene III, Act V.

ACT V.—SCENE IV.

(Stone wall, with trees and bushes, and open country in distance—
Stoddard, Pearsley, Armstrong, Brownley, Black Bob, Officers,
etc., in search.)

STODDARD—Why think you this his route, I see no signs?

PEARSLEY—No signs, no signs! why Cap'n jist look here!
Why here's his horse's measure to a T.

2nd OFF.—Horse's measure, explain yourself, my man!

PEARSLEY—Wall, Armstrong, Bob an' I, I swow-ou-ou!
At Baltimore, jist fastened on this shoe,
Or fastened off, I'd better say, I guess;

[*Fitting it to the tracks.*]

You see it fits the measure to a pin!

2nd OFF.—Well, sure enough, he can't be far away,
Push on my men, make search, he's near at hand!
I hate to look upon so vile a wretch.

PEARSLEY—But you knew Lincoln as a public man—(*weeping*).

STODDARD—We knew him long ago, it matters not—
I understand, I comprehend your grief—
It matters not, we have our orders strict,
We take Booth living, if it can be done
Fire not upon him till you hear the word!
Push on! push on, and follow up the track.

[*Exeunt all on search.*]

(As they leave, a wretched looking, half-starved man, limping, peers
from the bushes, and gazes on the party.)

BOOTH—They've tracked me! gods, I see the game is up!
Gold, stronger than affection, buys one's friends;
Yet homeless, foodless, countryless, I feel—
But for this leg, I yet would have a chance.
The thought but struck me, as I struck the stage,
Was it not God, who crushed these gritting bones;—
Some Providence thus cutting off my flight!

[*Looking after his pursuers.*]

That devil's shadow, Pearsley, has escaped;
And were I on that horse's back just now,
That riderless and unrestrained they track,
The sooner might this gath'ring tempest break
And smother out this doomed worthless life,
And launch me into death's untrodden courts
Beyond the reach of mocking millions' sneers—
Of being strangled by a common rope!
As that freed horse goes dashing from me now,
Go hopes and aspirations ill matured:
That promised welcome, if I reached but here,
In isolation changes to a coarse disgust—
No hand to dress this bruised dragging limb;
And this the chivalry for which I struck!
I thought to be an idol—hero—here:

Where are the worshippers, of which I dream'd ?

[*Two men are seen gazing at some hand bill.*

Now staring at these government rewards.

Avenger and deliverer—to be—

All wounded, starving, sleepless, here I stand—

Life's golden visions into nightmares turned,

That waiting not for night come all the day,

Their demons marshalling on my heart and brain !

I look to where ambition's finger waved—

Perdition absolute and night brood there,

And crushing though the space that intervenes,

Dark seething waves of blood and shame, roll on,

Tearing from me all I ever loved :

I hear fresh sounds again—I'll seek my lair.

(Hides again, as two men draw near conversing.

1st CITIZEN—A hundred thousand dollars, think of that !

2nd Do.—Wal, thar it is. I think the thing was right,

Or least I think it had tu be, and war—

1st CIT.—Think you if we hook him they will come down ?*

2nd.—Wal, yeas, I think that Jonathan will fork.

1st CIT.—Then let us try, 'twar this way he was seen.

[*Exeunt both.*

BOOTH (*stepping out and looking around*)—

I know not if 'tis gold or blood they snuff !

I'd sooner rush to yonder soldiers' arms

Than let these patriotic traitors win—

'Tis getting late and I must crawl away ;

Oh for a crust to hush these pangs within !—

That gnawing at my vitals lap for blood—

Wounds, disappointment, hunger, thirst—then death !

How soon has all I wished for changed to these !

But curses on the earth : this air I breathe :

Aye ! curses on Divinity assumed—

Black curses on my country and my kind !

Nor food nor consolation, bed or drink,

They offer, or escape ; I curse them all !

(Selects a big stick for a staff, and begins to hobble off under the shadow of the wall.)

If strength to wield my weapons yet holds out,

Some more I'll send to settle their account.

On finding my unmounted horse, I fear

They may return, and take me weakened thus—

I must have food to manufacture strength.

[*Exeunt.*

End of Scene IV.

ACT V.—SCENE V.

Scene—Early morning, old barn and out buildings, with plain country in the distance. Officers, Soldiers, Pearsley, Armstrong, Brownley, and others surrounding the barn.

* Means to pay.

ARMSTRONG (*sotto voice*).—My God, I wish he would give up at once !

(*Looking through a crack*) He stands doom'd man, revolver in each hand.

And other arms—a human beast at bay !

But in defence were we allowed to fire

Just through this crack, how soon I'd end his pain.

1st OFFICER—'Tis at one's peril if a shot is fired.

PEARSLEY—He's but a beast, an' sich will not stan' fire ;
I've got a plan if all else fails tu work,
He's worse nor wolves, we used tu smoke them out.

BROWNLEY—Poor Lincoln saved my life—I'd give it now
To catch the murderer of that noble man ;

But if from out the grave his voice could speak,

He'd plead, he'd pray 'gainst such a cruel act !

What burn, and by that act a martyr make !

PEARSLEY—You wrong me, lad ; ne'er fear he's goin tu burn ;
I've seen it tried on injins and on whites,

Horn spoons an' forks ! They'd rather swing than roast.

They thought they'd got me caged, an chain'd tu—ha ! (*musings.*)

Ah ! yes ; tu think they caught me nappin' so—

An stole me from my friend. Poor Abe ! Poor Abe ! (*overcome.*)

STODDARD—Our friend is right, but let me try a word.

[*Puts his mouth near an aperture.*]

Lost man ! there's not a chance for your escape !

Although all time cannot your crime excel—

Our orders are to harm your person not,

Unless perchance all other measures fail.

Come forth and stand before a righteous court,

And force us not to kill you like a dog !

BOOTH (*from within*)—What care I for your righteous courts or dogs ?

Come one, come all ! I go not hence alive !

I have twelve shots, eight die who enter first.

I've killed the greatest of your tribe—come on !

Come on ! I hunger—thirst for blood—more blood !

1st OFFICER—Have done with imprecations vile, and threats ;

Would you with hope of mercy shed more blood ?

Your skirts are crimson now with precious gore.

Secure by giving up, some time to pray.

BOOTH—To pray ! Who asks for time to pray ? Not I !

Come on ! I'd kill a dozen more and die !

If I have been deceived I've earned a name ;

I'd redden up the record yet—advance !

PEARSLEY (*sotto*)—Now Captin, let me speak ! I'll put it strong.

1st OFFICER—'Tis idle ; but you have the leave to speak.

PEARSLEY—Young man, just let me speak ! You've got the pluck—

As far as game's consarned, we call you game.

Brute that you are, you're kinder sorter brave.

We would not roast brave men like pigs, come out !

Don't think like hungry fishes to a hook,

Right at your muzzles we will run our heads
 Give me my chice, I'll die some other way—
 Come out, and if you kill me let it went ;
 Remember tho', I shoot you if I like—
 That is, of course, if I hev leave tu fire ;
 But this I don't intend to do, jest now—
 Before we'll ventur in, we'll singe you out ;
 I tell you hanging's nothing like to fire !

BOOTH—I know that lovely voice, 'tis Pearsley speaks—

[*Pearsley dodges as a shot is fired.*]

Take that, I've got a plenty for some more !

PEARSLEY—You missed me, young un, tho' the shot was good ;
 Captin jest fire that barn, and he'll come out !
 I'll bet roast punkin on it, he gives in.

STODDARD (*sotto voice*)—When all else fails, I'll try the plan you name !

(*To Booth*)—You've had our promise of no harm ; once more—
 I'd take not yours, nor for it sacrifice
 Another life, till so compelled to do—
 All parley ends—ten minutes is the most—
 Then if you come not forth, we'll fire the barn !

[*Another shot from within strikes near the Officer.*]

BOOTH—You've got my answer, kindle up your fire !

PEARSLEY (*pointing his gun at a crack*)—Captin' with your leave
 I'll cut this matter short !

I swow-to-kits we're losing precious time !

OFFICER (*counting the minutes with his watch*)—

He's got three minutes, then if not out we'll try your plan
 (*Low to Pearsley*)—But never let him burn !
 All watch and if the flames then move him not,
 Before he suffocates you'll have to shoot !

(*To Booth*)—Your time is up ! we now shall strike the match !

PEARSLEY (*striking and throwing in a match as another shot is heard*)—

I tell you when the smoke and flames crawl close,
 And not 'till then, you'll see him crawling out.

BROWNLEY (*looking through a crack*)—

Dodge Pearsley ! dodge ! he's aiming thro' at you !

[*Three shots are heard as Pearsley jumps aside.*]

PEARSLEY—I thank you, boy, he'd like to rub me out !

[*Fire and smoke are now seen through the crevices.*]

BROWNLEY—My God ! I'm 'fraid the madman means to roast !

(*Pointing up*)—He's on that side now breathing thro' a hole !

ARMSTRONG (*looking*)—The flames sweep near, he's rushing for the door !

STODDARD—Watch close, if he attempts to fire, why shoot.

(*The wretched smoke-begrimmed, half-starved looking man, comes out with a revolver in one hand and a long knife in the other, and seeking where to bestow more of his five remaining shots, falls mortally wounded as his pistol goes off in the air.*)

PEARSLEY—I fired tu high, but for the best my lads !

[*They lift him carefully and try to restore him.*]

STODDARD—The wretched, misled man—perhaps 'tis well !

BOOTH—I killed—kill—ed the gi—ant of them all !

ARMSTRONG (*carefully holding the head of the dying man*)—
Poor man ! he's mutt'ring of his mother hear ?

PEARSLEY—I'll never strike a fallen foe ;

I sw—e—u—ou he's got a pretty face, was full ov pluck !

I wonder why he shot poor Abe, I do,

But blood for blood, he will'd it so to be !

(Booth gives one long gurgling groan and falls back dead, as all
gather around.)

PEARSLEY—This had tu be, an was I spose, jist so !

Poor Abe is dead—his murderer is dead—

I'll have tu go and *try* tu be, John Hanks !

I dun' no, dun-no—wonder why its so !

Curtain Drops.

THE END.



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