particular in which they did not vindicate themselves, temperately and manfully, from the misrepresentations which were heaped upon them. They declared their fidelity to the existing Union of the States, and their unwillingness to take any step involving a consideration of their severance from it, until its disruption, by the failure of all measures of compromise and conciliation should force the people of Maryland to select that fragment of the wreck which was fittest and worthiest to be trusted with their fortunes.

Abraham Lincoln, the President elect of the United States, left his home in Springfield, Illinois, accompanied by his family and a few friends, for the Federal Capital, on the 11th of February, 1861, and journeyed through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. It was a part of his arrangements to participate in the ceremony of raising the flag on Independence Hall at Philadelphia, on the 22d of February (Washington's birthday), and also to visit the Legislature at Harrisburg; and there taking a special train over the Northern Central Railroad, he was to arrive in Baltimore about 1 P. M., of Saturday, 23d of February, and after dining at the Eutaw House, continue his journey to Washington the same afternoon. This plan was changed. Mr. Lincoln proceeded to Harrisburg, where he was formally welcomed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and after his reception, he retired to his quarters at the "Jones' House" until it was time for his departure. About six o'clock in the evening he retired from the dinner-table on the plea of fatigue, and a few moments later, accompanied by his friend and biographer, Ward H. Lamon, quietly left the house and took a special train in waiting—an engine and one passenger car, for Philadelphia. In order to prevent his departure from Harrisburg from being known in Baltimore, the telegraphic wires were severed by an expert, and readjusted afterwards. The presidential train reached Philadelphia at 10.45 P. M., where Mr. Lincoln was met by friends and driven in haste to the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad station, where the regular eleven o'clock express train had been detained on his account. Unrecognized, he stepped into a sleeping car, which had been engaged for him and kept locked until his arrival. The train at once started, and passing through Baltimore in the night, reached Washington at six o'clock the next morning. Mr. Lincoln at once drove to Willard's Hotel, where he was met by Mr. Seward. So perfectly was this arrangement planned and carried out, that the news of Mr. Lincoln's arrival in Washington was not known with absolute certainty in Baltimore until nearly nine hours after he had passed through the city.

In the meantime, on Friday afternoon, February 22d, the Northern Central Railroad carried from Baltimore to Harrisburg a republican committee, composed of William G. Snethen, Judge William L. Marshall, Louis Blumenberg, James E. Bishop, William E. Gleeson, William E. Beale, of Baltimore, and —— Palmer, of Frederick, and Francis S. Corkran, to act as an escort to the President. On their arrival at Harrisburg they were joined by William

Gunnison and William E. Coale. Upon their arrival at the Jones House, where Mr. Lincoln and his party were stopping, this self-constituted committee made great efforts to see them, but were assured that the President elect had retired, and his room door was locked. Early on Saturday morning they again applied to see Mr. Lincoln, and were greatly disconcerted when Colonel Ellsworth, of Chicago Zouaves, informed them that "Mr. Lincoln is not in Harrisburg. He left this place last night, and is now safe in Washington." They thereupon returned with all speed to Baltimore.

A correspondent of the *Baltimore Exchange*, who accompanied the committee to Harrisburg, gives the following account of the extravagant precautions that were taken for the safe arrival of the presidential party in Baltimore:

"The officers of the Northern Central Railway Company had made the most careful and ample preparation for the transit of the Presidential party. Colonel J. S. Gittings and James C. Clarke, Esq., superintendent of the Northern Central Railroad, were both in Harrisburg, and were to accompany the party. Every precaution which human foresight could suggest had been taken to ensure safety over the road. The day previous, Mr. Clarke had taken a number of the master mechanics from the Baltimore machine shops to Harrisburg. On Friday night these men went to work and took the celebrated locomotive John H. Done apart, examined and tested every part of the machinery, and so far as mechanical skill could suggest, provided against the possibility of an accident. Duplicate pieces for each and every part of the machinery were placed on board the train, with screws and all the necessary appliances for repairing the breakage of any part of the engine.

"The cars were prepared expressly for the occasion. The same caution exercised in regard to the locomotive and cars, was also used along the route. At intervals of half a mile along the entire road, flag-men were stationed, who had watched the road the entire morning, At every bridge there was a watchman carefully guarding it. At no point along the route was there the least neglect; but everything and any contingency which an extensive experience of railroad affairs could suggest, were carefully provided for. Mr. Clarke had with him his only son, a boy five years of age, which was a good evidence that he did not fear danger from accident. Captain George A. Rawlings, a gentlemen widely known for his urbanity and skill as a conductor, had charge of the train, and the engineer was Mr. Gardiner Cobb, one of the most reliable and capable men in the country.

"About fifteen minutes of nine o'clock, the Express train took position on the siding. There were but few persons present, the crowd still lingered in and around the Jones House. The Baltimore committee, who were not yet assured that they would be allowed seats in the train, came to the cars looking troubled and dubious. Some of them now expressed the belief that the President had really gone before; whilst others clung to the belief that it was a ruse. The doubt could not last much longer, and while they were engaged in discussing the matter, cheers in the streets announced that the Presidential party was on its way to the depot.—In a short time the carriages made their appearance, and it was evident that the President was not with the party. There were Mrs. Lincoln, the two little Lincolns, and 'Bob' and his brother, but the President elect was nowhere to be seen. The committee looked crest-fallen, and immediately became solicitous about their passage home. With but little trouble they gained admission to the cars, and in a few minutes the train was on its way."

Upon the arrival of the train at the intersection of Charles and Bolton streets, Mrs. Lincoln and family alighted from the presidential car, and the train then proceeded to Calvert Station. It was received by an immense crowd with groans and hootings, but no personal violence was done to any one upon the train. Nearly the entire police force of the city, under the command of Marshal Kane and their respective captains, were on duty at the station and occupied positions inside, outside and around the depot. Superintendent Kennedy, of the New York police, in company with Police Commissionor Howard and Marshal Kane took a view of the disposition of the force, and Mr. Kennedy expressed himself in very complimentary terms of the appearance of the men, and the ample preparations to protect the President and his party from personal violence.

The Baltimore *American* of February 25th, 1861, in noticing the preparations made to preserve the peace of the city, said :

"Ample precautions were adopted to guard against any violation of the public peace. A large police force was detailed for duty at the depot, and to protect the President and his suite on their passage through the streets against the turbulent pressure of the crowds which he experienced in other cities on his route hither, and these measures of Marshal Kane, even if they had failed to restrain any expression of disapprobation, would certainly have secured Mr. Lincoln from insult, had such been intended."

The police had been upon the ground only a short time when Marshal Kane was officially notified by the police commissioners that Mr. Lincoln was certainly in Washington, and that the extra force of over three hundred men would not be required. Orders were given accordingly to march a portion of the men back to their respective stations, and soon after, the crowd at the depot quietly dispersed.

Mrs. Lincoln and family, on alighting from the presidential car, were immediately escorted to the private carriage of John S. Gittings, Esq.; and accompanied by that gentleman, Colonel Sumner and the Hon. Mr. Davis, was driven to Mr. Gittings' residence on Mount Vernon Place. The remainder of her party were quickly driven off to the Eutaw House. While at Mr. Gittings', Mrs. Lincoln is said to have expressed herself with much indignation in regard to the whole course thought fit by the advisers of Mr. Lincoln to have been pursued. She said that she had advised Mr. Lincoln not to depart from the route which he had first intended to take, and was the more satisfied of the folly of the movement when she had witnessed the extraordinary care and caution which had been taken by the officers of the railroad for the safe transit of the party to Baltimore. After dinner Mrs. Lincoln was driven in the same conveyance to the Camden street depot, and soon after joined her husband in Washington.

This sudden and secret hegira of Mr. Lincoln, was the subject of much speculation and condemnation. In Baltimore, his fugacious exploit disgusted more than it astonished the community. The citizens of that city, besides, had especial cause to be indignant at the course into which Mr. Lincoln had

weakly allowed himself to be led. By giving hasty credence to absurd and unfounded rumors touching the dangers which awaited him on his passage through this State, and by taking such extraordinary precautions against these mythical perils, he convinced thousands of persons of the truth of the slanderous reports which of late had been so freely circulated. No less a personage than Governor Hicks had occasioned much of this unfavorable opinion, as for a long time he kept the Washington authorities in alarm by warnings of a plot to seize the Federal capital, of which plot, he said, he had special information. Yet when called upon by Congress, and by Marshal Kane, to produce his evidence, to enable the latter to prevent the crime and disgrace said to be threatened, and bring the conspirators to punishment,[1] he had nothing to show beyond newspaper paragraphs and anonymous letters. And in reply to the letter of Marshal Kane, dated February 2d, 1861, he said, in addition, "I attach but little consequence to such reports," and "have never believed that any considerable number of the people of Baltimore, were engaged in such enterprises. That city, with comparatively few exceptions, is loyal." No single conspirator was arrested, or even pointed out; not a particle of proof of the existence of a plot could he, or could any one furnish.

It is evident, from all the facts in the case, that Mr. Lincoln altered his arrangements at the suggestion of Marshal Kane, "to avoid" (as the Baltimore *American* of February 25th, 1861 stated) "the attention of his political friends here whose unpopularity with the great mass of the people is so notorious." In this view the *American* is sustained by the Baltimore *Clipper*, which says, "in the absence of any positive information as to the cause of Mr. Lincoln's precipitate retreat from Harrisburg, it is fair to presume that he *decamped to* avoid the *Baltimore Committee*, of whose approach he was secretly advised." And the Baltimore correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, in a letter published in that journal, adds:

"As to the rumors of danger to Mr. Lincoln on the Northern Central Railroad, they are ridiculed by its officers and exploded by the fact that he committed his family to the care of the train that brought them safely to the city. And the rumors, too, that he would run the risk of insult or injury in passing through the city are nothing but the coinage of heated brains. The fair fame of our city was too deeply involved for any such casualty, even if it had been contemplated."

Finally, we have the "literally correct" statement of the Baltimore *American* upon the matter which Marshal Kane never denied.[2] It will be seen from

[1] Letter of Geo. P. Kane to Governor Hicks, dated January 31, 1861.

[2] In explanation of the statement made by the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *American*, Marshal Kane published in that journal the following card:

"POLICE DEPARTMENT,
"OFFICE OF THE MARSHAL,
"BALTIMORE, February 27, 1861.

"Having been in Washington on Thursday last, on business of purely a private nature, I called to pay a friendly visit to friends of the President elect, with whom I had been for many years on kind and intimate relations. In conversation, the contemplated passage through our city of the public functionary referred to, was incidentally mentioned, when I spoke of the rumors which had reached me of an intended republican display, by certain parties here, which, in my opinion, would be deemed offensive to the masses of our people, and in the event of Mr. Lincoln associating himself with

the following editorial taken from the *American* of February 26th, 1861, that Mr. Lincoln's course was influenced by Marshal Kane:

"We were yesterday informed by Marshal Kane that the following statement, which appeared yesterday in the despatch of our Washington correspondent 'Special,' is literally correct, so far as it refers to himself:

"'It appears that a few hundred men, particularly obnoxious to the people and public sentiment of Baltimore, had determined to avail themselves of the opportunity to use Mr. Lincoln, and to accompany him in procession from the depot to his hotel.'

"They applied to Marshal Kane for protection by the police. He advised against the proceeding, assuring the parties that while Mr. Lincoln, in his passage through Baltimore, would be treated with the respect due to him personally and to his high official position, there was no guaranty that the proposed procession would be similarly respected. He thought, moreover, that the proceeding would be calculated to place the people of Baltimore in a false position, as neither they nor the citizens of Maryland sympathized with Mr. Lincoln's political views. He advised, therefore, that the idea of a procession should be abandoned, lest it might provoke some indignity which would involve the character of Baltimore and be very unpleasant to the President elect.

"'It appears, however, that the parties insisted on their programme, when Mr. Lincoln was advised of the facts, and urged to pass immediately through to Washington. Acting upon this suggestion, he proceeded to Philadelphia in time for the night train from New York, and reached here at six o'clock A. M., yesterday.'

"Marshal Kane informed us that he did give the information to Mr. Corwin and other friends of Mr. Lincoln, so that the change of route and incognito entrance to Washington was caused by a desire to escape from his pretended friends here, and thus prevent a breach of the peace that would have been disgraceful to the city and derogatory to American character. We do not believe there was any intention to assault or even insult the president elect on the part of any portion of our community, but it is a notorious fact that the Baltimore republican committee, who proceeded to Harrisburg and declared their determination to escort Mr. Lincoln to his quarters, would have been assailed and pelted with eggs, if not otherwise maltreated. This would have involved Mr. Lincoln in the disturbance, and we cannot but think that he acted wisely under the information communicated by Colonel Kane, in preventing the possibility of such an occurrence as was feared by our police authorities."

The absurd story of a conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Lincoln, which was the theme of discussion in the newspapers at the time, from one end of the country to the other, was perfectly ridiculous. No man then living would have looked upon such a conspiracy with more abhorrence than George P.

such a demonstration, or having it as an appendage in his transit through Baltimore, would invite decided marks of disapproval.

"I did not recommend that the President elect should avoid passing openly through Baltimore, nor did I, for one moment, contemplate such a contingency. Indeed, I made no recommendation whatever in the premises, but confined my remarks to the expression of an opinion that such an escort or appendage as the one which rumor had indicated, would, in my judgment, be ill advised, and subject that appendage to an expression of public dissatisfaction, which might, and doubtless would, have been construed into a premeditated discourtesy by the people of Baltimore to the President elect.

"The Police Board had the whole subject of the expected visit of the President elect under consideration, and all measures necessary for preserving order on the occasion were fully matured and deemed by them amply sufficient.

"The Board were, also, informed by me of the conversation referred to, held by me in Washington, and concurred in the opinion which I had expressed.

"I make this explanation, because erroneous constructions of my action in the matter have found their way to the public through a portion of the press. (Signed),

"GEORGE P. KANE, *Marshal.*"

Kane, who was not only one of the bravest and most straightforward of men, but a strong constitutional Union man, and true patriot, though spies and informers denounced him, and tyranny imprisoned him while living, and slanderers have even tried to blacken his memory in the grave. Certainly Mr. Lincoln and his advisers probably entertained no serious idea of the peril from which they pretended to run away. Had they believed there was real danger, they would hardly have exposed his wife and children to it. As evidence of this fact, Mr. Charles Hale, the editor of the Boston *Advertiser* (republican), telegraphed to that journal from Washington the following contradiction of the assassination canard, and which that journal emphasized by publishing in italics:

"The unexpected arrival of Mr. Lincoln, early yesterday morning, created surprise but general approval.

"*Do not credit the stories of a plot against his life! He hastened hither to consult friends here and to escape bores.*

"Already Mr. Lincoln's arrival has exploded the pretence of a quarrel between himself and Mr. Seward."[1]

The facts as we have conclusively shown are, that Mr. Lincoln and his advisors were far more afraid of the friends of the President elect in Baltimore than of his enemies.

Notwithstanding all these facts, it was an extraordinary circumstance that all the journals of all the large cities of the North, day after day, for a long time, continued to repeat, and with continued improvements, a story which was wholly unsupported by anything in the nature of proof, and which was absurd on the face of it. In consequence of the hideous tale of the plot, and the popular credulity in regard to it, on the day after Mr. Lincoln's arrival in Washington, Marshal Kane issued the following denial of the charge:

"*Police Department, Office of the Marshal, Baltimore, February 24, 1861.*

"My attention having been called to certain telegrams purporting to have been sent from Harrisburg, and also from Baltimore, and published in the New York papers, to the effect that the sudden passage of the president elect through this city had been caused by reliable information that a conspiracy to offer violence to his person, had been organized here, and was approved and abetted by influential merchants and bankers, I deem it my duty, as Marshal of Police, to brand the statement as utterly destitute of truth. It was thought possible that an offensive republican display, said to have been contemplated by some of our citizens at the railroad station, might have provoked disorder, so far as they were concerned; and ample measures were accordingly taken to prevent any disturbance of the peace.

[1] "Among the Washington 'facts and rumors' which we copied yesterday from the Northern papers, was one in relation to the sudden departure of Mr. Lincoln from Harrisburg, in which it was stated that 'the names of General Scott and Governor Hicks are prominently mentioned among those who gave warning,' etc. We are authorized to state that this rumor is entirely unfounded, so far as Governor Hicks is concerned. He was in Washington on Saturday, and was surprised and astounded at the news of the unexpected presence at the capital of Mr. Lincoln. He had no knowledge of any anticipated attack on him, and consequently had no knowledge of his intended change of route" Baltimore *American*, February 27, 1861.

"But as to any purpose to offer violence or indignity to the president elect, I affirm, without hesitation, and with ample means of knowledge, that no such purpose existed, and that he would have passed through the city with perfect safety and entire freedom from any mark of disrespect.

"These slanders upon the good name of the city of Baltimore, now one of the quietest and most orderly in the country, deserve to be rebuked wherever uttered. * * *

"GEORGE P. KANE, *Marshal of Police.*"

The gross imputations being still flung broadcast throughout the country against Baltimore, the Board of Police Commissioners on the 28th of February, published the following card:

"*Office Board of Police, Baltimore, February 28th, 1861.*

"The Board of Police deem it proper to state, for the information of their fellow-citizens, that the accounts which have appeared in some of the newspapers of other cities, that '*the police authorities of Baltimore had determined to employ a force of only twenty men for the special duty of attending to the route of the President's cortège through Baltimore*' on Saturday last, that '*yielding to the pressure of public opinion, they determined to have out the whole force, though they still believed that twenty men would be all-sufficient,*" or that they were influenced in the slightest degree in making or changing any of their arrangements by representations alleged to have been made to them by Mr. Kennedy, superintendent of the New York police, or by any other person or persons from New York or Washington, are all and each of them utterly untrue.

"The board take this opportunity of also expressing their entire conviction that the whole story, so industriously circulated, of there having been any intention, or any plan concocted to assassinate or injure the President elect on his journey from Harrisburg to Washington, is utterly destitute of any reasonable foundation. His passage through this city, they have always felt assured, and again unhesitatingly say, would have been made in safety.

"This subject had been under the consideration of the board for some time past, and they had determined to make, and accordingly had made the amplest arrangements to insure such a result. By order of the board. "CHARLES HOWARD, *President.*"

Notwithstanding these authoritative denials, and the absence of all evidence to bring home to any one human being the slightest knowledge of the pretended plot, the existence of the alleged conspiracy was stoutly maintained. The New York *Times* did not doubt that "the project of assassinating Mr. Lincoln," had been "seriously canvassed," and that the "plans had been laid for its accomplishment." The *Courier* was equally satisfied that General Scott and Mr. Seward, had "sufficient evidence" in their possession to justify the belief that if the President elect had passed through Baltimore, "an attempt would have been made upon his life." One paper told its readers about the arrangement which had been made to shoot Mr. Lincoln with an air-gun; another said that the work was to be done with a revolver, and that a steamer was lying in the harbor ready to take the assassins to Mobile as soon as the deed was done; another informed the public that "a club of fifteen persons were sworn to accomplish his assassination," and that one of the fifteen "was a secret agent of the government, who divulged the plans of the junta as rapidly as they were matured"—

while another was advised that a bowie-knife was the instrument by which the death of Mr. Lincoln was to be compassed. But all these journals, while differing in opinion as to the mode in which the plot was to be carried out, not only agreed in asserting the existence of the conspiracy, but united in declaring that Mr. Lincoln's friends had the names of the parties engaged in it.

The "bankers, merchants, brokers, and statesmen," who suggested or abetted the fiendish project, we were told, were all known; but strange to say, not a solitary one of them was ever arrested or even exposed. Nor was it intended that the public should know anything about this extraordinary scheme. In fact the *Courier* notified the country that it was idle to inquire into the matter any further. Speaking of the information which Scott and Mr. Seward were supposed to be possessed of, it said, "we greatly doubt whether they will ever apprise the anxious public of the precise nature of the testimony on which they acted. Very probably they are not at liberty so to do. The revelations made to them were doubtless based upon implicit confidence in their honor; and, in all human probability, the condition upon which the conspiracy was revealed was a pledge that even the President elect, shall never know the particulars of the threatened danger." Here was the avenue of escape from all unpleasant questioning, already prepared for the inventors of these preposterous fabrications. It was evident that Mr. Lincoln's friends and advisers, had no proof whatsoever to offer to substantiate their accusations. They had, for purposes best known to themselves, lent the sanction of their names to a falsehood, which was calculated to fix a stigma upon the people of Baltimore; and having attained their ends, they proposed to avoid all further responsibility by pleading the confidential nature of the communications they had received.

The part played by the New York police in this singular game, deserves notice. The *Times* said "we have also reason to believe that the police authorities of our own city had a share in detecting, tracing up and thwarting the murderous design—Captain Walling, accompanied by detective officers Young, Elder, Samson and Devoe, having been stationed on the lookout in Washington and Baltimore for several weeks back, and keeping themselves constantly in communication by telegraph and letter with the police headquarters in this city." The *Tribune* recounted the services of Mr. Kennedy, superintendent of the New York Metropolitan Police. It assured its readers that the police authorities of Baltimore were managing their own business so negligently as only to "employ a force of twenty men for the special duty of attending to the route of the presidential *cortège* through Baltimore"—and that Mr. Kennedy, hearing of the inefficiency of the police arrangements in Baltimore, hurried on to that city in order to superintend matters himself; but learned on going to the office, that the commissioners had yielded "to the pressure of public opinion," and had determined to employ the whole force, though they still thought twenty men sufficient.

These laudable and self-sacrificing exertions on the part of Mr. Kennedy were wholly untrue, as the commissioners never asked nor received his advice, nor did he presume to make them any suggestions, while in the city, in regard to the manner in which they should discharge their duties. They acted solely on their own knowledge and convictions.

However, as these reported absurd statements of Mr. Kennedy reflected on Marshal Kane and the Baltimore police, the Police Board requested the marshal to address Mr. Kennedy the following letter:

"*Police Department, office of the Marshal,*
"*Baltimore, February 26th, 1861.*

"John A. Kennedy, Esq., Superintendent of Police, New York:

"Dear Sir:—I have recently noticed many newspaper paragraphs referring to the Baltimore police, or myself as marshal, which I have deemed utterly unworthy of notice because they either mentioned no names as authority, or the names given were not such as would be likely to give weight to the various rumors in circulation. An article is, however, now going the rounds of the press, of a different character.

"It is stated that upon information received in New York, from this city, some of your detectives were sent on here; that by their efforts and those of Police Commissioner Acton and yourself, an organized plot for the assassination of the President elect was discovered; that you were satisfied of the existence of such a plot, and had in consequence recommended a change in the programme of Mr. Lincoln's journey to Washington.

"Looking to your official position, and my own, I deem it due to both of us that I should ask whether there is any foundation whatever for the above report of the acts and statements attributed as above to you or any part of the New York police force, acting under your orders. "Yours respectfully,

"GEORGE P. KANE, *Marshal.*"

To this letter Kennedy replied as follows:[1]

"*Central Department of the Metropolitan Police,*
413 Broome Street, Corner of Elm,
Office of Superintendent of Police, New York, February 28, 1861.

Col. Geo. P. Kane, Marshal of Police, Baltimore:

"Dear Sir:—In reply to your note of the 26th inst., this day received, I have to inform you: First, that I have neither published, nor ordered to be published, any of the newspaper articles to which you allude, and very possibly have not yet seen them all; nor have I thought it worth while in this case, any more than in others that have occurred, to publish explanations or corrections to the numerous articles misrepresenting the actions of myself and the members of my force. I do not desire to commence operating on a work which we both know to be an endless one. I can, therefore, assure you that none of the newspaper articles to which you allude, either emanated from me or by my sanction.

"One article has appeared in the *Tribune* since, *i. e.* 27th, which in the main was taken from my lips, which I herewith enclose. There is a spirit in this article which I disclaim, and a quotation 'nobody is going to turn out,' etc., which is credited to you, that was not so given by me, nor was the response stated by me in the manner here printed. In other respects the statement is a wonderfully accurate sketch of what I said. I may also add that I am of the opinion that either you or Mr. Howard said something of the

[1] The italics are ours.

kind as quoted. On the evening of Tuesday, 26th, several friends came into my office to learn the facts, whether any attempt was to have been made to assassinate Mr. Lincoln. *I assured them there was no foundation in the story*, and went on to relate to them my participation in the movements of Mr. Lincoln after he had left New York on the 21st inst. In doing so, I spoke as freely as one friend should speak to another; and it was not until I had nearly closed the conversation, that I discovered a newspaper reporter present whom I had refused to communicate with previous to the arrival of my friends. I regret, while he was taking the advantage of reporting a conversation, entirely private, that he omitted the remarks of commendation I used in regard to the appearance and material of your force, as well as those on the orderly and good-natured character of the very large crowd assembled around the depot to receive Mr. Lincoln. However, these are the kinds of omissions the press delights in making.

"Second. I have had officers occasionally in your city as I have had in others farther South, even Charleston, ever since these secession troubles began to show form. I presume in this I am not much ahead of our Southern friends. Not a few of the journeys have been undertaken while attending the movements of persons who were in this city, and excited our suspicions while here. *But no officer of mine has reported to me the actual existence of any band 'organized for the purpose of assassinating the President elect.'*

"Although in the prosecution of their duty, they may have deemed it advisable to associate themselves with the bodies denominated 'Southern Volunteers,' wherever they found them, *they have not reported to me that even these bodies had resolved on assassination.* Of course I regard them as dangerous organizations, and have not failed in obtaining every information in my power as to their locality, number, means of support, members, officers, and movements.

"On some proximate day, these points of intelligence may become valuable.

"Since Wednesday of last week, up to Tuesday of this week, three hundred and twenty-seven of these men have left your city, in squads, for service at the South, and I am advised that about two hundred more will leave during the present week.

"It has not appeared to me necessary to stop this movement, else I should have notified you of it before. The parties are represented to me as being desperadoes of the worst kind, and whose departure from any community is the only good act they can perform.

"I will merely add, that when I read my letters on Friday morning, advising me that your department felt so secure from riot and disturbance on the arrival of the President elect, that only twenty men were to be on duty as an escort, I at once determined to call on you and endeavor to induce you to increase the number. But on my arrival, I was very happy to find my advice was not needed, and, therefore, I did not obtrude it on you.

"*So far from having advised the change of Mr. Lincoln's route from Harrisburg, before leaving New York for Baltimore, on the 22d, I sent a telegraph to Mr. Wood of Mr. Lincoln's party, advising him to go down on the Susquehannah road as perfectly safe.*

"You are at liberty to make such use of this letter as you may deem proper.

"I am very respectfully yours, &c,

"JOHN A. KENNEDY, *Superintendent.*"

Here superintendent Kennedy, under his own hand, in a letter written for publication, declares:

First—That there was *no* foundation for the report of a plot to assassinate Mr. Lincoln.

Second—That none of his spies reported the existance of any band organized for, or resolved upon, assassination.

Third—That so far from advising a change of programme, on the 22d (the day the change was made), he telegraphed advising the party to "go down on the Susquehannah [Northern Central] road, as *perfectly safe.*" More than this, he bears voluntary and explicit testimony to "the orderly and good-natured character of the very large crowd assembled around the depot to receive Mr. Lincoln."

The services of Mr. Kennedy were not appreciated by Mr. Lincoln, for the New York *Herald* tells us early in March, 1861, "that Mr. Kennedy, disgusted with the ingratitude of the world, intends to confine his detections in future to this city and the metropolitan district, and leave the country to take care of itself. He is going to establish new station houses, and make a radical reform in the police department. If he does this we will give him every aid and comfort, even perhaps to the *obtaining of the United States marshalship*, as a reward for saving the life of the second Washington." It is certain he was much annoyed about the alleged plot, and the failure to obtain the United States marshalship for his services. Toward the elucidation of this question we offer an affidavit of Alvin H. Williamson, a member of his force, published in the New York *Express* of March 9th. Certain charges had been laid by Kennedy against the affiant, who made the following sworn statement:[1]

"As to the charge of neglect of duty and disobedience of orders made against him on the sixth day of said March, he saith that he had then tendered his resignation as a policeman of the police department, and that the bringing of such charges was the result of malice on the part of John A. Kennedy, Superintendent of Police, who had previously under color of his official authority, endeavored to induce him, the said respondent, while acting as a detective of the said police department to proceed to the cities of Baltimore and Washington, for a purpose which was developed by a conversation which took place between the said Kennedy and this respondent on an evening in the latter part of December last, at the headquarters of the police department in this city, that on the occasion referred to, the said Kennedy summoned this respondent to the apartment of the said Kennedy, who then and there said substantially as follows: 'I understand that you are a pretty good republican;' to which the said respondent replied: 'Yes, I understand myself to be so;' that said, Kennedy then said, 'I intend to send one or more detectives to the cities of Baltimore and Washington, for I have understood that they are organizing a plot or plots there to assassinate the president elect; *at all events I desire it to appear so, so that I can do the president a service; I have been spoken of as a candidate for the office of United States Marshal of the Southern District, and I don't know but that I shall be a candidate;*' that this respondent then said that he did'nt think himself very smart at that kind of business, and that he (Kennedy), could find some one to do it who was more capable; that the said Kennedy then replied in a short tone, 'very well,' when this respondent left the room."

The explicit denials of an attempted assassination plot did not stop the circulation of the falsehood. Anonymous slanders, extravagant newspaper reports, were good material for history, while signed and published statements of unimpeachable witnesses were silently ignored. As a consequence, the

[1] The italics are ours

old slanders have been rehashed several times since as history. In June, 1868, there appeared in *Harper's Magazine* an article of a sensational character, entitled, "The Baltimore plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln." In this article unwarrantable liberties were taken with Colonel Kane's name and character, who, in a letter to the Baltimore *Sunday Telegram* of June 21st, 1868, refuted in an able manner this libellous publication. In this letter, he for the first time made public, the following particulars of Mr. Lincoln's hegira through Baltimore.

"The first definite information of the day and hour of Mr. Lincoln's expected arrival in Baltimore, on that occasion, was received by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company a few days in advance of his coming. His route was to be, according to that information, from Harrisburg to Baltimore, over the Northern Central Railroad, arriving at this place about 12½ o'clock, and departing over the Baltimore and Ohio, Washington branch, at 3 P. M., the same day. As soon as this information was received, the master of transportation of the latter road, Mr. William Prescott Smith, addressed me a note, informing me of the fact, asking that I would suggest some mode of entertaining Mr. Lincoln during his brief stay, in the absence of any respectable number of his own partizans in Baltimore, to do him honor, (there were I think only about one thousand republican votes cast for Mr. Lincoln in Baltimore, and they, in most part, were of the very scum of the city, and of the old 'club' organization, though there were some few exceptions, candidates for office, and fanatics on the negro question); and to avoid having the impression go abroad that our city had been wanting in respect for the President elect of the nation.

"Immediately on the receipt of that note, I called on General John S. Gittings, then president of the Northern Central Railroad, and communicated to him the information I had received. My reasons for selecting General Gittings, was the fact, of which I was aware, that there were some kind of busines relations between him and Senator Cameron, (who was talked of as likely to become a cabinet officer,) growing out of the latter's being largely interested in the ownership of the road, of which Mr. G., was president. I discussed with General Gittings the character of the individuals who would likely press themselves upon, and to the annoyance of, Mr. Lincoln, and that I thought something should be done in his behalf; to all of which that gentleman fully agreed. I then suggested that as he was known at home and abroad as a leading member of the democratic party of Maryland, and not a candidate for favor at the hands of the new administration, and having a commodious mansion, eligibly situated, near the Washington Monument; I thought it would be a fit and graceful thing for him to meet Mr. Lincoln at the Maryland line, and invite him and his family to become his guests during their stay in Baltimore. To these suggestions the General also yielded approval.

"It was then agreed upon and arranged that he should go up on his road the day before Mr. Lincoln was expected over it, and meet and welcome him at the Maryland line, and as the train reached the crossing on Charles street, north of the monument, it was to be stopped at that point, where I was to be in readiness with carriages to receive the General and his guests, and convey them to Mount Vernon Place. The intended debarkation on North Charles street, was under no apprehension or suspicion of intended violence or insult to Mr. Lincoln if carried to the depot, but because the route along Charles street, passing the monument, and through Mount Vernon Place, afforded a view of the most beautiful part of Baltimore, and would relieve the visitors of the necessary annoyance from noise and confusion incident to a railroad depot, and even greater than these, the annoyance of being brought into contact with the element which would be in waiting to advertise themselves for office. These arrangements were so far consummated

as that General Gittings went to the Maryland line to meet Mr. Lincoln, and failed to find him, received Mr. Lincoln's family and conveyed them to his home, where they remained during their stay in Baltimore as his guests; and I had carriages in readiness to carry out my part of the arrangements, when the news reached Baltimore that Mr. Lincoln was in Washington.

"With these statements and explanations, the truth of which, I imagine, neither Kennedy nor Pinkerton will call in question; and even if they do, the parties to the arrangements to whom I have referred, still live—I feel quite certain that no intelligent and honest mind will continue to credit the oft-repeated slanders upon Baltimore, of having contemplated a deed of such savage atrocity as that alleged to have been threatened by these detective policemen. That Mrs. Lincoln was not imposed upon by the inventions of such people, was abundantly shown in the fact that before starting from Baltimore for Washington she sent a request that I would call and afford her an opportunity of making her acknowledgements for the interest I had shown in the arrangements which had been made; but sudden and severe indisposition prevented me from doing so. As effectually as her husband may for the time have been duped by these people, and led to a course which was subsequently a matter of deep regret to himself and his friends, I had the very best reason to know that he was very soon undeceived, and that I could have enjoyed the most substantial evidence of his confidence and favor after he became the President, had I felt inclined to embrace it.

"Yours very respectfully,

"*Danville, Va.* "GEORGE P. KANE."

Besides this truthful statement, we fortunately have the deliberate judgment of Colonel Ward H. Lamon, of the value of the "proofs" of the alleged conspiracy. Colonel Lamon, Mr. Lincoln's biographer, was one of his chosen companions on this journey—in fact he was the only one that never left him until he reached Washington—and, in the event of an assassination, would most probably have fallen a victim. Certainly if there had been a conspiracy he would have known it. Here is what he says:

"These documents are neither edifying nor useful; they prove nothing but the baseness of the vocation which gave them existence. They were furnished to Mr. Herndon in full, under the impression that partisan feeling had extinguished in him the love of truth and the obligations of candor, as it had in many writers who preceded him in the same subject-matter. They have been carefully and thoroughly read, analysed, examined, and compared with an earnest and conscientious desire to discover the truth, if, perchance, any trace of truth might be in them.

"The process of investigation began with a strong bias in favor of the conclusion at which this detective had arrived. For ten years the author implicitly believed in the reality of the atrocious plot which these spies were supposed to have detected and thwarted; and for ten years he had pleased himself with the reflection that he also had done something to defeat the bloody purpose of the assassins. It was a conviction which could scarcely have been overthrown by evidence less powerful than the detective's weak and contradictory account of his own case. In that account there is literally nothing to sustain the accusation, and much to rebut it. It is perfectly manifest that there was no conspiracy—no conspiracy of a hundred, of fifty, of twenty, of three; no definite purpose in the heart of even one man to murder Mr. Lincoln at Baltimore."

We have now, we think, refuted all the essential points of the alleged assassination conspiracy of 1861. We have shown that one of the chief

authorities, Superintendent Kennedy, publicly and under his own signature, declared that no such plot existed. We have shown that when the so-called "proofs" were submitted to Mr. Lincoln's friend and companion—a man who, fortunately, had a prepossession in favor of justice—their utter worthlessness was recognized with mingled disgust and astonishment. We have shown that other allegations brought forward were emphatically contradicted at the time by the persons best informed. Of proof there is absolutely not a particle. Detectives, listening with greedy ears in an atmosphere thick with rumors, report these rumors to their employers, and that is all. A few weeks later, Baltimore was entirely in the control of the federal authorities, and many arrests were made. There was certainly no disposition to spare any disloyal offender; even alleged sympathy with the Southern cause was enough to send men to prison or exile; yet for a plot so atrocious as this, no one was convicted, no one was tried, no one was arrested, no one was ever exposed. These facts are enough to demonstrate that there was no conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Lincoln in Baltimore in 1861.

So much, therefore, for the fugacious exploit of the President elect. We have deemed the subject worthy of this extended notice, not only because of the importance apparently attached to it by the organs and representatives of the republican party, but also because it is of consequence that a matter involving the fair fame of one of the chief cities of the country should be settled once for all. Yet, though again and again refuted, this charge is again and again repeated with the persistency of malice or the fatuity of prejudice; and we have little doubt—so strong is the tenacity of life in a robust falsehood—that it will continue to be uttered so long as it can excite interest or do harm.