

# “Pimp!”

On February 13, Lincoln’s train, known as Lincoln’s Special, arrived in Columbus, Ohio, amid considerable political tension. It was the day Congress was set to certify the electoral vote, coinciding with Virginia's decision to start its secession convention. Lincoln's entourage, including Larz Anderson, Major Anderson's brother, journeyed in a specially expanded train of three cars. Journalist Villard noted that the weather was "magnificent."

Upon arrival, Lincoln was received with artillery salutes and soldiers guiding him to the statehouse. He delivered a curious yet cautious speech, implying reassurance against the backdrop of rising tension: “I have not maintained silence from any want of real anxiety... all we want is time, patience and a reliance on that God who has never forsaken this people.” This sentiment was juxtaposed with rising unrest as Southern crowds gathered in Washington, demanding entry into the Capitol during the electoral count.

General Scott, prepared for hostility, fortified the entrances and dispersed troops among the crowd to manage potential disturbances. The frustrations of those outside erupted into profanity directed at Scott, with one observer noting that verbal assaults aimed at the guards could have been lethal. Scott declared his readiness to retaliate against anyone obstructing the electoral process.

Amid concerns about the vulnerability of the electoral votes, Adams documented the importance of the day, noting the lack of a clear constitutional mechanism to deal with electoral fraud. Nonetheless, the count proceeded smoothly and concluded without incident in two hours, easing fears regarding the proceedings.

However, tranquility shattered with Vice President Breckinridge's announcement: “Abraham Lincoln... is elected president of the United States.” Inside, anger flared, and hostile remarks were directed towards figures like Winfield Scott. Lincoln learned of his election via telegram while still in Columbus, prompting a mix of rejoicing and looming threats against his safety.

Reports from Pinkerton’s agents heightened security concerns regarding a credible plot against Lincoln, particularly in Baltimore. As urgency escalated, Pinkerton sent warnings through one of Lincoln’s friends, Norman Judd. Despite initial hesitations, the situation demanded decisive action. Ultimately, Pinkerton arranged for the adept detective Kate Warne to deliver a warning letter to Judd, thus paving the way for heightened vigilance during Lincoln’s travels.