Copy of editorial in "ALTON TELEGRAPH & DEMOCRATIC REVIEW", issue of October 1st, 1842, relating to the Lincoln--Shields duel on the Missouri bank of the Mississippi river, opposite Alton, Illinois.

OUR CITY

Was the theatre of an unusual scene of excitement during the last week, arising from a visit of two distinguished gentlemen of the city of Springfield, who, it was understood, had come here with a view of crossing the river to answer the "requisitions of the code of honor", by brutally attempting to assassinate each other in cold blood.

We recur to this matter with pain and the deepest regret. Both are, and have been, our personal friends. Both we have ever esteemed in all the private relations of life, and consequently regret that what we consider an imperative sense of duty we owe to the public, compels us to recur to the disgraceful and unfortunate occurrence at all. We, however, consider that these gentlemen have both violated the laws of the country, and insist that neither their influence, their respectability nor their private worth, should save them from being made amenable to those laws they have violated. Both of them are lawyers--both have been to the Legislature of this State, and aided in the construction of laws for the protection of society--both exercise no small influence in community--all of which, in our estimation, aggravates instead of mitigating their offense. Why, therefore, they should be permitted to escape punishment, while a friendless, penniless and obscure person, foe a much less offense, is hurried to the cells of our county jail, forced through a trial, with scarcely the forms of law, and finally immured within the dreary walls of a Penitentiary, we are at a loss to conjecture. It is a partial and disreputable administration of justice, which, though in accordance with the spirit of the age, we most solemnly protest against. Wealth, influence and rank, can trample upon the laws with impunity; while poverty is scarcely permitted to utter a word in its defense if charged with crime in our miscalled temples of justice.

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Among the catalogue of crime that disgraces the land, we look upon none to be more aggravated and less excusable than that of duelling. It is the calmest, most deliberate, and malicious species of murder--a relict of the most cruel barbarism that ever disgraced the darkest periods of the world--and one which every principle of religion, virtue and good order, loudly demands should be put a stop to. This can be done only by a firm and unwavering enforcement of the law, in regard to duelling, towards all those who so far forget the obligations they are under to society and the laws which protect them, as to violate its provisions. And until this is done, until the civil authorities have the moral courage to discharge their duty and enforce the law in this respect, we may frequently expect to witness the same disgraceful scenes that were enacted in our city last week.

Upon a former occasion, when under somewhat similar circumstances our city was visited, we called upon the Attorney General to enforce the law, and bring the offenders to justice. Bills of indictment were preferred against the guilty: but there the matter was permitted to rest unnoticed and unexamined. The offenders in this instance, as in the former, committed the violation of the law in Springfield: and we again call upon Mr. Attorney General Lamborn, to exercise a little of that zeal which he is continually putting in requisition against less favored but no less guilty offenders, and bring ALL who have been concerned in the late attempt at assassination to justice. Unless he does it, he will prove himself unworthy the high trust that has been reposed in him.

How the affair ~~finally terminated, not having to take the trouble~~ to enquire, we are ~~unable to say~~. The friends of Mr. SHIELDS and Mr LINCOLN claim it to have been settled upon terms alike honorable to both, notwithstanding the hundred rumors--many of which border upon the ridiculous--that are in circulation. We are rejoiced that both were permitted to return to the bosom of their friends and trust that they will now consider, if they did not do it before, that rushing unprepared upon the untried scenes of Eternity, is a step too fearful in its

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consequences to be undertaken without preparation.

We are astonished to hear that large numbers of our citizens crossed the river, to witness a scene of cold-blooded assassination between two of their fellow-beings. It was no less disgraceful than the conduct of those who were to have been actors in the drama. Hereafter, we hope the citizens of Springfield will select some other point to make public their intention of crossing the Mississippi to take each other's life than Alton. Such visits cannot be attended not only with regret, but with unwelcome feelings; and the fewer we have, the better.

We should have alluded to this matter last week but for our absence at Court.

This is copied verbatim. There are several erros of grammar and of spelling which are copied from the paper.

L.D.Yager.

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