A SAD REVELATION.

Mrs. Mary Lincoln, the Widow of the Late President, Adjudged Insane.

At Last the Strange Freaks of the Past Ten Years Are Understood.

And the Unfriendly Criticism Will Change to Heartfelt Commiseration.

The Poor Lady a Victim to Many Strange and Startling Hallucinations.

Walls Had Voices, Indians Troubled Her Scalp, and She Had a Mania for Shopping.

A Sorrowful Spectacle in Court.

The conduct of the widow of the lamented Abraham Lincoln has been criticised by many people since the death of her husband. Some have accused her of serious indiscretion, while others have pitied her and pronounced her actions the result of mental weakness. She has certainly been credited with some extraordinary freaks of conduct within the past ten years, as was averred yesterday, by a score of her friends and acquaintances. Her eccentricities have frequently been the subject of comment, and her methods have been anxiously studied by members of her family, as well as by life-long friends of President Lincoln, who have ever been interested in the welfare of his relict; and it has become a matter of serious consideration with them as to its cause. Gradually the terrible truth has dawned upon their minds that her reason has become partially dethroned. Those who have known her intimately knew her to be of a very excitable nature, and since the assassination of her husband they have observed peculiar traits in her character which they never noticed before. The first thing that attracted the attention of the public was

THE VOLUNTARY DISPLAY BY HER OF HER MATCHLESS WARDROBE,

for the purpose of gain. This was criticised by the people as being an act unworthy the widow of our nation's martyr, and cries of shame were suppressed within many a patriot's bosom. This action on her part years ago, and soon after the death of Mr. Lincoln, will be viewed in an entirely different light now by the people who read in THE TIMES this morning an account of the terrible misfortune which has overtaken her and her family. All her former actions are now explained, with the motive which prompted them, and the public will pity the poor woman who has lived alone, almost entirely apart from her near relatives and friends for so long a time. Universal sympathy will take the place of censure, for her actions will be understood now.

A WOMAN OF WEAK NATURE.

Mrs. Lincoln has never been considered a woman of strong nature, and, being so closely connected with a man of noble purposes and sound judgment, the contrast was the more striking. It has been entertained by her near friends and relatives that she has been the victim of mental aberration, and they have studiously avoided making the discovery public, but have striven to conceal the fact, in the hope that she would eventually recover. In this, however, they have been sadly disappointed, and yesterday disclosed the secret to the people of the nation, who will this morning again mourn the cowardly assassination of the beloved president.

At 2 o'clock

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON,

a large concourse of people assembled in the county court-room. Among them were observed some of the most prominent citizens of Chicago—lawyers, judges, merchants, and capitalists; men who are seldom seen in places of this kind, to the neglect of their business, unless something of more than usual importance is to occur. An air of mystery pervaded the place, and nobody had anything to say, except in whispers and in confidence. All appeared to be waiting for an event which was anticipated, though exactly what that event was to be, was seemingly known only to a few. The reporters were eyed uneasily, and they were as much in the dark as anyone. The judges and lawyers passed silently and solemnly about the rooms, from one to another, and held whispered consultations, as though arrangements were being made for a funeral or a critical operation which would involve the life or death of a human being. A double row of chairs were placed against the west end of the court-room, and twelve solid men took seats in them. It was evident a jury trial of no little moment was about to take place.

At length the solemn arrangements were completed, the door was opened, the crowd parted from left to right, and in walked no less a personage than

MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

accompanied by Mr. S. M. Turner, of the Grand Pacific hotel, and one or two others. She was assigned a chair at the end of one of the tables, near the center railing, and facing the court. She was attired in the deepest mourning, and wore a long veil of black crape, thrown over her left shoulder and to one side of her face, which looked pale and perplexed. Her son, Robert Lincoln, entered almost immediately in company with Hon. Isaac N. Arnold, who was retained, at the request of Mrs. Lincoln, as her counsel. Robert advanced and shook the hand of his mother cordially, after which he presented his father's old friend, Mr. Arnold. The latter took a seat at the right and as near confidentially as her, while her son occupied a chair at her left hand.

A jury was then empaneled, the bailiff announced that the trial on hand was for the purpose of testing the sanity of Mrs. Mary Lincoln, and by the direction of the court proceeded to call the roll of

THE JURORS.

All answered to their names twice, as follows: Dr. S. C. Blake, Hon. C. B. Farwell, C. M. Henderson, S. M. Moore, L. J. Gage, H. C. Durand, J. A. Farnsworth, Wm. Stewart, D. R. Cameron, J. A. Mason, J. McGregor Adams, and Thomas Cogswell.

Hon. I. N. Arnold announced himself attorney for the defense, and B. F. Ayer conducted the examination of witnesses. Hon. Leonard Swett was also present, and took part in the proceedings. The testimony of the witnesses was unanimously to one effect that Mrs. Lincoln has been subject to occasional fits or the hallucinations of mind would ever exhibit. Some of the testimony was of the most startling nature, and served to show a great degree of forbearance and patience on the part of her son and her friends. From the nature of a portion of

THE EVIDENCE,

Mrs. Lincoln is believed to have been for a number of years a confirmed Spiritualist, and a part of her faith seems to have been that the departed spirit of her dead husband was constantly hovering near her, directing her movements and counseling with her upon every subject of possible interest to her. It appears that she even went so far as to make preparations for her death, which she firmly believed would occur on the 6th of September last. She seems to have had no appreciation of money, in one sense, though she was declared by all the witnesses to be fond of driving what she considered "a good bargain." She has evinced

A MANIA FOR SHOPPING,

and has accumulated a large amount of valuable goods, which, however, did not appear to have been selected with a view of benefiting herself. She would purchase the most expensive and absurd articles of hotel and household goods, such as no one might never anticipate deriving any benefit from. Her insanity has assumed a variety of shapes, and while she has invested thousands of dollars in her purchases, and in various and fanciful ornaments, she has not exhibited any startling manifestations of them in the way of personal decoration. In the rooms of her room at the Grand Pacific, it is reported there are hundreds of packages unopened, as they came from the stores, that were never been opened.

THIS COLLECTION

embraces a great variety of articles—remnants of silk, dress patterns, jewelry, lace curtains, etc., too numerous to mention. She is said to have $57,000 in government securities, which, until a short time ago, were deposited for safe-keeping in the Fidelity Savings Bank. Here another phase of her aberration is illustrated. She has labored under the hallucination that the city of Chicago was going to be subjected to another conflagration, and several times she has imagined that it was already on fire. With this bent upon her, she went to the bank and drew out her bonds, together with some dozen trunks of all things which were also deposited there. The former she carried about with her for some time in the pockets of her dress, and the latter

SHE SENT TO MILWAUKEE,

to await her orders. They are still in the hands of the American Express company at that place. The bonds are also believed to be still in her possession. According to the testimony of her son, Robert, she sold one of the $1,000 bonds a short time ago, in order to obtain ready money. She draws, besides her other revenues, a pension of $3,000 annually from the government for her support.

Another feature of her derangement was exhibited in a constant fear which seemed to possess her that she was about to be subjected to personal injury, and that

HER LIFE WAS IN DANGER;

that she was being pursued by rebels, and fears of every description; that an Indian spirit was at times working upon her head, raising her scalp and taking wires from her head, from springs from her jaws, and loosening the bones of her face.

During the trial the poor lady sat quietly in her chair, looking at the witnesses who were swearing away her liberty, with a steadfast gaze, intermingled with a certain wildness of expression in her keen dark eyes which contrasted painfully with her pallid features. Occasionally, as a witness was giving his testimony, she would turn her head toward her counsel, and seem to protest against the assertions being made, and several times her voice was heard in low but vehement denunciations of the proceedings. Particularly was this the case during the testimony of Robert. Almost perfect silence reigned in the court-room, and the audience listened, with breathless interest.

The first witness called was

DR. WILLIS DANFORTH,

who testified substantially as follows: He had been called to attend Mrs. Lincoln first while she was residing on Wabash avenue; had treated her for nervous derangement and fever in her head; had noticed peculiar symptoms in the patient, and unmistakable indications of derangement; she seemed possessed with the idea that some one was taking wires out of her head, or wires out of her eyes (particularly the left one), at times taking bones out of her cheeks and feeling a detaching steel springs from her jawbones; she imagined the Indian at work on them essential to her life. In this state, this was the peculiarity of the hallucination to which she was subject for a long time; she imagined her scalp was being lifted by the same invisible hand and placed in the hands of the spirit in the invocations accompanying this ghastly work with someone—all the while felt not even experience pains, but at times she was sensitive of a curious sensation. He continued for some time. Witness first attended the patient in 1873; he attributed the disturbances in her head to some cause affecting her body, and the disturbance of her nervous organization; he at length discontinued his visits, the patient having improved in health, and did not see her again for several weeks; saw her again in March, 1874; continued to visit her up to September, most of the time daily; he thought the disturbances of her head, and a general indisposition and debility appeared to pervade her system—the same condition of affairs which he had noticed in the first visits, causing, severe pains, tormenting pains for her, and voices from her eyes; noticed no other vagaries at that time, except that she thought she was going to die some time, and that she had been informed by the spirit of her dead husband, in fact, of the time she would be called away; she fixed the time on the 6th of September; saw her last interview with her had with Mrs. Lincoln was at the Grand Pacific, when she made her appearance this spring; she took a spoon from her bonnet and dropped the spoon with coffee; she drank two cups, and showed the many things she received as ever; since and remained and still from the which ever; This witness believed Mrs. Lincoln to be insane, and a fit subject for an asylum.

MR. S. M. TURNER,

manager of the Grand Pacific hotel, was next called and sworn, and testified that he was acquainted with Mrs. Lincoln; she came to the hotel on the 15th of March last; she appeared perfectly well at the time; she expressed great anxiety as to her son's health; witness never noticed anything peculiar about her except one day; she told him that she had made this arrangement when she first came to the house; she had requested those some of the servants to sleep in her room, as she was afraid to sleep alone; she seemed to be afraid to sleep in the room as it was so nervous and excitable; her request was granted; on the morning of April 1 she left from her room early and on the stairs she was in the street with the lady in the office; she appeared with a shawl over her head, and wished to be accompanied; he requested witness to go into the reception-room with her, as she had something important to communicate to him; he went with her, and she remarked that there was something strange going on; that the whole house she was hearing; she was feeling better up; she requested witness to remain with her in her room, when he arrived at the door, she requested him to come in, and to sit down, which he did; she said she had received strange communications from a man who talked through the wall to her; he had told her that a man by the name of Spaulding had been sent to kill her, and requested her to send him to room 137; she requested witness to go with her to the room; witness told her that there was no such room in the house; she insisted upon going to the room, and witness accompanied her; there was no party there; she then wished to go to No. 137, 237, and lastly to room 28, which was a parlor; and she did not find the person she was looking for; she went back to her own room, but could not get over the hallucination; she did not want witness to leave her alone, as she was afraid; he left a servant with her, and returned to the office, promising to return again in 15 minutes; he had not been gone five minutes, when she again appeared at the office; she appeared nervous and anxious, and insisted upon his going to the reception room again with her; she wanted to see Mr. Shoemaker, who she said had been sent for and she said something was wrong; she believed the hotel was going to burn down; she wanted to go to some lady's room, where she would be safe; witness sent her to the room of Mrs. Gen. Dodge, but that lady was at breakfast in the ladies' ordinary; Mrs. Lincoln was afraid to stay alone; and witness carried her back again to her own room and left a servant with her; witness went up the third time to pacify her; this was the last time he heard from her that day; the next day he heard she was much better; her appearance was in those very unusual; she was in the habit of going out shopping once or twice a day; sometimes she walked and sometimes she would ride; it was seldom any friends called to see her; the prevailing opinion in the house was that it was not safe for her to remain there alone.

Question by Arnold—Did Mrs. Lincoln look as though she had a fever? Was she flushed? A. No her face was as white as it is to-day. There was more an expression of fear than anything else about her—a fear of personal violence.

MRS. HARRINGTON.

The next witness sworn was Mrs. Harrington, housekeeper at the Grand Pacific. She testified that she had known Mrs. Lincoln since early in the spring; had never seen her except when she was out; had never seen her in the lobby; had noticed that she was nervous and excitable; she was not like ladies in general; first, the small window in the wash-room disturbed her very much; she had one of the servants in the room with her; she expressed a constant anxiety about her son; she feared the malaria and its effect upon him; she had one of the chambermaids stay with her in her room two or three weeks; then she wanted witness to stay with her and occupy the same bed with her; witness did so; she was very strange; she would take medicine from several bottles left with her by Dr. Isham, mix it all together, and take it; the 1st of April she went to the office after Mr. Turner; she had been wild and nervous ever since she had been there; witness did not know of any purchases in particular which Mrs. Lincoln has made, but her closet was found full of packages, which were opened, just as they came from the stores; her manner never seemed rational; she was full of strange notions; witness never had much conversation with her; considered it unsafe for her to be alone at the hotel.

Mrs. Lincoln here asked whether it was allowable for witnesses to express an opinion as to the sanity of the subject. The court decided that it was, provided they confined their opinions to their own observations.

MARY GAVIN,

the servant who occupied the room with Mrs. Lincoln, being sworn, testified that the patient was always imagining that she heard noises through the walls and the floors, and that all was not well with her son; at one time she thought she heard voices through the walls and the floor all day, and she would stand in a particular place and hold conversation with an imaginary person; she brought her pocket-book had been stolen from her, and the voice told her it would be returned to her at 3 o'clock that afternoon; then again she thought some one was about to take her life; that it was not safe for her to remain in the hotel, and she was afraid to go to her own room, as the city was burning up; she was out shopping at least once a day and sometimes twice; there was a huge number of packages in the closet; witness did not know what they contained; had slept with her four weeks; Mrs. Lincoln frequently called her up during the night; did not want to be alone at all; she went across the hall to her son's room one night; witness thought she was not in her right mind; she was restless during the later part of the night; she slept toward morning; she kept the gas burning all night.

JOHN DEMINGER,

being sworn, testified that he was second waiter in the Grand Pacific hotel; he was sent for by Mrs. Lincoln one morning; went upstairs and saw her standing in her door; she said she wanted to see the tallest man in the dining-room; said she would go down on the elevator, and said "I'm afraid! I'm afraid!" She went down to the dining-room door, and witness went in and called Mr. Dodge.

MR. DODGE,

cashier at the Grand Pacific, stated that a lady came to the door of the dining-room one morning, and said she wanted to see the largest man in the room; he went to her; she wanted him to go up the elevator with her to her room; when she got to the elevator she wanted to see Mr. Turner; she wanted somebody to go with her to her room, as she was afraid; her manner appeared very much excited.

MR. SEATON,

agent for the American Express company, testified that the patient called on the 29th of April at the office, and wanted somebody to go to the Grand Pacific hotel and get some trunks which she wished to send up to Milwaukee; she asked if there could not be some arrangement made by which she could have them stored there until she had settled upon some place in Wisconsin where she would spend the summer; witness told her she could; he noticed nothing remarkable in her behavior; he got into the carriage with her and they drove to the hotel; noticed a number of parcels and packages in the carriage; then she began to act strangely and appeared excited; witness thought the trunks were at Milwaukee yet; there were 11 trunks.

EDWARD ISHAM

testified that he was a law partner with Robert Lincoln; had been with him about two years; about the 12th of last March he received a telegram from Mrs. Lincoln from Jacksonville, Fla., as follows:

To Edward Isham, 264 Wabash avenue: I am apprehensive that my son is ill. Telegraph me without delay. I leave for Chicago as soon as I receive your telegram.

Witness went to Robert's house and the two went to the telegraph office and telegraphed to her that she had a wrong impression; that her son was well; witness received several more telegrams of a similar nature from her, one of which, although addressed to him, read as though addressed to her son: "My dearly beloved son, rouse yourself and live for my sake. From this moment all I have is yours. Live for your mother. Dobner without fail." Tracing dispatches were sent by Robert and witness and the manager of the telegraph office to the managers of the telegraph offices at Jacksonville, and to intermediate points between that city and Chicago, so that Robert was kept advised of her whereabouts from the time she started for home until her arrival in the city; another dispatch was received by witness, which read as follows:

I start for Chicago to-night. You shall have money as soon as I arrive.

ROBERT LINCOLN

being sworn, corroborated the statements of the preceding witness; had no idea what caused the excitement in Florida unless it was mental aberration; did not know that she had seen a paragraph in one of the papers; witness never denied any of her money; on the contrary he had some of her money; she sent a letter to him for money, and he sent her $375; he met her at the depot when she came home; she seemed somewhat startled at seeing him; witness gathered his handful of her bags and requested her to come and drive to the carriage; she had been on the road 72 hours, and was very tired; he went out of her to go to his house, but she refused, saying she was going to the Grand Pacific; she acted strangely; she came to the Grand Pacific and he then noticed her extraordinary at the, and had started; she requested witness to occupy a room at the Grand Pacific as her guest, which offer he accepted, his wife being absent from the city; every night she came to her door to her night dress and knocked; witness would get up and go to the door and ask her to go back; witness told her of or awhile that if she did not stop such proceedings he should leave the hotel; one night she came to his room and he let her in; she wanted to sleep in his room the rest of the night; he allowed her to sleep in his bed and he laid down upon the sofa; one morning witness came up to the hotel to see his mother, being somewhat anxious about her; he met her in the hall, and she was determined to go down the elevator; she was partially dressed; he told her she wished to borrow some money; he did so in order to detain her in her room; she afterwards used to ask Mr. Turner that, and then she would see him; witness turned about, and when he looked for her again she was going down the elevator; he went to the door and called the elevator back again; he tried to persuade her to return to her room, but she refused; witness then compelled her to return by force; she was almost witness was going to kill her then, and screamed for help; she did not want Mrs. Gavin to leave her; she said she expected her pocket-book back at 3 o'clock; witness asked where it was, and she said the man who had been talking with her through the wall had got it, and would bring it back at 3 o'clock; witness told her she ought to know she was out of her head.

Mr. Albertson, salesman with Matson & Co., jewelers; James P. Stone, with Allen & Mackey, carpet and lace curtain dealers; Mr. Droppwitz, Mayo; T. C. Nashy, with Haskel Bros., trunks; Mr. Harlan, dry goods; testified to Mrs. Lincoln having made heavy purchases of them, and Drs. N. S. Davis, Isham, Johnson, and Smith testified as to their opinions regarding her mental aberrations.

Hon. Leonard Swett then made a short address to the jury, in which he explained the nature of the case, and the motives which prompted the action.

Following is the verdict of the jury:

We, the undersigned, jurors in the case of Mary Lincoln, alleged to be insane, having heard the evidence in the case, are satisfied that the said Mary Lincoln is insane, and is a fit person to be sent to a state hospital for the insane; that she is a resident of the state of Illinois and the county of Cook; that her age is 56 years; that the disease is of unknown duration; that the cause is unknown; that the disease is not hereditary; that she is not subject to epilepsy; that she is not a pauper; that she is not a suicidal tendency, etc., and that she is not a pauper.

The afflicted woman was removed to her room at the Grand Pacific, where she was placed under the charge of Dr. Patterson. This morning she will be taken to Batavia, at which place Dr. Patterson has a private institution located for the treatment of this unfortunate class, and where she will receive every attention that filial affection can suggest.