

The proceedings in the County Court yesterday in the case of Mrs. LINCOLN will have a painful interest. Nothing but an imperative sense of duty and of filial devotion could have compelled the institution of the inquiry. It has been generally known in the circle of the lady's acquaintances and personal friends that something of this kind would eventually be necessary. The terrible event of which she was an eye-witness has at last completed the dethronement of perfect reason. The long years of painful brooding over the dreadful homicide of her husband have gradually produced the necessity for the proceedings taken yesterday. To the Court, the gentlemen comprising the jury, the physicians, witnesses, relatives, and friends, the action taken was distressing in the extreme, but its necessity made them unanimous. Judge DAVIS, of the Supreme Court, the executor of the estate, and the Hon. JOHN T. STUART, of Springfield, Mrs. LINCOLN's cousin, also approve of what has been done. As will be seen from the evidence, Mrs. LINCOLN's mind has been for ten years the prey to growing madness, and this fact, now made public, will cast a new light on many of her past actions, which were harshly criticised by those who did not know her, and which, while understood by her personal friends, could not be explained by them, since to have done so would have been to have exposed her mental condition, which it was then hoped might improve.

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It will pain our readers to learn that Mrs. Lincoln, the widow of our martyred president, has been adjudged insane, and sent to a private lunatic asylum. The symptoms of her mental derangement have of late been painfully apparent to those around her, and, within the past few days, although her relatives and friends have striven to avoid it, it has been manifest that it would be necessary to place her under surveillance. However repugnant such a step might be, justice to the unfortunate lady and those related to her imperatively demanded that it be taken. Mrs. Lincoln and her family will have the sincere sympathy of the entire country in this emergency. It is to be hoped that her malady will give way under skillful medical treatment, and that she will soon be restored to the full possession of her mental faculties.

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