Excerpt of Editorial on the Lincoln Conspirators Trial, *New York World* (May 26, 1865)

The commission has collectively an imposing appearance: the face of Judge [Advocate General Joseph] Holt is swarthy; he questions with slow utterance, holding the witness in his cold, measuring eye. [General David] Hunter, who sits at the opposite end of the table, shuts his eyes now and then, either to sleep or to think, or both, and the other generals watch for the occasions to distinguish themselves.

Excepting Judge Holt, the court has shown as little ability as could be expected from soldiers, placed in unenviable publicity, and upon a duty for which they are disqualified, both by education and acumen. Witness the lack of dignity in Hunter, who opened the court by a course allusion to "humbug chivalry", of Lewis Wallace, whose heat and intolerance were appropriately urged in the most exceptional English; of [Albion] Howe, whose tirade against the rebel General Johnston was as feeble as it was ungenerous! This court was needed to show us at least the petty tyranny of martial law and the pettiness of martial jurists. The counsel for the defense have just enough show to make the unfairness of the trial partake of hypocrisy.