

Springboro Ohio

10-6-1886

S. S. McClure Co.

New York City

I have, during the
present year, been an
interested reader of the "Life
of Lincoln", published in your
valuable magazine.

I will therefore enclose
to you a clipping from the
National Soldiers Home items
which appeared in the Dayton
[Ohio] Evening Herald of
September 21st.

Thinking that
perhaps it may prove of

some value to you x

If I may be pardoned
making the suggestion,
I should say to you that
the Salchiers Home located near
Dayton, could furnish abundant
material for an interesting
magazine article x

I do not remember
that I have ever seen but
one history and description of
the Home published x And
that in all particulars was
not correct.

Respectfully
Kellie Janney Moor
Springboro
Warren Co. Ohio

It is more than probable that the event England and the other nations would give in. *Sept. 21*

SOLDIERS' HOME.

A Description of the Assassination of President Lincoln as Given by Mr. W. T. Kent, an Eye-Witness.

An eye-witness of the assassination of President Lincoln was a guest of the Home during the past week, in the person of Mr. W. T. Kent, an expert accountant, of the Inspector-General's Department, U. S. A. Mr. Kent, who was boarding in Washington, went to Ford's Theatre on the memorable night of April 14, 1864, more to see General Grant, who was expected to be present, and who had so recently received the sword of Lee at Appomattox, than he did to see the play—"Our American Cousin." He sat near the box occupied by President and Mrs Lincoln, and when he heard the fatal shot fired by assassin Booth, he supposed that the sound came from behind the scenes.

The report of the weapon was followed by the appearance of Booth, who, in vaulting over the railing of the box, caught the stirrup on one of his boots in a flag draped about the balustrade. It was soon disengaged, and Booth, with dagger raised above his head, stepped forward on the stage and shouted those well-remembered words: "Sic semper tyrannis!—the South is avenged."

Mr. Kent jumped up, hurried to the box, and was the third person to enter it. Mr. Lincoln was lying on the floor, where he had fallen; Mrs. Lincoln was wringing her hands and crying: "He is dead! my God, he is dead!"

One of the men who had preceded Mr. Kent to the box, stepped to the railing and asked if there was a surgeon in the house.

A man near the front row of seats replied, "I am a surgeon." He came to the box, and Mr. Kent assisted him to enter it. After stooping over Mr. Lincoln he asked, "Who has a knife?" Mr. Kent replied, "I have," at the same time handing him a small pocket-knife. The surgeon used it to cut Mr. Lincoln's clothing open, supposing he had been wounded about the breast. A few seconds later, however, he discovered the wound in Mr. Lincoln's head, and gave all the medical aid it was possible to render. In the meantime, Laura Keene, who was the star of the company, entered the box and took Mr. Lincoln's head in her arms, the blood from his wound staining her dress.

After the removal of Mr. Lincoln from the theatre Mr. Kent hurried to his boarding house near by to tell his fellow-boarders the awful news. When he reached the house he could not find his latch-key, and supposing he had dropped it when he pulled his knife from his pocket to give it to the surgeon, hurried back to the theatre and again entered the box. The lights had been turned low, and he moved his feet about the floor in the hunt for his key. He felt something beneath his right foot, stooped down and picked it up, and found that it was the Derringer pistol used by Booth in shooting the President. He gave it to the authorities and was, as history records, one of the important witnesses in the most lamentable tragedy in all our country's history.

Mr. Kent still has the knife used by the surgeon in cutting open Mr. Lincoln's clothing, and he says the picture of all he saw on that ill-fated night is before him now as distinctly as it was at that fearful time.

Mr. Kent left for his home in Washington today, where he has a son and daughter. His beloved wife died less than a year ago—in fact he was called away from the Home by her fatal illness last October, while making his annual examination here. Mr. Kent is one of the most efficient accountants in the employ of the government.

For some time the management of the