I Witress the attack on Senator Sumner. by Mr Brooks, of South Carolina. In 1856 Sumner was Siting in his See. Addressing the Speech to his Constituents When Mr Brooks approached, him from the frount ~~[illegible]~~, aisle and Said. I have Cum over from the House, to Chastise You for the remarks, that you Maid

this was on the 22 of may

I have read your Speech it is a libble on South Carolina and

a gaence My Relation Senator Butler, at the Same tim rasin his Cane, and Struck him three time on the head. Mr Sumner arose from his Seat, and Made an Effort to take hould of Mr Brooks. but the last blow

brought him to the flower
it was all dun in a
minat, as sure as he fell.
Senator Cass. and my sealef and Arthur Gorman + Serearal lifeted
him up, and we leade him
out to the reception room, -
of the Senate I gott towealer
and a bason of warter. washed
his heade. - he walk devour
to the front door of the Capitol
Got a Hack and went to
his lodgeryes - in the mean
time Brooks and his friends
Mr Edmundson. of Virginia and Mr Keitt of South Carolina
retear to the house - the Cain
that Mr Brook Youes. was brocken
in small peaces. I have a peace
now in my position it was a gutta-percha
Cane an inch thick. the Cane. broken into fragment

1A 19

It was the speech that Mr Sumner delivered on the 19 and 20. of May that caused Mr Brooks to cane him —

Mr St John one of the employes of the Senate was picking up the loose paper from of the floor, and picked up the head of Mr Brooks cane, Mr Douglas then busy in the Senate ast him for it he gave it to him what Mr Douglas done with it I now not —

Mr Sumner delivered on
the 19 and 20. of May 1850 –
his speech in the Crime against
Kansas, it was marked by his
usual efforts; of learning and
grate force among those Senator
he alouded to was Mr Butler
and Douglas who had singled
him out for Special attac
it was for words spoken in
those speeches that Mr Brooks,
a member of the House from
South Carolina Came over from
the House after the adjournment
of the Senate on the 22. of May
Mr Sumner at his desk –

61

14D 76

engaged in sending the Reply
Speech to which Mr Brooks alluded to, — While so engaged
Brooks approached him and
said I have read your Speech
twice over, carefully, it is a libel
on South Carolina, and
Mr Butler who is a relative of
mine. and then suddenly
with a cane, gave him three
blows on the head, the last
blow broke the cane in pieces
and brought Mr Sumner Senseless
to the floor — he was taken up
and Carried in to the Ante Room
of the Senate. Where every assistance

62

14D 77

was paid to him, I immediately got a basen of water and towels and assisted to wash the blood from his head and face, he was then able to get in a Carriage to his lodgings,

on the 24 of June 1860 Mr Sumner delivered his Speech on the barbarism of Slavery — on March 31 1862, he spoke at length on the bill to Abolition of Slavery in the district of Columbia, —

63

14 D 80

Mr W. H. H. St. John being present when Mr Brooks of South Carolina, made the assault upon Charles Sumner in the Senate, says that Mr Brooke stood ~~front~~ in front Mr Sumner talking with him. Suddenly he struck Mr Sumner over the head with a black gutta percha cane that he had in his hand, and felled Mr Sumner to the floor. The cane flew to pieces and I picked up the gold head of the cane and handed it to Mr S. A. Douglass who stood by. Mr Rusk, Mr Douglass and others stood by but did not interfere. Mr Bassett assisted Mr Sumner to the ~~reception~~ room and bathed his head which bled profusely

Wm. H. H. St. John

14D 92

Mr. Sumner was sitting at his desk in Senate Chamber after the adjournment of the Senate, engaged in franking the very speech which was so offensive to the nephew of his uncle — the Crime ag't Kansas — when the redoubtable Brooks approached in a threatening manner? stealthily? (How?) and said: "I have read your speech twice over, carefully; it is a libel on S. C. and Sen Butler who is a relative of mine." He then immediately, without waiting for a reply, without having previously indicating his purposes of violence, or giving Mr. Sumner an opportunity ~~for~~ ~~do~~ of putting himself on the defensive, assaulted Mr. S. with a

20E 115

Summer — 2

~~heavy~~ Stout Cane, giving him three heavy blows on the head. Under the last blow ~~Mr.~~ the cane ~~flew~~ broke into pieces, and Mr. S. sank senseless to the floor. He was taken up and carried into the ante room of the Senate. Every {assistance / attention} was rendered him. The blood was washed from his face and head, and when able ~~to be to~~ was taken in a carriage to his lodgings.

20 E 116