

5th

I had seen by the papers of the previous evening that Pres. Lincoln would attend Ford's Theater accompanied by Gen. Grant to whom he had extended an invitation. But Gen. Grant with his characteristic modesty ^{had} declined the invitation preferring ^{to} go to New Jersey with Mrs Grant where his children were ~~staying~~ ^{staying}. Consequently Pres. Lincoln, his wife, Major Rathbone, and a Miss Harris were the ^{only} occupants of the box.

The presidential party were received with a succession of cheers as they entered the hall a little before nine o'clock, and the orchestra played "Hail to the chief."

It was the impression of every one that the shot was a part of the play. Major Rathbone thought thus until looking around he saw the smoke and a man with a drawn

dagger in his hand, who he at once seized with both hands. In the scuffle which ensued Booth made a thrust at the Major which pierced his arm near the shoulder and grazed his breast. Booth's coat collar gave way, and he escaped. The smoke was so dense that the parties did not get a fair view of the man, and Mrs Lincoln did not see him until he leaped out of the box upon the stage.

The President was at once ~~car-~~ried insensible, but at first no wound was found, but very soon the fact was revealed that he had been shot in the head, and he was tenderly carried to Mrs Peterson's house nearly opposite.

Very soon after the order had been carried to Gen. Augurs headquarters the news was conveyed to the different encampments, and soon thousands of men stood to their arms while the streets were patrolled in every direction by mounted ^{men} ^{and}