

**HISTORY AND EVIDENCE OF THE
PASSAGE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN FROM
HARRISBURG, PA., TO WASHINGTON,
D.C., ON THE TWENTY-SECOND AND
TWENTY-THIRD OF FEBRUARY: EIGHTEEN
HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE**

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History and evidence of the passage of Abraham Lincoln from Harrisburg, Pa., to Washington, D.C., on the twenty-second and twenty-third of February: eighteen hundred and sixty-one by Allan Pinkerton

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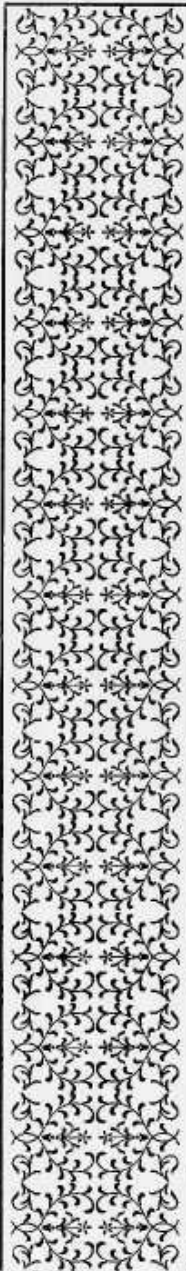
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ALLAN PINKERTON

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from Harrisburg, Pa.,
to Washington, D. C.,
on the Twenty-second
and Twenty-third of
February, : Eighteen
hundred and sixty-one

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Pinkerton's National Detective Agency,
ALLAN PINKERTON, Principal. GEO. H. BANGS, Gen. Supt.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO, JAN. 8, 1868.

The question of the passage of Mr. Lincoln, on the night of the 22d of February, 1861, from Harrisburg, Penn., to Washington, D. C., the Capitol of the United States, is one of marked interest in history, and one upon which the people of this country, and the world, ought to have correct information. Hitherto I have kept silent upon this subject, and probably might have continued so much longer, but that historians are now writing up the important events of the last seven years—a period the most exciting in the life-time of this Nation—up to the present stage of its existence, and I deem it proper to lay the following brief statement before the public in connection with this event. I am induced, moreover, to take this step from the fact of the publication, in the second volume of Lossing's History

of the War of the Rebellion, of a letter from John A. Kennedy, Esq., Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police of New York City, dated New York, August 13, 1867, in which Mr. Kennedy speaks of the acts of himself and his detective force, in discovering the plot for the assassination of President Lincoln, on his passage through Baltimore, *en route* to Washington, for inauguration as President. This letter has had so wide a circulation in the press of the United States that it will be unnecessary for me to insert the whole of it here. I merely desire to call attention to the following words :

“I know nothing of any connection of Mr. Pinkerton with the matter.”

That is to say, Mr. Kennedy knew nothing of my connection with the passage of Mr. Lincoln from Harrisburg, *via* Philadelphia, to Washington, on the 22d of February, 1861. In this respect, Mr. Kennedy spoke the truth: he did not *know* of my connection with the passage of Mr. Lincoln, nor was it my intention that he should know of it. Secrecy is the one thing most necessary to the success of the detective, and when a secret is to be kept, the fewer who know of it the better. It was unnecessary for

Mr. Kennedy to know of my connection with that passage, and hence he was not apprised of it. I am aware that Mr. Kennedy is a loyal man, and has done much service for the Union cause; but it was not necessary that every Unionist should be informed that Mr. Lincoln was about to make an important movement. Therefore, the secret was imparted only to those whom it was necessary should know it. With this preface, my statement will be brief.

About the middle of January, 1861, I was in Philadelphia, and had an interview on other matters with S. M. Felton, Esq., at that time President of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, in which Mr. Felton mentioned that he had suspicions that the secessionists of Maryland were bound to injure his road, either by destroying the ferry-boat which carried the trains across the Susquehanna River at Havre de Grace, or by the destruction of the railroad bridges over the Gunpowder River and other streams. Mr. Felton felt very desirous to protect his road from injury or obstruction by the "secessionists," as they were at that time called, but afterwards more familiarly known as "rebels," who were then busily engaged in plot-

ting the treason which shortly afterwards culminated in open rebellion. Mr. Felton well knew that the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad was the only connecting link between the great commercial emporium of the United States and the Capitol of the Nation, and appreciated fully the necessity of keeping that link unbroken. He desired that I would consider the matter fully, and, promising to do so, I returned to my home in Chicago.

On the 27th of January, 1861, I wrote to Mr. Felton my views upon this subject. They were not given in connection with secession, but as to what detective ability might do to discover the plots and plans of those who might be contemplating the destruction of any portion of this great and important link between New York and Washington.

On the 30th of January, I received a telegram from Mr. Felton, requesting me to come to Philadelphia, and take with me such of my force as might be necessary, with a view to commencing the detective operations to which I had alluded in my letter to him of the 27th.

On the 1st of February, 1861, I accordingly left Chicago with such of my detective force,

male and female, as I thought adequate for the purpose required. We duly arrived in Philadelphia, and after consultation with Messrs. Felton and Stearns, of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, I repaired with my force to Baltimore and there established my headquarters.

While engaged in the investigations spoken of, as relating to the safety of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad track, myself and detectives accidentally acquired the knowledge that a plot was in existence for the assassination of Mr. Lincoln on his passage through Baltimore to Washington, to be inaugurated as President. The plot was well conceived, and would, I am convinced, have been effective for the purpose designed. This information was acquired by me while in the service of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, who were paying me for my services, and although I felt impelled by my sense of duty, and my long friendship for Mr. Lincoln, (we both being old citizens of Illinois,) to impart the same to him, yet, knowing the loyalty of Mr. Felton, I desired his acquiescence in so doing. I accordingly imparted the information of the plot to