

ITEM #11344

April 17, 1865

The New York Herald

THE NEW GOVERNMENT. Official Account of the Inauguration of Andrew Johnson.

WASHINGTON, April 16, 1865.

Attorney General speed yesterday morning waited upon Hon. Andrew Johnson, Vice President of the United States, and officially informed him of the sudden and unexpected decease of President Lincoln, and requested that an early hour might be appointed for the inauguration of his successor. The following is a copy of the communication referred to: -

WASHINGTON CITY, April 15, 1865

SIR - Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was shot by an assassin last evening at Fordtheatre, in this city, an died at the hour of twenty-two minutes after seven o. About the same time at which the President was shot an assassin entered the sick chamber of the Hon. W.H. Seward, Secretary of State, and stabbed him in several places in the throat, neck and face, severely if not mortally wounding him. Other members of the Secretaryfamily were dangerously wounded by the assassin while making his escape. By the death of President Lincoln the office of the President has devolved upon you. The emergency of the government demands that you should immediately qualify, according to the requirements of the constitution, and enter upon the duties of President of the United States. IF you will please make known your pleasure, such arrangements as you deem proper will be made. Your obedient servants,

HUGH McCULLOCH,

Secretary of the Treasury.

EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of War.

GIDEON WELLES,

Secretary of the Navy.

J.P. USHER,

Secretary of the Interior.

JAMES SPEED,

Attorney General.

TO ANDREW JOHNSON, Vice President of the United States.

Mr. Johnson requested that the ceremony take place at his rooms at the Kirkwood House, in this city, at ten o'clock in the morning.

Hon. Salmon P. Chase, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was notified of the fact and requested to be in attendance to administer the oath of office.

At the above named hour the following gentlemen assembled in the Vice President's room to participate in the ceremony: - Hon. Salmon P. Chase; Hon. Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. Attorney General Speed; F.P. Blair, Sr.; Hon. Montgomery Blair; Senators Foot, of Vermont; Yates, of Illinois; Ramsay, of Minnesota; Stewart, of Nevada; Hale, of New Hampshire, and General Farnsworth, of Illinois.

After the presentation of the above letter the Chief

Justice administered the following oath to Mr. Johnson: -

I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States.

The President's Inaugural Address.

After receiving the oath and being declared President of the United States, Mr. Johnson remarked: -

Gentlemen, I must be permitted to say that I have been almost overwhelmed by the announcement of the sad event which has so recently occurred. I feel incompetent to perform duties so important and responsible as those which have been so unexpectedly thrown upon me. As to an indication of any policy which may be pursued by me in the administration of the government, I have to say that that must be left for development as the administration progresses. The message or declaration must be made by the acts as they transpire. The only assurance that I can now give of the future is reference to the past. The course which I have taken in the past in connection with this rebellion must be regarded as a guarantee of the future. My past public life, which has been long and laborious, has been founded, as I in good conscience believe, upon a great principle of right, which lies at the basis of all things. The best energies of my life have been spent in endeavoring to establish and perpetuate Tennessee principles of free government; and I believe that the government in passing through its present perils will settle down upon principles consonant with popular rights more permanent and enduring than heretofore. I must be permitted to say, if I understand the feelings of my own heart, that I have long labored to ameliorate and elevate the condition of the great mass of the American people. Toll and an honest advocacy of the great principles of free government have been my lot. The duties have been mine - the consequence are God. This has been the foundation of my political creed. I feel that in the end the government will triumph, and that these great principles will be permanently established. In conclusion, gentlemen, let me