Sir Frederick Bruce, notorious slaver, drug trafficker, agent for the British East India Company and its Bank of England owners; and John Wilkes Booth whose namesake, John Wilkes, as a notorious English rake, hedonist and finance director for The City of London - a notorious rake and hedonist.
Editor. (Oct. 03, 1867). Second Col., THE LATE SIR FREDERICK BRUCE. Sheffield and
Rotherham Independent.
THE LATE SIR FREDERICK BRUCE.

By the latest American papers received by the Cimbria steamer at Southampton, we have the particulars relating to the death at Boston, on the 19th ult. [Sep. 19, 1867], of the British Ambassador to the United States, already announced by telegraphy. The Boston Journal of that date says: -

"Our community was saddened this morning by the announcement that Sir Frederick Bruce, the British Minister from Great Britain to the United States, died at the Tremont House, in this city, at two o'clock this morning. We learn that he had for some time past complained of a difficulty about the throat, and a few days ago, while temporarily stopping at Narragansett, Rhode Island, the disease fastened itself upon him with intensity and violence. He left that place at noon yesterday, and reached this city at nine o'clock last evening, in an exhausted and apparently moribund condition, and as soon as he reached his hotel medical assistance was summoned, and he was attended by Drs. J. and J. H. Bigelow and Dr. Hodges. The trouble under which he was suffering had passed beyond medical control, and he sank rapidly. Senator Sumner, who has long been an intimate friend of Sir Frederick and of his family, was sent for, and he reached the hotel at eleven o'clock. From the time of the Senator's arrival until the death of Sir Frederick, which occurred at two o'clock, he was able to utter but a single articulate sentence, and that was in recognition of Mr. Sumner, an hour and a half after his arrival. He was able to get up, but the nature of the disease prevented him from speaking. Senator Sumner made every possible exertion to understand the utterances of the dying man and to get his last messages for the British Legation at Washington and for his family, but all in vain. The voice refused to discharge its wonted office, and nothing could be gleaned of the last thoughts that crowded upon his mind. He was only able to give monosyllable answers to questions in regard to his condition, and to utter, with a great effort a brief greeting when he recognised [sic] Mr. Sumner. Information of his death was at once telegraphed to the British Legation at Washington and to Secretary Seward by Mr. Sumner, and a return telegram from Secretary Seward announces that Mr. Howard, of the British Legation, would at once leave Washington for Boston to receive the remains. They are to be embalmed at once, but the purposes in regard to the final disposition of them are not yet known. Sir Frederick Bruce was about 62 years of age. "Immediately after the death of Sir Frederick the remains were packed in ice, and, under the charge of his servant, remained in room No. 14 of the Tremont House until eight o'clock this evening, when they were taken in charge by an undertaker and embalmed. Mayor Norcross, on learning the sad occurrence, issued orders, that as a proper mark of respect to the distinguished representative of a great and friendly Power, it is directed that the flags of the city be displayed at half-mast on the City hall, Faneuil Hall, and the Common, and that the bells of the several churches be tolled during the removal of the body from the city. The mind naturally goes back to the circumstances attending Sir Frederick Bruce's reception here. Sir Frederick arrived in this country in April, 1865, being the successor of Lord Lyons, in a critical
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state of the relations between the United States and Great Britain. The Secretary of State was at that time confined to his bed by the injuries occasioned by a fall from his carriage. He, however, directed Mr. F. W. Seward, the Assistant Secretary, to arrange for Sir Frederick's presentation to the President, and, although severely suffering and scarcely able to utter a word, indicated the proper language to be employed in the usual reception speech, revising the speech with a pencil in the left hand and inserting some additions, among them the kind mention of the Queen in connection with the passage on the importance of the two countries preserving their friendly relations. After the Cabinet meeting on Friday, the 14th, Secretary F. W. Seward asked President Lincoln if he would receive Sir Frederick Bruce on the following day. President Lincoln replied, 'Yes, at any hour you choose,' The Acting Secretary then inquired, 'Shall it be at two o'clock, in the blue room?' 'Yes,' said Mr. Lincoln, 'at two o'clock, and be sure to send up the speeches, as I like to read over these things beforehand.' Promising to do so, Mr. Seward took his leave, and on the same day sent up to Mr. Lincoln the draughts of the speeches. On the night of that day Mr. Lincoln was assassinated, and the attempt was made to take the life of both the Secretary and son. By this attempt the last named was left totally unconscious for over two weeks. The first sign of returning consciousness exhibited by him was his asking, 'Has Sir Richard Bruce been presented yet?' On being informed that he had, he asked by whom. The reply was 'by Mr. Hunter.' Sir Frederick had been presented on the 20th of April to President Johnson by Mr. Hunter, who had in the meantime been appointed Acting Secretary of State. Sir Frederick's official intercourse with the Government always exhibited a genial temper combined with great diplomatic ability and discretion, which rendered his conduct most agreeable and productive of good results. The death of Sir Frederick Bruce, in view of the present relations between the United States and Great Britain, is looked upon as a serious calamity."

Transcriber’s Note:
This “news” article is evident propaganda. For example, in the supposed dialog between Mr. Lincoln and Seward regarding speech preparation:
This “dialogue” would not occur in such a conversation since his staff would clearly not need to be told that he liked to read over speeches before he presented them.

Notice how this fake dialog appears at the top of the broadsheet so that it would be more likely to be ready by someone quickly scanning the page.

We are also asked to believe (above) that upon waking from a two-week coma of the Secretary of State F.W. Seward, his first thought was to whether the perfunctory reception of Sir Frederick Bruce had occurred. Either that did not happen, and this is a lie, or it did happen, and perhaps Seward was in on conspiracy with Sir Bruce and John Wilkes Booth and booth’s family in England associated with the Bank of England to ensure that Lincoln was dead and that Bruce was ensconced as the British Ambassador.

Whatever the truth is, lies are being told here in this propaganda, we believe.