

AN AUTOGRAPH OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD.\*

James M. Russell  
Strangulatus pro  
Republ<sup>ic</sup>a

It was not until several weeks after the death of President Garfield that it began to be generally known that, during his long martyrdom, he had written something of even greater historic value than the affectionate and hopeful letter to his mother. Thousands of readers will learn for the first time of this interesting piece of writing from the fac-simile of it which, by the courtesy of Col. Rockwell, we are enabled to give above. To all reflecting persons it must bring a new conviction that "the calmest man on that terrible 2d of July" was not long ignorant of the real significance of his assassination. That he was "slaughtered for the Republic" is as true of him as of Lincoln, and that he himself was aware of it, adds only another awful feature to the summer's tragedy. This autograph might fitly be placed upon his monument, as a sorrowful reminder of the national loss and a perpetual reproof to political greed.

As yet, the most diligent search and inquiry has failed to discover an earlier use of the Latin phrase.

We append a letter from Col. Rockwell on the subject of the President's writing during his illness:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 17, 1881.

EDITOR OF THE CENTURY MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR: The late President Garfield took pen or pencil in hand four times during his last illness.

1. On Sunday, July 17, at noon, at his request for writing materials, I placed in his hand a clip and pencil. Lying on his back, and holding up the clip in his left hand, he then wrote his name and the prophetic words, "Strangulatus pro Republicâ," the fac-simile of which I now authorize you to publish. What epitaph more significant, eloquent, and truthful than this—his own!

2. On August 10th, with a fountain pen, he wrote his name on a clip.

3. Immediately after, he signed an extradition paper, sent from the Department of State, first requesting me to read the document,—the old habit of thoroughness asserting itself.

4. On August 11th, he wrote, on a larger clip, with a pencil, the brief letter to his mother, a copy of which has been widely circulated.

Very truly yours,  
A. F. ROCKWELL.