

TRIAL OF LINCOLN'S ASSASSINS.

Where it was Held—The Truth of History Preserved.

The New York Sun having made the statement that the assassins of Lincoln were tried in the same courtroom that Galtzau's trial was held, our esteemed contemporary the *Republican* takes the matter in hand and sets it right, all for truth, as the immortal J. N. would say. Barring the fact that the "Government penitentiary" was no longer a penitentiary, but an arsenal, the *Republican's* informant is correct. He says:

"The trials of the conspirators occurred at the Government penitentiary where the prisoners were confined. It was down at the Arsenal, or what is now known as the Washington Barracks, and two splendid residences, used as officers' quarters now, represent two wings of that old institution. In the space between these two houses the four conspirators were hanged."

"Did you know any of the conspirators?"

"Yes, I know Dave Harold intimately, and with John Wilkes Booth I had a speaking acquaintance. Harold was a drug clerk on Eighth street southeast, between I and K streets. His mother lived in the neighborhood. Dr. Francis B. Walsh kept the apothecary store, and was also an old clerk in the Quartermaster's Department of the Marine Corps, whose headquarters was one block north. Harold was a harum-scarum young fellow, fond of his dog and gun. He was a good fellow to go with down into Maryland on a hunt."

"Was he a crazy young fellow, as some people represented him to be?"

"No. I'm glad you mentioned that. John Clappitt, who, with Fred A. Aiken, defended Mrs. Surratt, published an article in the *North American Herald* two or three years ago, in which he did injustice to Harold and his family by stating that he (Harold) was a half-witted fellow. Half-witted fellows were not acting as drug clerks then or now. Harold was not half-witted by a long shot. The meanest thing about him was his politics. He was a young copperhead. Clappitt's article was a labored production written to show that General Hancock had nothing to do with the death of Mrs. Surratt."

"Did anybody ever suppose he had?"

"Oh, yes. You know he gave the signal for the trap to fall which launched the four conspirators into eternity, but he was obeying orders only and could not stop the execution any more than I could."

"Did you see Harold or Booth after the tragedy?"

"Yes; both of them. I saw and spoke to Harold on a monitor at the navy yard. He was heavily ironed down in the hold of the vessel. He looked up, and laughingly called me by name. Booth's body lay on the upper deck of the same vessel. His handsome face had a cloth over it. The body was there but a few hours when it was taken down to the penitentiary. Everybody knew Harold at the navy yard section of the city, and many of the workmen saw him while a prisoner on the monitor. His father had been a clerk in the naval store in the yard some years before."