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BY TELEGRAPH.

BEN FLANDERS.

He Offers to Resign if Exonerated from the Charges Against Him.

[Special to N. O. Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, May 28.—It is reported that Ben Flanders offers to resign if the commission to examine charges recently made against him will make a report exonerating him. BUELL.

THE NEW PARTY TALK.

A Number of Leading Citizens of the North and South to Meet in New York and Form a New Party.

A Belief that It Will Prove Another Fifth Avenue Conference.

[Special to N. O. Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The new party talk is revived here to-day by the Administration organ, which says that a convention of distinguished citizens of the North and South will soon be held in New York to set the thing going. It will probably amount to nothing more than another Fifth Avenue Hotel conference like that of a year ago, the sole result of which, as far as can be ascertained, was to place Schurz and Everett in a position where they could drive hard bargains for Cabinet positions. BUELL.

APPOINTMENTS.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The President has determined to retain Marshall Douglas for North Carolina, and Smyth for Georgia.

WAR NOTES.

The Destruction of a Turkish Iron-Clad. LONDON, May 28.—Two young Russian engineers officers who attempted to reach a Turkish monitor on the Danube with torpedoes, were discovered and driven off by heavy fire. They returned at 9 o'clock in the morning, in two skiffs, carrying a chain of small torpedoes filled with dynamite, secured the chain across the monitor's bow and fired it by means of electricity, when the monitor disappeared.

Another account of the destruction of the monitor says it was one of the most daring deeds ever recorded. A small detachment of Russian soldiers left the northern shore of the Danube in a number of small boats. The night being very dark they managed to surround the monitor before being discovered. When finally observed by the sentries on board they were challenged. A major replied in Turkish, "Friends!" The Turks, not satisfied, commenced firing in the direction of Matchin, not knowing where the boats came from. Shots flew wide. During the firing several Russian soldiers plunged into the water, swam silently to the vessel and placed a torpedo in close contact with her bottom. After it had been securely fastened the men returned to the neighboring shore. The monitor was blown into the air and all on board perished.

The Sofia Demonstration. The Times' correspondent says the reports about the popular demonstration in Constantinople were greatly exaggerated; there was no trace of anything like a rising, and all passed off as orderly as could be expected.

The Egyptian Contingent Delayed. LONDON, May 28.—Departure of the Egyptian contingent from Alexandria is delayed by, it is said, the refusal of twenty-seven English engineers of the fleet to sail until the arrears of salaries has been paid.

The Turkish Empire Falling to Pieces. Trouble is reported in Palestine and a panic at Jerusalem.

The reported rising against the Turks in the Balkans is officially contradicted. Moukhtar Pasha Flanked. Moukhtar Pasha requires additional force to hold the southern roads, as the Russians evidently intend to gain possession of the river Aras or the Euphrates. Moukhtar Pasha telegraphs he must retire behind Erzerum, as the Russians are turning the passes, and there is danger of his army being cut off from Erzerum.

The Russian Cavalry have already appeared on his flank.

A Change of Ministers Suggested. The Sultan has been advised by some of the diplomatic corps to change his ministers.

The Sultan has not accepted the resignations of the Ministers of War and Finance. The Grand Vizier wishes to mediate with the Chamber. Mohammed favors unbinding opposition to the Chamber.

The Czar in Bad Health. The Czar, since his return to St. Petersburg, is excited and uneasy, and expresses constant dissatisfaction at the meagreness of the news. His physicians recommend his return to the army, at least until some decisive victory is obtained. The physicians oppose his assuming supreme command.

A Dead General. The Russian General, Prince Tchelebieff, wounded at Ardahan, is dead.

Victualing Nisic. Activity in Montenegro is reported, with varied success. Five thousand Turks have set out to revictual Nisic.

A Fleet for Crete. LONDON, May 28.—The News' Constantinople dispatch has the following: A Turkish fleet, numbering nineteen vessels, has arrived at Crete.

Preparations for a Long Siege. The News' Vienna dispatch says: Abdul Kerim Pasha, Turkish Commander-in-Chief, yesterday informed the inhabitants of Rusechuk, Varna, Shumla and Silistria that all persons who have not provisions for at least six months must quit within twelve days.

A Quarrel Between Turkey and Greece. It is stated Greece sent a note to the Porte asking the same privileges he ac-

coordinated to Thessaly and Epirus as to Slavonic provinces.

The Porte replied that the only privileges they had a right to were already accorded by the constitution. Greece complained a second note, stating that as the present war might prevent the Porte from carrying out the constitution, Greece demanded guarantees.

The Porte has not yet replied to the second note. Reports from Athens indicate turbulence in Greece. It is expected the ministry will be overthrown at the meeting of Parliament to-day.

Reinforcements for Cuba. MADRID, May 28.—Sixteen thousand troops will be sent to Cuba during the coming autumn. Arrests continue. Aisac and Lorraine to be Reinforced. BERLIN, May 28.—The Emperor has signed the decree for reinforcing the garrisons in Aisac and Lorraine.

AGAINST THE FREIGHT RAILROAD.

The Meeting of the Property Owners on Louisiana Avenue.

A meeting of the owners of property on Louisiana Avenue who are opposed to the proposed railroad along that street took place last night, at the corner of Louisiana Avenue and Magazine street. Before the meeting was called to order there was a general talk over the matter, and the objection to the road seemed to be that it would deprave property along the line and that the passage of trains would be a nuisance.

One gentleman stated that in all probability it would next be proposed to build grain elevators on the river front with which this road would communicate. This would ruin Louisiana Avenue. The proper place, it was suggested, for this freight line to branch off from the Jackson Railroad is at Kennerville, which is the most appropriate spot for them, as grain elevators would be a nuisance here.

On motion the meeting was called to order at half past 8 o'clock, Capt. J. B. Woods in the chair, Mr. Freret secretary. The President explained the object of the meeting, and stated that it had been called by the property holders along Louisiana Avenue for the purpose of organizing and signing a petition to the Council to refuse to grant the right of way to the proposed road.

Mr. Lesassier moved that a committee of five be appointed to prepare a petition which should be signed by land owners on the street each stating the number of feet frontage, and that this committee also act as one of ways and means, this petition to be presented to the City Council.

The President then appointed Messrs. Lesassier, Lawyer, Aycock, Levy and Kirkpatrick. It was suggested that the petition be so drawn that it would hold as liable not only those constructing this road, but the city itself, for whatever damage might occur; and further, that it should be stated that the property owners would contest the building of the road in every court.

The President then requested the committee already appointed to wait upon the Council and request them to give the property holders time to present their petition before acting on the question.

The members then signed the petition, after which the meeting adjourned.

A Difference.

Mayor Pillsbury, in transmitting the canvass of the vote on the New Orleans Pacific Railroad tax to the Council on Saturday, took occasion to make some allusions to the sentiment of the people regarding the proposed railroad to Texas. The remarks of the Mayor were reported in two of our contemporaries in such a manner as to divest them of common sense. We reproduce that portion inaccurately reported, in justice to Mayor Pillsbury, as follows:

"A result so emphatic was not expected by either party to the controversy, and although the principle seems to be settled for a long time to come, that taxation, for the purpose and in the manner proposed, will not be favorably entertained by the majority, it must not be considered as an evidence of hostility to or condemnation of the great enterprise, to the completion of which all our energies should now be directed."

The difference lies in the omission of the words italicized.

The Commission on Commercial Restrictions. Yesterday afternoon this commission met at their room in the Cotton Exchange, and in an informal manner discussed the matter of city licenses. No quorum being present, the questions before the body were considered only for mutual interchange of opinion. Mr. Chaffo read a paper showing that since the year 1870, when the city received over \$300,000 for licenses, that sum had been reduced in 1875 to \$225,000.

The license ordinance was then examined, many occupations were checked out, they not being considered as justly entitled to endure this species of taxation.

It was generally understood that money would prevent their report from being presented to the General Assembly, and on this an attempt was made to force Clinton into issuing warrants upon vouchers which came from the Board of Audit operations. E. F. Herwig seemed to be the most prominent and Mr. Twitchell was the one to whom the warrants were to be issued.

Quite a number of stub warrant books of 1875, with the appropriation book of that year, were then produced, and the witness was requested to examine them.

He did so, and turning to the index ascertained the warrants and amounts he had referred to, as follows:

January 15, 1875—Vouchers Nos. 417 to 453 inclusive, in the name of H. S. Wills, to bills for supplies furnished the State militia, \$3329 97. This was collected, being six warrants for \$500 each, No. 452 for \$322 97, and all were collected.

The others were warrants Nos. 454 to 458 inclusive, for warrants for \$490 each, one for \$300 and one for \$120 50, making a total of \$2429 50, which were not collected, but were canceled, and all were issued to J. S. Wills.

This book, continued the witness, referring to the Treasurer's printed report for 1876, does not show the printing warrants issued; that entry should be in the appropriation book of 1876 (the one missing from the Auditor's office). The item of \$35,000 in the printed report was what the Treasurer paid and may be part, but these books refer to another act. The appropriation referred to went to the Republican Printing Company, and these warrants were somewhere in the thousands, but do not know exactly what the amount was. The voucher states that this work was done in 1873 and the warrant was drawn against a fund of 1874.

Unless canceled those warrants were not destroyed, and I do not know that the warrants issued to Wills were destroyed. Wills was a clerk in

AUDITORIAL INVESTIGATION.

RICH DEVELOPMENTS.

Kellogg's Cousin Willis Draws Fraudulent Warrants and Kellogg Gets the Money.

The committee (joint) to investigate the affairs of the ex-Auditor and Treasurer met yesterday at 1 p. m.

Mr. D. Brainard was the first witness called, who, after being sworn, testified, in substance, as follows, in reply to the inquiries made:

Was chief book-keeper in the Auditor's office from January 1, 1875, to October 1, 1876—twenty-one months; and was bond clerk from July 15, 1874, to December 31, 1874. While chief book-keeper, superintended the keeping of the books, or was supposed to do so. My own immediate work was to keep the fund books and tax ledger; to balance the accounts in the Treasurer's office.

Generally the Auditor would give me orders in person.

ORDERS IN PERSON, and sometimes by F. A. Scholtz, the chief clerk. His duties were to act in place of the Auditor, and to interview parties where it was not necessary that the Auditor should see the parties in person. A portion of the time he wrote up the consolidated bond book, that is, after the funding act was passed.

I know there was a series of bond books in the office when I was there, showing the purchase and cancellation of bonds, and there was a book relative to the free school fund. Have no special knowledge of a book of redemption. No books were taken away from the Auditor's office, and I have no knowledge of any being destroyed. When I was there the office contained a complete record from 1841 to the time I left, except during two years of the war, when the records were at Baton Rouge.

In my opinion I made entries which were contrary to law; cannot specify now the various items, though if I could see the books I could point them out. Do not know personally of the Auditor making direct settlements with the tax collectors while I was there; only know of it from hearsay.

There were a large number of WARRANTS ISSUED ILLEGALLY.

To Mr. Keating—Was in the office under both Clinton and Johnson, and illegal warrants were issued under both administrations, though it is almost impossible to state items. Under Clinton there were warrants issued for the payment of the militia of the State, which, by accident, I found out were on vouchers payable to other parties than those named in the warrant. In one instance the party to whom the warrants were delivered told me this; I don't say that the Auditor knew it. The fact is he couldn't help it, as he had orders to do it from superior authority.

To Mr. Aldige—John S. Wills, Gov. Kellogg's cousin, received the warrants referred to; they were presented to him in his name for supplies furnished the State militia.

There was a balance to that appropriation and the vouchers were for several hundred dollars were so issued in 1875, perhaps in the summer or early in the fall. The bill of items purported to be payable to John S. Wills, and that bill the warrants were issued, payable to Wills. Think the vouchers had first to be approved by the Governor. These vouchers should be on file now in the Auditor's office. If you had the warrant stub-book you could find them easily. When warrants are issued, it was the voucher that the vouchers away.

During Mr. Johnson's term of service I can recollect of warrants being issued against funds for which there was no appropriation. Also warrants were issued against the funds of the State, which, under the law, have been issued against the funds of other years. In instances, warrants for printing were issued against the appropriation of 1873, when the appropriation was exhausted, and they were then issued against the appropriation of 1874, which was not exhausted. The books of 1876 will show it. Warrants were also drawn ostensibly against one fund when the voucher was for another that it had been issued against another fund.

Don't know that there was any manner in which the Treasurer could detect these irregularities in the drawing of warrants, and he could certainly not prevent them.

Mr. Clinton used to allow his chief clerk to check the vouchers upon which warrants were issued, but Mr. Johnson supervised that work himself; never knew that Johnson collected money directly from the tax collectors. No money was collected in his official capacity, at least. Was in the Auditor's office when the Herwig committee pretended to make an investigation, and that was purely

A BLACKMAILING TRANSACTION. Experts were appointed, they examined only the status of certain appropriations and issuing warrants upon vouchers which came from having access to the office, and was the only one who was refused an examination of the books. He offended the Auditor in some way; I think it was in his eagerness to serve Herwig, and then to file the vouchers away.

It was generally understood that money would prevent their report from being presented to the General Assembly, and on this an attempt was made to force Clinton into issuing warrants upon vouchers which came from the Board of Audit operations. E. F. Herwig seemed to be the most prominent and Mr. Twitchell was the one to whom the warrants were to be issued.

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Unless canceled those warrants were not destroyed, and I do not know that the warrants issued to Wills were destroyed. Wills was a clerk in

the Auditor's office for awhile in charge of the journals, and was there when the warrants were issued to him, and at that time he told me himself that the vouchers were fraudulent. Think he is now in Chicago. These warrants were issued

against the appropriation of 1875, and understood by the Kellogg, who Wills said had to pay out a great deal of charitable purposes. I first noticed the entries on the books and asked about it, and in that way found it out.

Other stub warrant books were then placed before the witness and identified, when he took them to a desk in the room to examine them, but before doing so remarked, in answer to a question by Mr. Aldige, that he (the witness) left the Auditor's office of his own accord and account of private business.

Mr. N. C. Folger was the next witness called: Was appointed tax collector of the First District by Kellogg; first took his seat, was more than a year until I was removed; that was, as I heard, because wasn't a good Republican; when I was appointed it was agreed that I should give a certain portion of my percentage to another party; presume Gov. Kellogg knew of the arrangement; that party

WAS JAMES CLARK. Cannot tell exactly what the office yielded; it was very heavy for the first two years. The commissions were ten per cent on back taxes, five per cent on licenses and two and a half per cent on current taxes.

Decline to state what portion was to be given to Clark on the contract. Mr. Johnson was my deputy; he came to me and sought a situation, and I appointed him and found him a very efficient man. When I took possession of the office, I went to the office and turned over to me, but also the delinquent rolls, and handed everything over to my successor. I settled in full with the Treasurer, and within a month or two got a quietus lating with me; in fact, don't know whether my successor settled or not.

I received orders several times not to make settlements, and when the government required funds I frequently paid in, taking a receipt on account. Never paid a dollar to the filterer into his hands. Expect there must have been something of that kind in 1873; remember that Clinton received money for a month or two; then when he advertised for the warrants I would sometimes, in my private capacity, as a favor to the judges of the Supreme Court.

DO NOT AND GIVE THEM CASH, and then turn the vouchers in as cash; also some legislative warrants that were made receivable for licenses, but no purchase of warrants was made in my office with State funds. I took charge of the cash myself, and the deposits for two years personally.

To Mr. Steven—The "quietus" was the cancellation of my bond and was in November or December. I went to see about it several times, but it was not until several times, and after that it was sent to my brother's store. Think the last month I was in my settlement was \$150,000. When I left the office I was free to all.

Mr. Brainard recalled—I recognize in these stub-warrant books of 1876 a number of irregular warrants issued, three lots, one of which I know personally to have been fraudulently issued. Warrant stub-book No. 2, of 1876, inclusive, from series Nos. 3848 to 3866, inclusive, for \$100 each, and 3867 for \$87, making a total of \$1970 in favor of the Plaquemine Sentinel for printing and advertising done for the State, was drawn upon to parish official journals, section 2, act 17 of 1875, and the voucher will show that the bill was for 1873, and should have been drawn against the 1874 and not the 1875 fund. I know this from the fact that at one time the bills were left with me, and I could not obtain the warrants, when after that James Lewis (colored) got the warrants.

Another lot (same book) April 29, 1876, warrants 3836 to 3866, for the *Avoyelles Republican*, \$2974; warrants 3867 to 3897, for \$268, for the *North Louisiana Journal*; warrant 3898 to 3736, for \$2362, to the *Iberville Republican*.

PER W. W. WEAVER. Warrants 3737 to 3763 for \$2635, for the *Tangipahoa Advertiser* per J. B. Wands, 3664 to 3623 for \$5883 10 cts for the *Comsatina Times*, all being in the general fund, section 2, act 17 of 1875, and were drawn against the appropriation to parish official journals, section 2, act 17 of 1875, and should have been drawn against an appropriation for 1874 instead of 1875, but that appropriation had been exhausted.

Warrant book No. 3, of 1876, shows warrants 5456 to 5465, for \$250 each, and 5466, for \$235, total \$2736, for the *St. Martinville Echo*, being the general fund, series of 1875, per J. C. Orleans, and being an appropriation for parish official journals, outside of the parish of Orleans, for the year 1875, which was exhausted, and the warrant drawn against another appropriation.

Keating—Cannot remember any other particular instance except those named. There should be in the Auditor's office a ledger for the years 1871 to 1876 (combined), for 1873-4 (combined), 1875 separate and 1876 separate.

Beatty, a stenographer, took the stand, and testified that he was appointed stenographer to the Herwig committee, but never received any money for his services, although the amount appropriated for continuing the committee had been warranted. It was at first enjoined. He believed attempts had been made to coerce Clinton into issuing certain warrants. Clinton had told witness that Twitchell and Souer called on him and wanted him to do something in relation to a certain funding of bonds in New York.

Ernest Herwig had the documents of the report; they were a long time in the possession of Joe Herwig, where witness was told to take them, which he did, and was on Common street. Mr. Aldige made a statement in connection with the captured Herwig papers, stating that they were captured while being taken from the State House, and not as they were going to Mr. Herwig's house, as had been reported.

The committee then adjourned until 1 P. M. Wednesday.

In connection with the testimony given above relative to the settlement of the tax collectors with the Auditor in person, it is positively known that when making their settlements, in some cases at least, a portion of the tax collectors' commissions were deducted to

MAKE A CAMPAIGN FUND, and they stood it like little men. In one instance, Kellogg himself compelled Tax Collector Carey to give him, Kellogg, a check for \$500, and subsequently Antoine chopped off Carey's head.

In connection with the militia (?) warrants issued to Wills, referred to in Mr. Brainard's testimony, it is known that a row was kicked up by the late Attorney General Field and Henry Street over them, and pending a ventilation in the papers, Kellogg had them canceled, and he was given a couple of inquisitive reporters one day in 1875, when he

WAS INTERVIEWING STREET. The other warrants, over \$300, were issued to Wills, and if the books of a certain bank in this city were examined, it would be found that exchange on Chicago was taken for the warrants, and that exchange was sent to Kellogg in Chicago; and further, it might be found that other warrants were issued in the same manner, but the

BOOKS ARE MISSING, and definite proof cannot, therefore, be had just now.

SOUTHERN AFFAIRS. The President Com. does Not to Scold Gov. Stone for a While. [St. Louis Republican.]

WASHINGTON, May 25.—After some informal consideration of the recent murders in Mississippi and Louisiana in the Cabinet to-day, it was decided to await further information on the subject in order that all circumstances attending these melancholy affairs should be fully brought to light before it should be determined whether any formal attention should be given them.

Letter from the Editor of the Charleston News and Courier.

CHARLESTON, S. C., May 20, 1877.

Editor Democrat—My attention has been called to an article in your paper in which, on the faith of some letters alleged to have been written by me in 1871 to the clerk of the Senate, I am accused of having been "in with the Radicals who were robbing the State." I am at a loss to account for the violence of your attack; but whatever your motives, I have the right to ask, and now ask, that you publish and with it my reply to Whittemore and Woodruff, whose maliciously have exposed, and whose arrest and presentation I have demanded for several years; that is, ever since the criminal character of their conduct was discovered.

The reply in question was by leave read in the presence of the Senate. Failing in their effort to divert attention from themselves, Woodruff and Whittemore have not attempted to prove their charges, and Whittemore has fled the State.

Further than this, I only care to say that if you were well acquainted with the course of political affairs in South Carolina, you would know that the policy of running no Democratic candidate for Governor against Mr. Chamberlain at the last election, was a large majority of the people of Charleston, and by little short of a majority of the people of this State.

I am your obedient servant, F. W. DAWSON.

The following is Mr. Dawson's letter to the South Carolina Senate, in reply to the charges against him referred to in the above letter to the editor of the DEMOCRAT:

COLUMBIA, May 2, 1877. To the Senate of South Carolina: I have read this morning the remarks of Mr. B. F. Whittemore, Senator from Darlington, delivered in the Senate yesterday.

These remarks cover a gross attack upon my character and upon the character of the Chamberlain and improper transactions management of the *News and Courier*. So soon as the news that the attack had been made reached me in Charleston, I came to Columbia, that I might meet our accusers face to face, for that purpose, and none other, I am in Columbia to-day.

I feel that, in any statement that I may make before this body, it might seem out of place to suggest any special reasons why this attack upon me might, with propriety, be disregarded; inasmuch as, in Mr. Whittemore's words, "I am dragged before the public by one who seeks to cover his own corruption and corrupt practices by accusations of fraud and improper transactions against me and my associate." But I owe an answer to the good citizens of South Carolina who, through good report and evil report, have honored me, these ten years, with a large measure of confidence, and to the members of the Senate from Darlington, I make, in this place, my reply.

The letters purporting to be written by me, or by Mr. Riordan, read by Mr. Whittemore in the course of his remarks, have not been examined by me, and therefore I am unable to say whether they are wholly or in part genuine. From grand larceny to forgery is no great distance, even when measured by the penalties of the criminal law. I take, however, the letters as they stand and find that, if genuine, they prove

1. That the proprietors of the *Charleston News*, who are the present proprietors of the *News and Courier*, desired to obtain, and to have printed, the laws of the State of New Orleans, and to all appearance, with very good reason. On this and other points we quote the concluding portions of their statement.

One very significant opinion is given in this report to the effect that the railway competition for the traffic of the West cannot yet be considered at an end. The facts and figures set forth by the delegates point, indeed, to a diversion of the bulk of the grain trade southward. Should the bar at the mouth of the Mississippi prove to be permanently removed by the jetties placed there, so that the largest vessels can get up to New Orleans, this diversion seems inevitable and the great railways of the East will prove to have been racing each other and fighting together for a prize which they could not possibly retain. Leaving that danger on one side, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the facilities and cheapness of lake and canal transport should have taunted these competitors much more caution. Ultimately they will have, no doubt, a great business all along their routes, but the heavy traffic of the great Mississippi Valley seems destined to go either eastward by the lakes or southward by the shortest road to a great port.

EXIT CHANDLER. A Disgraced Retirement to His Western Home. [N. Y. World.]

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Ex-Senator and ex-Secretary and ex-Chairman Zach Chandler turned his face yesterday from Washington toward "his home in the bright setting of the sun." No man with sadder face or heavier heart has shaken the dust from his shoes and commenced a more weary pilgrimage from Washington these twenty years. For the first time in fifteen years he has closed his house here, one of the largest in the city, and shipped his furniture to Detroit. Neither will ever return.

The great chairman of the committee on the misconduct of the war goes back out of pocket with the Republican committee and out of mind with the administration. Since that awful day in the kalends of March, when he heard that Schurz had succeeded him in the Cabinet, he has not been himself, though known to have remarked "that he had lived to see the greatest travesty in the history of American politics." For weeks past his favorite reading has been Philip's lecture on the "Slave-hound Cabinet," with its graceful reference to the reward of the "Swiss Soldier," which improved his mental health not a little; but his taking off at the close of a public life in Washington of twenty years has been that of one unwept and unhonored, if not unung.

INCREASED TRADE. A Number of Mediterranean Vessels to Enter the American Trade. [St. Louis Republican.]

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Advices from Holland state that the vessels which have heretofore been engaged in the Baltic and Mediterranean grain trade in bringing from those ports rye and wheat will hereafter be used for trading with the United States, the Baltic and Mediterranean seas being closed by the Russian-Turkish war.

Cheap sewing machines are guaranteed for a few years; the Singer is guaranteed forever, if properly cared for. Office, 91 Canal street.

What has been said against me and against my partner, Mr. Riordan, is spread upon the journals of your body, and so becomes a part of the permanent record of our proceedings. Upon this floor I and mine have no voice, and for that reason I feel that I have the right to ask at your hands, as the trusted representatives of the people, that this statement, in vindication of my character and that of my