

Would like to hold this
Newark. August 8th to use in book at proper
point - 8/10 g. wt.

Mr Editor, I suppose every new man
must prove his identity. As I have been out of active
life some years, you probably have never heard of me.
I served on the staff of The Evening Post from
1858 to 1871, and as Alderman in 1872, besides
other matters.

I offer you the enclosed freely. You are
at liberty to use it in whole or in part, or to compress
it to your taste.

But I think it gives you a link in the
in the chain, that ought to be preserved.

Yours truly

Alfred W. Aldrich

To the Editor of McClure's Magazine:

I have just read Mr. Dana's Reminiscences with much interest. Most of the matters of which he writes I remember well. The story of Mrs. Handspeith should be more thoroughly told, as it is part of a long chain in the contemplated crime, the murder of Mr. Lincoln.

We had good reason in 1864 to apprehend a riot on Election day. We could overhear men talking on ferry boats and elsewhere, and dark hints were uttered here ^{and} there. I wrote a letter myself to the President ^{October 13th} entreating him to place Gen. B. F. Butler in command, as the man best competent to control a riotous populace. Whether my letter was ever read, I never knew, but General Butler came and was the right man in the place.

It has been said that J. M. W. Booth assassinated President Lincoln in revenge for the execution of a friend; Lincoln promising to reprieve him but Mr. Seward insisting upon his death. This was too unlike Mr. Seward to be true. The letters picked up by Mrs. Handspeith are conclusive. In this connection, I wish to add another statement.

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In June 1895 I visited Professor J. B. Turner at his home in Jacksonvill, Illinois. A son of Prof. Turner was one of the wounded at the second battle of Manassas, and he had hurried to Washington to look out for him, as he was an old-time friend of Mr. Lincoln he paid his respects. It was in the hot midsummer season as every one will remember. Prof. Turner told me that he found the President on his way from Washington to a house in the country, escorted by Gen. David Hunter with a guard, "It was the first thing to encourage me" said the veteran Professor, "Lincoln was always careless of his personal safety."

It will be out of place for me to repeat the conversation. But this is a point in regard, Prof. Turner described - thickets a clump of trees beside the highway. Behind it, he declared John Wilkes Booth was lurking, with the purpose then and there to murder the President. The guard which Gen. Hunter had constrained the Lincoln to permit, seemed to justify him.

Prof. Turner afterwards published this story in a newspaper in Chicago, and sent me a copy. He was a man of the most sensitive honor and the strictest veracity. He was a pioneer settler of Morgan county, one of the first professors in the Illinois College, and was active in procuring the establishment of an Agricultural College in the State. I saw

him in Springfield in 1857 in the chair,
 then ~~and~~ I was engaged with the Normal
 University. The Orange Range
 which he induced the farmers to cultivate
 for hedges, is no inept monument of the stern
 and rugged veteran.

Yet I had hesitated to believe
 the story implicitly, fearing that with the
 decay of age, the old nonagenarian had
 imagined it. I had used the statement
 of Chiniquy with like distrust; but the
 reminiscences of the Iowa campaign the
 truth of the account. It is plain that
 the murder of Abraham Lincoln was deliberately
 planned, years before its consummation; and
 am equally convinced that it was without
 the knowledge or even the sympathy of the
 men who were ~~cont~~ fighting in the Confederate
 army.

I distrust sensational literature and
 avoid it all I reasonably can. Certainly I
 would not like to create an unkind feeling.
 But the assassination of Abraham Lincoln
 was the Crime of the Century, and every poet
 in relation to it should be thought to light

Very truly yours

Alexander Milder

5 Wall St., New York, August 8, 1868