

almost every one as strongly opposed to what we would rather keep our men,
Saturday the 22nd news arrived that Lincoln had been assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Wash-
ington, after shooting him, the man sprung out brandishing a dagger exclaiming, "Die
thou Tyrant" Virginia is avenged" - and that the same night, April 11th Lincoln had
been stabbed in several places, & his son mortally wounded -
It all seemed so theatrical and improbable that for many days we could not believe it
till confirmed on official authority. The following ~~Monday~~ Tuesday we were still
more confounded & bewildered by hearing that negotiations for peace were arranged between
the generals, on the terms that we were to go back into the Union, on the footing we
had previously been, all our rights, privileges, property & negroes restored as far as possible, on
condition we would fight the French. To go back into the Union!!
No words can describe all the horrors contained in those few words - our souls re-
viled shuddering at the base idea - what can ever bridge over that fearful abyss

of blood, suffering, affliction, desolation, and unswerving anguish stretching through
three past hours. The blood of our slain heroes cried aloud against such an offer -
it would be peace on such terms, as war for the rising generation - We
could not, we would not believe it - our deathbed blood rose but stronger, rebellion than
ever and we all determined that if obliged to submit, never would they subdue us - We
knew our armies were surrounded by Sherman, Sheridan, Stoneman & Grant, while our quar-
ters were starving, & the officers were working at the men's hands - an armistice of
40 days had been agreed upon after Lee's surrender, while negotiations were going on, &
the surrender of Johnston's army was inevitable - however though every one talked
about public works, no one tried to speculate on our future, such sudden & unexpected dark-
ness had fallen upon our prospects - every one seemed to cast thought aside, & while
patiently waiting a ray of light, to try to enjoy the present reunion of friends -