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Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

1. Henry's son had been buried in the Princeton Cemetery. John F. Hageman, *History of Princeton and Its Institutions*, 2d ed., 2 vols. (Philadelphia, 1879), 2:431.

2. M. B. Field to Henry, April 18, 1865,

Office of the Secretary, Incoming Correspondence, RU 26, Smithsonian Archives.

3. Letter not found.

4. Doc. 275.

277. TO [HELEN HENRY]^A

Washington April 21, 1865

My dear H.

I reached home on Tuesday evening¹ and found the family in a state of anxious solicitude as to coming events. The occurrences since our departure had been of such an appalling character as almost to stupefy them. The funeral obsequies of the President, although on the most gigantic scale, were carried out with precision and harmony. The procession was by far the largest ever seen in this city. . . . I was especially well cared for, and as head of the S.I. was placed in an open carriage with Mr. Seaton and Professor Baird as my supporters. . . . We assembled at the Treasury Department and were then assigned tickets and places in the East Room, which was formed into an amphitheater, the canopy under which was the coffin being placed in the center. This arrangement enabled all within [the]^B East Room to see

and hear distinctly. The ceremony ought, however, to have been held in the rotunda of the Capitol, since not above a hundredth part of those who ought to have had good place for seeing could get into the room.²

The death of Mr. Lincoln at this time and by the hand of an assassin is a great public calamity. He was endeavoring to bring the war to a close as humanely as possible, and had he lived I doubt not the war would have ended in such a manner as to harmonize as far as possible the feelings of all parties. He was, however, too lenient to meet the wishes of the extreme men and some of them now do not hesitate to say that his removal was an act of Providence, to put another man better fitted for the occasion in his place. As to his successor, I can as yet say nothing, but I most sincerely pray that the mantle of Lincoln may fall upon him, that he may be imbued with the same honesty of purpose, the same kindness of heart, and the same moderation and prudence of action.

The excitement through the country has been, in many cases, alarming, but as yet no popular outbreak of any magnitude has occurred. It becomes all persons having any influence to be cautious in giving utter-

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ance to sentiments which may tend to inflame the public mind. The Government is of this opinion, since the persons who have been taken up are not entrusted to the safety of an ordinary person but are confined on board one of the warships, called a gun boat, at the Navy Yard.³

Mary Henry Copy, Family Correspondence, Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

1. April 18.

2. About six hundred people jammed into the East Room of the White House for Lincoln's funeral services, held on Wednesday, April 19. The coffin was placed within an elegant catafalque designed for the occasion by Benjamin B. French. The posts of the catafalque supported an arched canopy, which rose to a height of eleven feet from the floor. Under the canopy, Lincoln's coffin rested on a dais that was a little more than four feet off the floor. About five feet from the catafalque, carpenters had built a series of steps, rising toward the walls of the East Room in the shape of an amphitheater. "All of official Washington" attended the services, according to historian Jay Winik, including President Andrew Johnson and his cabinet, members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, diplomats, and generals. Dorothy Meserve Kunhardt and Philip B. Kunhardt, Jr., *Twenty Days: A Narrative in Text and Pictures of the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the Twenty Days and Nights That Followed* (New York, 1965), pp. 120, 123; Jay Winik, *April 1865: The Month That Saved America* (New York, 2001), pp. 356-357 (quotation on p. 356).

Winik describes how at the conclusion of the White House services, twelve sergeants hoisted the coffin "with machinelike efficiency" and carried it to the funeral car. The funeral pro-

cession, led by a detachment of black troops, moved "in careful, measured, rhythmic steps" along Pennsylvania Avenue. Battalions and regiments followed, and then "a cortege of black citizens, stretching from curb to curb in neatly ordered lines of forty—4,000 of them all told." It was "the largest funeral procession that ever took place in Washington," according to one contemporary source (David T. Valentine, *Obsequies of Abraham Lincoln, in the City of New York* [New York, 1866], pp. 104-105). Apparently about forty thousand people participated, and another sixty thousand watched. When the procession reached the Capitol, Lincoln's coffin was taken into the rotunda, where mourners filed past it until April 21, when it was placed on a funeral train for the trip back to Lincoln's home state of Illinois. Kunhardt, p. 123; Winik, p. 357.

3. Evidently by this time, three of Booth's suspected accomplices, Michael O'Laughlen, Lewis Powell, and Samuel Arnold, were being held as prisoners on the ironclad vessel *Saugus*. As others were captured, they would be held either on that vessel or on the *Montauk*. Roy Z. Chamlee, Jr., *Lincoln's Assassins: A Complete Account of Their Capture, Trial, and Punishment* (Jefferson, North Carolina, 1990), p. 147; Winik, p. 226.

278. TO JOSHUA HALL McILVAINE¹

Smithsonian Inst^{on}

April 26th 1865

My Dear Sir

We have sent to your address, by the express, prepaid, a manuscript copy of a memoir presented to us for publication,² which we beg you will critically examine and report to us whether in your judgement it forms an addition to knowledge of sufficient importance to warrant its adoption for publication, by this Institution.³ We also beg leave to request that you will give us any suggestion which may occur to you as to the abridgement and correction of the manuscript.