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Poetry.

LOUISIANA'S LOSS.

RIGHT REV. J. P. B. WILMER, DIED DEC. 2d, 1878.

MARGARET A. LOGAN, IN NEW ORLEANS PIAZYUNE.

Why pales the lingering autumn glow In sunny Southern skies? Why droops the long gray moss so low, Why weeps the wind in sighs Through quivering limbs that hasten so To shed their crimson dyes?

Thus, kindly, mother nature shares The grief of Southern hearts; Cold rain she mingles with our tears, While one bright soul departs, And stricken Louisiana bears This deepest of death's darts!

From the fair isle whose sea-girt shore The sea foam ever leaves, The ocean bora him home once more, He found the land that smiled before A land of many graves.

We said, he comes our hearts to cheer, Our bishop, father, friend; The cloud of gloom begins to clear, The boy of hope to bend; We hear him saying, "Children dear, Earth's sorrow has an end."

Again, he stands within our walls— Then in a moment brief, Before the heavenly reaper falls This ripened harvest sheaf; And sorrow, all her tears recalls, To mourn this common grief.

Who weep with us his special care? The church throughout the land, For while our Bishop died each tear, And stretched a helping hand, He made e'en infidels revere The Master's dread command.

Nor church alone, with sorrow all True loyal hearts are stirred, For silent lips, whence wont to fall Full many a patriot word; Both North and South the hour recall When that defense was made.

And Greenmount's soil is sacred now, There lies his holy dust; We leave it, for our wills must bow To One whose ways are just; But, parting let us, like him, vow To labor, love and trust.

THE PRINTING INQUIRY.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE PRINTER.

ROOMS OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE PRINTER. NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 25, 1879.

To the Honorable the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Members of the General Assembly.

Your Special Joint Committee, appointed to investigate the accounts of the State Printer under the following concurrent resolution of your respective bodies, to-wit:

"Resolved, That a special joint committee of the House and Senate be appointed by the presiding officer of each body, to be composed of five members of the House and three members of the Senate, whose duties shall be to investigate the accounts of the State Printer for the year 1878, and to ascertain what exact amount is due to said State Printer; said joint committee to have power to send for persons and papers, and to that end they are hereby vested with the power of compulsory process."

Be it remembered, that after a close examination of witnesses, most of whom were experts in printing and job book printing work, to-wit: Col. Gerard Stith, foreman of the New Orleans Picaune news office, and J. S. Walker, of the New Orleans Picaune office, a practical job printer of thirty years' experience, have come to the following conclusions:

That the State of Louisiana, through the Printing Board organized under Act No. 49 of 1877, and composed of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, two members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Senate, did, on the third day of December, 1877, enter into a written contract before W. J. Castell, a notary public in this city, with George W. Dupre, of the New Orleans Democrat, said G. W. Dupre having been elected State Printer by said Printing Board, as provided for by said Act No. 49 of 1877.

This contract, under Section 2 of said Act No. 49, was for a period of one year, or until another contract could go into effect.

The Printing Board, at a meeting held on or about the thirtieth of November, 1877, resolved and adopted the following report made by a committee of two members of said board (which committee had been appointed by said board,) as follows, to-wit:

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 30, 1877. Mr. President and Members State Printing Board: GENTLEMEN—Your "committee on prices" beg leave to submit for your consideration the accompanying exhibit, showing the prices allowed the Public Printer under former administrations, as well as those allowed by existing laws, the figures kindly furnished by several able and experienced job printers, together with the deductions of your committee in the matter.

In submitting this report your committee desire to say that their estimate is calculated on a strict cash basis, and any advance on the prices so fixed, which may be proper to make in the event that the State should be unable to pay in cash, they prefer to leave to the judgment and discretion of the board as a whole.

Your committee, in closing their report, desire to return thanks to Mr. F. L. Met, of the Bee, and Messrs. V. Maubert, Lewis Graham, F. E. Hansell and William J. Hammond, practical printers, for the valuable information and assistance so cheerfully extended by these gentlemen to them.

Respectfully submitted, LOUIS LEONARD, J. M. LAMARE.

Your committee find that the State of Louisiana, through its agents, "the Printing Board," has not complied with the plain condition of the contract entered into with the said State Printer, to-wit: the strict cash basis.

Your committee find that instead of \$43,000 cash, which he should have received under the contract at various times as the work was delivered, the State Printer has received only nineteen hundred dollars in cash, and has now in his possession \$40,100 of Auditor's warrants, issued to him from the twenty-fifth of March, 1873, to the last day of October, 1878.

Your committee find that of all the bills rendered by the State Printer for work duly ordered by the various heads of the Executive Department and by both branches of the General Assembly, only one was at all questioned, that one being a bill for printing and binding legislative documents of 1878, in a separate volume, under Section 2618, Revised Statutes. This bill your committee have thoroughly examined. Your committee called in experts, Messrs. Gerard Stith and John S. Walker, who testified to the correct measurement of this work:

Your committee find that the State Printer was instructed by the proper head of one of the Executive Departments, to-wit—the Secretary of State—to execute said work.

Your committee find that the State Printer acted properly in executing said work, being so instructed by the Secretary of State.

Mr. H. W. Green, a printer, appeared before your committee on a subpoena.

Every charge brought by this witness, Green, was disproved by the evidence of the experts, Messrs. Stith and Walker, as well as by the contradictions and prevarications of the witness himself when subjected to a close examination.

Your committee believe that this witness, Green, was procured to give the evidence he did, as proof of which it is only necessary to quote portions of his evidence given under oath before your committee.

Question—Mr. Green, under what circumstances did you obtain information as to that book ["Legislative Documents of 1878"] about which you have brought charges of fraud against the State Printer before two separate Grand Juries? Answer—I was there with it. I saw it. I was working on it.

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Question—Mr. Green, under what circumstances did you obtain information as to that book ["Legislative Documents of 1878"] about which you have brought charges of fraud against the State Printer before two separate Grand Juries? Answer—I was there with it. I saw it. I was working on it.

Question—So that whatever knowledge you may have of what was being done in the Democrat office was obtained while you were employed there; you got your knowledge there? Answer—As a workman I did.

Question—As a workman you did? Answer—Yes, certainly; there's no use denying that.

Question—How came you to bring charges against the State Printer based upon the prices charged for this work? Answer—I didn't bring any charges, the bill was brought to me.

Question—By whom? Answer—That's a private matter.

Question—I insist upon the witness answering the question. Answer—I can't recollect.

Question—Can't you refresh your memory? Answer—Well, if you don't want to use this against me in a criminal prosecution, I'll tell you how I got it.

Answer—I have no desire to prosecute you.

Now, even after this assurance

that he would not be criminally prosecuted, the witness dodged for a full hour the question which at first he had promised to answer. Further on during the investigation the following occurred:

Question—Did you furnish evidence before the Grand Jury that this book (Legislative Documents of 1878) does not contain a single page of minion type, and because of long primer being used the State Printer made many more pages than should have been in the book?

Answer—Well, my opinion of the matter is, that the laws of 1856, (sections 1557, 1558, 1559, 2611 2612 2613 Revised Statutes) was never conformed with, and it was not the intention of that act to have the reports of committees printed, nor any such trash furnished to the Legislature; this is my theory.

Question—Is that your real opinion before this committee? Answer—Yes.

Question—And upon that theory you would base an accusation of fraud against the State Printer? Answer—No, sir, I didn't do it; other people had something to do with it.

Thus, twice had the witness almost categorically acknowledged that some other persons had taken a hand with him against the State Printer. When being closely pressed the witness sullenly set at defiance the authority of your committee, as is made clear by the following extract from his evidence:

Question—Mr. Green, who instigated you to the prosecution of the State Printer? Answer—Myself.

Question—Did you not swear before the Third District Court that if the man who instigated you to do that had not the courage or the manhood to come forward, you would not name him.

Answer—I'd.

Question—Give his name? Answer—I decline to do so.

Your committee, in view of the fact that the examination of this witness disclosed his splanatic and malicious motives, and that it was mainly on his expert evidence that two Grand Juries had reported charges of fraud against the State Printer, that from beginning to end his testimony, as well in his manner as in what he uttered, created a strong impression that he had acted the role of a swift witness, before the Grand Juries for which purpose others had procured him. Your committee, as aforesaid, were extremely desirous of forcing the witness to disclose the names of his accomplices; the more so because every statement of this witness as to the alleged fraudulent charges in the bill of the State Printer, were proven to be untrue by the concurring depositions before your committee of Messrs. Smith and Walker, of the Picaune, and Mr. Barrow, foreman of the Democrat job printing office.

Your committee, therefore, pressed the witness Green. He, when cornered, flatly refused to give the names of those who had induced him to thus swear against the State Printer. When your committee brought the witness before the bar of the House, charged with contumacy, this action was in conformity with a unanimous vote of your committee. The House thought best to release the witness. Thus your committee were forced to abandon the most promising branch of their investigation. It was Green and others who had accused the State Printer of fraudulent charges in a certain bill. When your committee, in examining this alleged fraudulent bill, brought Green before them to indicate the fraud, he failed. Your committee naturally attempted to bring the other parties, who Green acknowledged to have acted with him, before them; that they be given a fair opportunity to prove the fraud Green had failed to establish. This, and only this, was the object of your committee in endeavoring to force Green to disclose the names of the person or persons who, together with himself, had procured the Grand Jury of this Parish to charge the State Printer with fraud. Your committee would remark here that Green was the sole witness who appeared to testify against the State Printer. His evidence as an expert was flatly contradicted and overturned by that of the other experts summoned by the committee. Col. Stith and Mr.

Walker, both of the Picaune, and Mr. Barrow, of the Democrat, all practical printers of great experience and recognized ability, whose estimate of the work differed but slightly if at all with the account rendered by the State Printer; whereas Green's estimate, admitted to be a matter of opinion simply as to what the State should pay, and not as to what the printing really measured, differed from their estimates very considerably. Abandoning this branch of the investigation your committee repaired to the State Auditor's office, accompanied by an expert of their own selection, Mr. Jno. S. Walker, and then and there proceeded to the examination of the vouchers of the State Printer on file in that office. With a copy of the printing law of 1877 (act No. 47 regular session) and a copy of the contract between the Printing Board and the State Printer before the expert above, Walker, examined a large number of vouchers for printing done for the General Assembly and the various heads of the Executive Department, all in the presence of your committee. Your committee, both of their own examination and that of the expert, Mr. Walker, have to report the accounts of the State Printer for 1878 perfectly correct.

As the result of their labor your committee have prepared a bill for the relief of the State Printer. Having found that the State of Louisiana, through the Printing Board, has failed to pay the State Printer on a cash basis, as had been understood between the contracting parties, and that the State Printer has now \$40,100 of warrants on the Treasury, upon which he has borrowed money at interest, involving a loss in that single item of \$5000; finding, moreover, that the State Printer is in possession of \$4050 of vouchers, duly approved by the proper State officers for necessary printing, and duly certified as correct by the State Auditor, and after examining said vouchers your committee finding them issued for necessary work, properly charged, recommend that the Auditor be authorized to issue his warrants in payment of said vouchers to the said amount of \$4050, which amount is in excess of the appropriation made by the Legislature of 1878 for public printing.

All of which will be found in the relief bill which your committee beg leave to introduce herewith, recommending its passage.

H. C. MITCHELL, Chairman on part of the Senate.

J. D. HAMMOND, Chairman on part of the House.

L. H. BOWDEN, J. D. NETTLES, W. C. ROSS, S. F. PARMALLEE.

I herby coincide with the above report, save and except such parts as relates to the evidence of the witness, H. W. Green, which I consider should be stricken out, as having no bearing under the resolution creating the joint committee.

O. DELAHOUSAYE.

—ONE of the largest manufacturers of iron in the United States, who knows all about the business practically, says that bar iron can not be made for less than two and a quarter cents per pound, and give a living profit to all engaged in or dependent on its manufacture—as the mill hands, the ore men, the fuel men and others. If prices of ore, pig and fuel were to remain at their present low and unprofitable point, bar iron could be made at two cents, with a very slight margin of profit; but of course it is neither desirable nor possible to keep any business down to a starvation point.

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—THE hesitancy, reluctant, shame-faced, apologetic manner of our home Radicals here, and their allies, when they venture a word in defense of the persecutions now going on against our people, is more damaging than silence. It is like the plea of thief to an indictment, "Guilty, but drunk, your honor."

—Hox, Daniel W. Voorhies, the great Democrat and U. S. Senator from Indiana, has been re-elected to the U. S. Senate for the long term.