of preventing the Government lands from bringing their full value?

Answer. I am not conversant with the sale of any military reservations, except some outside reservations that, it was thought by the people, were far more extensive than the wants of the Government would require. And of these reservations, the only one I know particularly about was the first cut off from the reservation at Fort Snelling. That was set back to the Land Department and sold by the land officers. If you ask me in reference to the sales of public lands in the West generally, by the Land Department, I answer that they have seldom brought more than a dollar and a quarter per acre. I am not conversant with the sales of any reservations by the War Department, except the case before alluded to.

Question 525. How will that portion of the Fort Snelling reservation, sold under the act of 1852, compare in value or quality with that sold in 1857?

Answer. The quality of the land might not be very different as a whole. The Government had no improvements on the one tract, while they had extensive improvements on the other. Then, in the one case, the land was sold by the Land Office, under which all precedent has been, heretofore, to sell at the Government price, and the lands on that portion of the reserve had, at the time of sale, I think, as many as two settlers to every quarter section.

Question 526. Do you know anything of the history of the legislation under which the first part of that reserve, I mean the act of 1852, was sold; how that legislation was obtained?

Answer. My recollection is not distinct at all. I know there was a long controversy or long struggle about it, ending in the reserve being reduced, and the part cut off placed under the disposition of the Land-Office. It was thought by the settlers, and by the Delegate in Congress then, Mr. Sibley, to be subject to preemption, and he so contended, until the Land Department decided against it; after which, there was a special act passed, authorizing it to be settled by preemption. My opinion is, that it was nearly all entered by preemption under this special act of Congress.

Question 527. Do you refer to the act of 1852?

Answer. I think it was a subsequent act.

Question 528. Were there no Government buildings upon that portion of the reservation; no sites for cities?

Answer. It is as beautiful a tract of country as I ever saw, I think. You could build a city there as large as London, so far as that matter is concerned.

Question 529. Is there no town now upon it?

Answer. Yes, Sir; Minneapolis, a large town.

Question 530. Do you say that there was a special act of Congress obtained for the purpose of subjecting that portion of the reservation to preemption?

Answer. That is my recollection. My idea is, that the reserve was reduced in 1852, and that at a subsequent time, 1853 or 1854, there was an act passed authorizing the preemption on the lands.

Question 531. I asked whether there were any Government buildings or property of any description upon the lands?

Answer. Upon the original building of the fort they erected a saw-mill, a house, and a small establishment for cracking corn for the horses. They are now old. The saw-mill and a part of the stone mill have fallen down. The buildings are in a state of dilapidation and decay. The old house is really not inhabitable. There had been for some little time persons living in the house, but my impression is, that they had, in order to make it tenantable, to expend as much money as it would have cost to build a cabin to live in. I should not suppose that the buildings are worth clearing off.

Question 532. Who became the purchaser of that portion of the property?

Answer. Anson Northrup and Mr. Charles Russel, I think, entered, by preemption, the property upon which was the mill and the improvements I have mentioned. The improvements were mostly upon that entered by Mr. Russel.

Question 533. Did any portion of that reserve sell for more than a dollar and a quarter an acre?

Answer. I think it was entered by preemption, and of course at $1 25 an acre.

Question. Did you become a purchaser of any portion of it?

Answer. I became a purchaser of some of it by second-hand sale from the preemptors.

Question 535 (by the Chairman). What price did you pay?

Answer. My recollection is, that the property I bought cost me more than $100 per acre.

Question 536 (by the Chairman). How much did you own there?

Answer. I cannot exactly tell; I have bought a great deal second-handed; the property was laid out in town lots, and I bought lots; my early purchases were small.

Question 537 (by the Chairman). What town was that?

Answer. Minneapolis.

Question 538 (by Mr. Faulkner). Did you meet with Major Eastman and Mr. Heiskell there?

Answer. No, Sir; I might have been introduced to Major Eastman when I was in Congress before; but I do not know him, nor do I know Mr. Heiskell; I knew a Mr. Heiskell who was in the medical department, under General Lawson.

Examination by the Chairman.

Question 539. Did you meet Dr. Graham or John C. Mather.

Answer. I think I was introduced to Dr. Graham at the Fuller House, in St. Paul; I met a number of Virginia men there; I think I met him but once; there was, among the gentlemen from Virginia, a lame man, whom I had seen in Mr. Smith's law office, in Alexandria; I met him once or twice after; I should not know Dr. Graham.

Question 540. Did you know Steele?

Answer. I don't know anybody else.

Question 541. Did you have any conversation with Steele after you reached the Territory, in April, in regard to the sale of the property?

Answer. No, Sir.

Question 542. Did you know or hear of any combinations existing at Minneapolis in regard to this military reservation, which would have prevented that property from selling at a fair price if sold at public auction?

Answer. I never heard of anything approaching a combination, nor of any efforts made to affect that sale; and I am bound to say that I did not believe at the time, nor do I now believe, that there would have been any difficulty in selling that property so as to have had it come into the market at its full value; I asked a partner of Mr. Steele in regard to the sale and when it was to take place, and, I may frankly say, I believe he knew of the sale, but that he felt that I had asked a question which was impertinent and improper, and, therefore, that he was justified in giving me such an answer as he saw fit; and he answered that he did not know anything about it.

Question 543. If I understand you, you were upon inquiry, while in that Territory, as to this sale, when and where, and how it was to be made?

Answer. Yes, Sir.

Question 544. And that you did not learn that the sale had been made certainly, until you returned to Washington City, in July?

Answer. No, Sir; as I said before, I inquired of the clerk in the office here, and I left his office believing that the clerk was mistaken in what he told me.

Question 545. Were there, or not, a number of individuals there at Minneapolis desirous of purchasing portions of this reservation?

Answer. I presume there were; when I speak of there being numbers waiting to buy, I allude to settlers there, and not to persons from abroad.

Question 546. Was, or not, the probable sale of this property a matter of general conversation in all circles at Fort Snelling, Minneapolis, &c.?

Answer. There was a great deal said in reference to the sale, and, as I reported to the Secretary, there were many persons who wanted to buy many portions of this reserve.

Question 547. Were you giving it as your opinion that this property at this time, taking the condition of the country into consideration, was worth more than was paid for it?

Answer. I think the Government had better pay back to the parties that made the purchase the sum they paid down ($30,000), and give them all the land but the 1,000 acres and the improvements thereon.

Question 548. What are those improvements worth

Answer. I do not like to give an opinion, because it is not easy to ascertain what the Government have expended.

Question 549. Are they valuable for any other than military purposes?

Answer. If the Government were going to do anything for the North-West to make a second West Point, it is the best point in the whole country. Taking that into consideration, it would be a very politic movement in the Government to give it to the State of Minnesota, on condition that they should keep it up as a military college or school, where mathematics, engineering, and such other branches should be taught as are usually taught in colleges.

Question 550 (by Mr. Faulkner). I understand you to say that you contemplated becoming, in company with others, a probable purchaser of this entire reservation?

Answer. I did not intend to convey that idea.

Question 551 (by Mr. Faulkner). Had you at that time formed in your own mind, or did you express prior to the sale, what you would have been willing to give for the entire reservation?

Answer. I never talked with any person, and never proposed to any person to join me in the purchase of that property; I never had any arrangement in any shape, manner, or form, with any person to purchase any portion of that property. I had made up my mind that when the property was sold I would be present, and, if it went at a fair price, that I might buy portions.

Question 552 (by Mr. Faulkner). Did you express any opinion, prior to the sale, as to what you would be willing to give for the entire property, if you had the opportunity to buy?

Answer. I do not think I ever did. I do not think any one ever asked me what I thought the value of the property was.

Examination by Mr. Pettit.

Question 553. Was it on the 1st or 2d day of July last that you called at the War-Office in regard to the sale of Fort Snelling?

Answer. I called on both of those days.

Question 554. What was your particular conversation on both of those occasions on that subject?

Answer. I cannot say whether I saw the clerk on the first or the second of July. But the day on which I did see him I told him that I wanted to learn in regard to the sale of Fort Snelling. The clerk told me emphatically that it had been sold. I argued the point with him some time, and told him I thought he must mean the reserve at Prairie du Chien. He said, "No." He seemed to be positive. I then went away thinking he was mistaken. I wrote a letter to the Secretary on the second, and I remained in the city some days expecting a reply to my letter, but did not get it.

Question 555. If the conversation you allude to was on the second day of July, at what hour of the day was it; and in that conversation was any mention made to you that the War Department had confirmed the sale upon that very day?

Answer. On the first day I went there at 2 o'clock. I was then too late. For that reason I called the next day earlier—between 11 and 1 o'clock; I suppose it was before 12 o'clock, but I will not state positively. There was nothing said about a confirmation of the sale. The remark of the clerk was that the sale had been made.

Question 556. You may state if you are known to the chief clerk?

Answer. I did not, perhaps, introduce myself to him, but I suppose he knew me because I alluded to my letter to the Department. Nothing was said that led me to doubt that he knew me.

Question 557. Frequent allusion has been made to combinations of purchasers to prevent a fair public sale. Taking into consideration all the circumstances, the population and riches of the towns surrounding Fort Snelling, the number of speculators and other purchasers of land in that part of the Territory, and the kind of property to be sold, do you believe that a successful combination of that kind was possible so as to prevent fair competition, and the realizing of a fair price? Is not the theory of successful combination against the Government at a land sale that it embraces so many parties as to leave out all competition? Could a combination be made better for success than where the sale is concealed from all except a particular set of bidders, thus leaving them to make their own terms?

Answer. There would be no difficulty in making a sale in such a manner as to prevent any combination to the prejudice of the interests of the Government. Combinations are frequently made at land sales by actual settlers to shut out speculators. That is done by power—by an organization that obtains to a considerable extent at the West, but they grow out of circumstances entirely different from the sale of a reservation. In this particular case I have no idea that a combination could have been made to prevent the property bringing a fair price. At ordinary land sales, where parties have gone in and settled the country, they frequently make combinations to prevent speculators coming in and taking their claims from them. To the last question I should say that would prevent competition entirely.

Question 558. What is your opinion of the value of Fort Snelling now as a town site?

Answer. I think it is valuable prospectively. If you were to sell it now, in the present state of the country, there is no telling what it would bring. The beauty of the site makes it valuable and desirable.

Examination by Mr. Morrill.

Question 559. From all you know in regard to the sale, do you know of anything that looks like fraud upon the part of the seller or purchaser?

Answer. I do not, myself, know anything of fraud committed by anybody.

Question 560. If the sale, in your judgment, is not void for fraud, do you think it voidable?

Answer. I think it is voidable.

Question 561. What are your reasons for that opinion?

Answer. That the agents transcended the powers given them, and acted in violation of the public interests; that they did not take the proper steps they should have taken to ascertain whether the property was longer wanted by the Government. Major Eastman being a military man, and he having been stationed at that point, the Secretary of War might suppose that he was competent to judge whether the fort was longer wanted.

Now let us hear one of the high contracting parties—our Senator from the Sixth—who would seem from his testimony to be doing so large a stroke of business as a broker and general Wall-street speculator that the circumstances attending a purchase of eight or ten thousand acres of land for $90,000 make no sort of impression on his memory, though they all occurred within the past year. His testimony is mainly remarkable for the extent and variety of the ignorance it develops. Hear! Hear!

RICHARD SCHELL, *sworn:*

Question 766, (by the Chairman.) Have you any knowledge of the facts and circumstances attending the recent sale of the military reservation at Fort Snelling? If so, go on and state all you know about it?

Answer. Mr. Franklin Steele, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schell (myself and wife) Mr. Mather and Dr. Graham were the purchasers of that property. I understand and believe that they paid $90,000 for it. That was the understanding of Dr. Graham.

Examination by Mr. Faulkner.

Question 767. State whether the persons named by you are the only persons who, at this time and from the time of the sale, have been interested in that property?

Answer. They are.

Question 768. Do you know of any promise or assurance given to any other person or persons of an interest in that property?

Answer. I asked my brother about taking an interest, and he declined doing so because he was a Government officer.

Question 769. State from whence you first derived the information that the Fort Snelling property was in market and for sale?

Answer. *I do not distinctly recollect* how I came in possession of the facts. I think I saw in a paper, during Pierce's administration, that the fort was to be sold?

Question 770. Had you any conversation with the present Secretary of War upon the subject of the sale of that property, or did you, directly or indirectly, derive from him any information in respect to the sale?

Answer. I never had any conversation with him on the subject.

Examination by Mr. Pettit.

Question 771. Where, at the time of the sale, were you living?

Answer. In the city and county of New-York.

Question 772. Had you ever lived in Minnesota?

Answer. I have never lived there, and I have never been there.

Question 773. What was the inducement to this purchase on your part?

Answer. I am a regular speculator and stock-broker in Wall street, and ready to go into any speculation which I think will pay. I would buy this building to-morrow if I thought I could make money out of it.

Question 774. In what manner was your attention directed to the purchase of the Fort Snelling reservation?

Answer. *I do not remember.*

Question 775. Was it suggested to you, or did you suggest it to others?

Answer. *I cannot say*, from the simple fact that my conversation about it was general.

Question 776. At what time did you become interested in this purchase, before or after the sale?

Answer. Mr. Mather and Mr. Graham went out there, and I became interested in it when they returned from Minnesota.

Question 777. What interest or expectation in it did you have before the return of Dr. Graham and Mather from Minnesota?

Answer. I expected to go into it just where they meant to place me in it. I did not consider it a matter of any great moment or consequence. Those men did the business, and I was willing to rely upon them.

Question 778. Why did you expect to go into it before they returned if no arrangement had been made between you on the subject?

Answer. If they said it was a good thing, I was willing to go into it.

Question 779. At what time, then, was your arrangement to purchase made, before or after your return?

Answer. We had a talk about going into it before they went West but my arrangement was completed after their return.

Question 780. State the substance of that conversation and where it took place?

Answer. We had several conversations. I think they took place in New-York. The conversations were general in their nature. If they went out there and found it a good thing, I was to go into it and furnish money.

Question 781. Did you agree upon any terms as to the price?

Answer. Yes, Sir: that I would not go into it and pay more than $90,000, from what I heard about it.

Question 782. At what time was this, and who were the parties to this agreement?

Answer. I only talked with Mr. Mather and Dr. Graham about that. I never saw Mr. Steele until after the purchase was made.

Question 783. When and where did you make the acquaintance of Dr. Graham?

Answer. I do not know whether it was in New-York or Washington. I met him in various places.

Question 784. What was the occasion of forming his acquaintance?

Answer. No special occasion that I know of.

Question 785. Was it connected with the purchase of the Fort Snelling reserve?

Answer. No, Sir; I knew him before that.

Question 786. What information had you before the sale that the reserve at Fort Snelling was to be sold?

Answer. *I do not remember.* As I said before, I think I saw it in the newspapers?

Question 787. What private information did you have?

Answer. *None that I remember.*

Question 788. What did you see in the papers in regard to its being sold?

Answer. My impression is that I merely saw that the Government were to sell those forts.

Question 789. Had you any private information, derived from the department, that the Fort Snelling reserve was to be brought into sale?

Answer. No, Sir.

Question 790. When and where was your first conversation with Mr. Mather in regard to this purchase?

Answer. I think it was in New-York. Mr. Mather and I are very intimate?

Question 791. Before that time what personal knowledge had you of the reservation?

Answer. Not any, and I have none now. I only know what is said about it.

Question 792. In your conversation with Mr. Mather and Dr. Graham, what representation was made by them as to the value of the reservation?

Answer. *I do not distinctly remember.* They said they thought it was a very good thing.

Question 793. In what manner did they tell you the purchase of the reservation could be made profitable?

Answer. They thought it would eventually be a town, and it might turn out that way—at least, I understood them to say so. I did not think much of it then, and do not think much of it now. I am a regular speculator?

Question 794. Are you acquainted with Mr. Steele?

Answer. I know him. I have seen Mr. Steele in New York.

Question 795. Have you with you the contract entered into in regard to this property?

Answer. I have never seen any contract. I do not know whether there is any contract, of my own knowledge.

Question 796. Have you visited the reservation since the purchase?

Answer. No, Sir.

Question 797. How much did you yourself pay upon the purchase?

Answer. Mr. Mather and myself paid $20,000. When I speak of myself I mean myself and wife.

Question 798. What assurance did you have before the sale that the reservation would be disposed of on credit?

Answer. I had no assurance other than what Mather told me. When he came to New-York, after he returned from Minnesota, he told me he thought he could get the property for $90,000—$30,000 in cash, $30,000 in one year, and $30,000 in two years.

Question 799. At what time was that?

Answer. I think it was in July.

Question 800. At that time had not the sale, in fact, been made to Mr. Steele, and the agreement entered into?

Answer. *I do not remember.*

Question 801. Did you infer from the conversation that the contract had or had not been made at that time?

Answer. *I did not pay any attention to it.*

Question 802. Why, upon the occasion of Mr. Mather giving you this answer, did you not take pains to know whether the sale had been made or not?

Answer. I had perfect confidence in Mr. Mather, and, besides, I did not consider it a matter of any moment or consequence. *I might have been engaged in my ordinary business in Wall street, so as not to have paid much attention to it.*

Question 803. Did you estimate it a matter of no consequence that you might be called upon to pay the purchase money of that sale?

Answer. *I did not consider it of any consequence at all.*

Question 804. If, then, in the month of July, and after your conversation with Mr. Mather, you were ignorant as to whether the sale had been made or not, answer at what time you gained that knowledge.

Answer. It was some time in July, I think.

Question 805. State at what time in July, and how it was that then you got this information.

Answer. I got it from Mr. Mather, and my impression is that the money was paid on the 25th day of July. The reason why I think this conversation was in July is, that I think the money was paid in July.

Question 806. Up to that time had you no knowledge that the sale had been consummated?

Answer. I knew before. I think I must have known early in July that the sale had been or was to be consummated.

Question 809. State the particulars of your first getting that information.

Answer. Mr. Mather told me some time in July that he had made the purchase, I think, in connection with Dr. Graham, and that it would require $20,000 upon our part to be paid; that Mr. Steele was to pay $10,000. I said; "All right." I rather think he told me that it had been made at private sale; but *really I do not remember*, for I did not pay any attention to the matter or think it of any consequence. I did not give it much attention then, nor do I give it much attention now.

Question 810. In whose name did he say the purchase had been made?

Answer. In the name of Franklin Steele.

Question 811. What reason did he assign to you for not incorporating his own name, your name, and the name of your wife in the contract?

Answer. He told me that the property had better be bought in the name of Steele, because he lived out there. I was not particularly anxious to have my name or the name of Mrs. Schell incorporated into that contract.

Question 812. Why?

Answer. I did not want to incur any liabilities.

Question 813. If the contract was a fair one, in which all of you were parties in interest, what reason was there for not incorporating all the names of the real purchasers?

Answer. I know of no particular reason.

Question 814. Was it not agreed between you, before the purchase, that your names should not be embraced in the contract?

Answer. I do not think it was. I do not think I ever had a conversation about it, any further than I have stated.

Question 815. At the time of your making the arrangement with Mr. Mather and Dr. Graham, for the purchase of the reservation at Fort Snelling, were you not aware that Mr. Mather was commissioned by the Government to make an examination of Fort Ripley with a view to its sale; and that that was his particular errand upon that occasion in going to Minnesota?

Answer. It may be so, but *I do not know anything about it.*

Question 816. Did Mr. Mather go out to Minnesota more than once during that season?

Answer. He may have gone twice, but *I do not know.* When he came back from there, he told me he had been out to see Fort Ripley.

Question 817. Before going to Minnesota, what, in conversation with you, did he state to be his object?

Answer. *I do not know.* I do not know what conversation took place. He may have told me he went to look at Fort Ripley, and he may have told me that he went to look at Fort Snelling, but *I do not remember.*

Question 818. Up to what price, before making the purchase, did you undertake to go, in order to get it?

Answer. I do not think I ever had anything to do with it in that way, or ever made arrangements in that way.

Question 819. Before Mr. Mather returned, and any price was agreed upon to be paid for the property, was it not before Mr. Mather returned? If so, what was that price?

Answer. That *I do not remember.* That price ($90,000) might have been the limitation, but I do not distinctly remember.

Question 820. Did you not derive, from representations from Mr. Mather, before he went, that the sale was to be a private one, and one that would exclude all competition?

Answer. No, Sir.

Question 821. What representation did Mr. Mather make to you, as to the manner in which the property would be brought to sale?

Answer. I do not think he told me anything about it. We may have had conversations about it, but *I do not distinctly remember.*

Question 822. Was the purchase of the reservation, on your part, with a view to an investment to remain until the property should become more enhanced in price?

Answer. With a view to an investment and speculation together.

Question 823. In making speculations is it usual, or is it your habit, to do it without first having some knowledge of the value of the property you are buying?

Answer. I understand that that property was valuable at the time I bought it; I thought it was a good thing.

Question 824. Where did you get that knowledge?

Answer. Mr. Mather told me he thought it would be a good thing. He said he thought it would be a good speculation. I asked how much he thought we would make by it? He said he thought we could double our money, and perhaps more.

Question 825. At the time you agreed to make the purchase, was it expected by you that the whole purchase money would be required in hand?

Answer. *I do not remember* about it.

Question 826. Was your wife's interest in the transaction derived from your own arrangement on her behalf?

Answer. Yes, Sir.

Examination by Mr. Morris.

Question 827. State the respective interests of yourself, your wife, Mr. Mather, Mr. Steele, and Mr. Graham in that property?

Answer. Mr. Steele has one-third, as I understand. Dr. Graham has one-ninth, and Mr. and Mrs. Schell and Mr. Mather have the balance. I cannot separate the interests of the latter, because they have not yet been separated.

Question 828. Do you not know how much of that property you expect to get?

Answer. I do, though it has not been divided. I think I shall have near four twelfths, including my wife's interest.

Question 829. How much will you have, and how much will your wife have?

Answer. I calculate that my wife will have two-twelfths, and myself nearly two-twelfths, making, together, about four-twelfths.

Question 830. How much money did you pay?

Answer. Mather and I paid $20,000. I paid about $13,000.

Question 831. Did you ever state in the City of New-York to any person or persons that you were going to make a grand thing out of that Fort Snelling purchase?

Answer. Yes, sir; "The way they talk," said I, "I am going to make a grand thing of it."

Question 832. Did you ever inform Mr. Mather in New-York that that property was to be sold?

Answer. I may or I may not. *I cannot say.*

Question 833. Had you a conversation with him upon the subject there?

Answer. I have had a conversation with Mr. Mather in regard to that property. He is a resident of New-York. *I do not know* whether it was before he went to Minnesota, or whether it was before or after the property was sold.

Question 834. Did you not expect when he went to Minnesota that he would purchase the property?

Answer. That *I do not know.*

Question 835. Had you no knowledge that the property was to be sold before it was sold?

Answer. Nothing more than a general knowledge.

Question 836. What general knowledge had you?

Answer. I said I believe I saw it in the newspapers that those forts were to be sold.

Question 837. Did you see it stated that Fort Snelling was to be sold?

Answer. I think I did. I do not remember in what paper. I do not know, even now, how I came into possession of the fact.

Question 839. Were you at Washington City at any time shortly before or after that property was ordered to be sold?

Answer. I was. I have been in Washington City, off and on, for six months.

Question 840. At what date were you here before or after that time?

Answer. *I do not remember.* I come on to Washington very often.

Question 841. Were you here before that sale was confirmed?

Answer. No, sir.

Question 842. Fix the time, as near as you can, when you were here?

Answer. I do not think I was in Washington from the time I was introduced to the Commissioners to make the sale until after the payment was made upon the property. I had never seen those Commissioners, and I was introduced to one of them on his return from Minnesota, after I understood the sale had been made.

Question 843. How long previous to that were you here?

Answer. *I do not remember.*

Question 844. Had you ever any conversation with Dr. Graham in relation to the purchase of this property previous to the purchase being made?

Answer. I think I saw Dr. Graham in New-York before he went to Minnesota.

Question 845. Did you have a conversation with him in regard to the purchase of this property?

Answer. I think he said he was going West, and might go into some operation. He may or he may not have told me that this property was to be sold. *I do not recollect distinctly.* If I had any conversation it was general and not special, according to my recollection.

Question 846. Did he tell you that property was to be sold when you saw him in New-York?

Answer. My impression is that he did, but *I do not remember* very distinctly about it.

Question 847. Did you then communicate to him that you desired or expected to become a purchaser for a part of it?

Answer. I told him I would go into almost anything, I did not care much what it was, if there was money to be made out of it.

Question 848. At the time Dr. Graham was in New York, was an arrangement entered into between you, Dr. Graham and Mr. Mather to go into the purchase of the property?

Answer. That *I do not know.*

Question 848½ (by Mr. Morris). Do not you know whether you made such an arrangement, or entered into such an understanding?

Answer. I know that when they came back from Minnesota they said they had bought the property, and that I was to become interested.

Question 849. Was it the understanding prior to that time that if they succeeded in purchasing the property you should become interested?

Answer. It may have been. My impression is that there was such a general understanding. I could not swear positively.

Question 850. In the conversation which took place with you and Dr. Graham, did he state that Commissioners had been appointed to sell that property?

Answer. That *I do not distinctly remember.* I paid no regard to the matter.

Question 851. Did you ever go into any other speculating operation out at Minnesota, or in that portion of the country?

Answer. No, Sir; and I think it will be a long time before I shall go into another.

Question 852. Did you know, at the time of your conversation with Dr. Graham, that Commissioners had been appointed to sell that property?

Answer. *I do not know.*

Question 853. Had you not understood from Dr. Graham, or from some other source, that they had been appointed, and who they were?

Answer. I do not think I had. *I did not know* anything about these Commissioners until they returned after the sale. I was then introduced to them in New-York. I may have learned that there were such Commissioners appointed, and possibly I may have learned who they were. *I do not distinctly know.*

Question 854. All the answer you can give to my question, then, is that you had a general understanding with Dr. Graham and Mr. Mather, before they left New-York for Minnesota, for the purchase of that property, that you were to have an interest in it. How say you, yes or no?

Answer. I should say yes to that question.

Examination by Mr. Morrill.

Question 855. Did I understand that you had never seen the contract entered into between Mr. Mather, Mr. Steele, Dr. Graham and yourself, for the purchase of the property?

Answer. I do not think I have ever seen any such contract.

Question 856. Then your sole reliance is on the honor of the parties as to any future distribution?

Answer. Yes, Sir. I never should ask a question outside those gentlemen. I was perfectly satisfied.

Question 857. When you were here what conversation had you with any person in the office the of Secretary of War about confirming the purchase of Fort Snelling?

Answer. I never was there during the pendency of the confirmation of that sale at all.

Question 858. Who furnished the money for this purchase, and of whom did you have the money which you paid?

Answer. I had it of Mrs. Richard Shell—my wife—who has an estate of some hundred thousand dollars.

Question 859. Who furnished the other portion?

Answer. Mr. Mather furnished his portion. I think he furnished some $8,000 or $9 000.

Question 860. State whether you received any portion of it from your brother, Augustus Schell?

Answer. My wife borrowed some money of my brother.

Question 861. How much?

Answer. I think $5,000.

ALLEGED ASSAULT UPON A SICK WOMAN BY POLICEMEN.—Coroner Perry was yesterday notified to take the ante-mortem examination of a German woman named Hess, residing at No. 197 Houston street, whom, it is alleged, had been terribly beaten by two policemen. It is averred that the officers in question went to the house on Monday, and without making themselves or their business known, arrested Philip Hess, who, thinking he was the victim of robbers, cried "Watch," "Police," &c. His wife, who was sick in bed, jumped up and went to the rescue of her husband, when, it is alleged, they struck her with their clubs, knocked her down, kicked her, and inflicted violence which her friends fear will prove fatal. Hess was arrested by the officers and taken before the magistrate at the Essex Market Police Court, where they preferred a charge of assault and battery against him. The officers, it is believed, went to the place of Hess to search for stolen goods, but if such was the case, they did not fulfil their mission, as no effort was made by them to look for stolen property. We omit giving the names of the officers till the Coroner makes a report of his action in the matter.

TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA

ARRIVAL OF THE MOSES TAYLOR.

$1,486,565 in Treasure.

The United States Mail steamship Moses Taylor, Com. McGowan, arrived on Tuesday morning from Aspinwall, whence she sailed on the 19th inst., with the passengers, treasure and mails from San Francisco to the 5th inst., brought down to Panama by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer John L. Stephens.

The Moses Taylor reports that the United States storeship Relief had arrived at Aspinwall. Also, the brig Samuel Welch, Capt. Barrett, to sail for Cienfuegos on the 20th. On the 24th, in lat. 29° 24' N., lon. 74° 30' W., exchanged colors with brig Ada Swift, bound N.

We are indebted to the Purser of the Moses Taylor, and Wells, Fargo & Co.'s California Express for the prompt delivery of our packages and files.

The following is the Taylor's treasure list:

Amer. Exchange Bank	$10,000	Renard & Co.	$15,000
Amer. Exchange Bank	50,000	C. A. Robert	6,000
Frank Baker	2,500	Ross, Falconer & Co.	25,515
A. Belmont	60,000	G. W. Schenkberg	10,000
Butcher & Bro.	2,000	J. Strauss, Bro. & Co.	20,000
L. H. Cogbill	1,225	Thaire & McKeone	4,000
W. T. Coleman & Co.	47,850	E. C. Thomas & Sons	2,000
Conroy & O'Connor	10,000	Treadwell & Co.	10,000
Ch. M. Crosby	25,500	Turner Bro.	2,325
Duncan, Sherman & Co.	30,000	R. S. Wade	5,000
Freeman & Co.	43,624	J. B. Weir	6,030
Freeman & Co.	20,708	Wells, Fargo & Co.	457,000
Goldstone, Friedlander & Co.	18,975	Wells, Fargo & Co.	37,000
Harbeck & Co.	3,500	Williams & Daland	5,000
H. Harris & Co.	4,000	Order	90,024
J. Hecht, Bros. & Co.	2,000	Total	$1,426,171
Wm Hoge & Co.	40,000	FROM ASPINWALL:	
Howes & Creswell	9,000	J. S. Alexander	$1,300
Howland & Aspinwall	160,176	J. Averzana	400
Jas. Hunter & Co.	1,500	J. T. Baker	1,050
W. H. Hussey	5,000	S. Blatchford	2,000
Eugene Kelly & Co.	41,000	Classon & Wilkinson	400
J. P. Ledge	3,250	T. B. Coddington & Co.	200
J. E. Ledge	3,150	Handy & Everett	575
R. Meeder & O. Adams	7,000	G. G. Hobson	35,780
P. Naylor	10,000	J. F. Joy, Secretary	3,410
J. B. Newton & Co.	10,550	S. Lansburgh & Bro.	6,545
J. G. Parker & Son	4,000	Leayeraft & Co.	2,524
R. Patrick	40,000	Order	600
Jas Patrick	34,000	Shieffelin, Bro. & Co.	630
A. S. Rosenbaum	9,400		
S. G. Reed	5,000	Total	$1,486,565

SUMMARY OF THE FORTNIGHT'S NEWS.

From The Alta Californa.

THE STATE.

There has been a great amount of rain during the fortnight—probably nearly four inches—and it has visited all parts of the State. Before the rain, a severe drouth had been felt in all the southern counties, and much harm was done to the crops—the grain in some places heading out while the stalks were scarcely six inches high.

About the 20th ult. there was a heavy frost which did serious injury to the young fruit, and there is danger that the peach orchards from Red Bluffs to Santa Cruz will furnish little fruit this year.

The State Senate has passed a bill to consolidate the City and County of Sacramento.

The Assembly has under consideration a bill to prohibit the immigration of free negroes.

The Legislature has passed, and the Governor has signed, a bill to confirm the titles to land made by the Fund Commissioners of this city.

The people of the town of Mariposa are making an effort to drive the Chinese from their place. Many of the citizens have signed a paper promising to have no dealings with the Chinese, and to let no houses to them; but the paper is not to be binding unless all the citizens sign.

A young man named Heath murdered an Indian at Los Angeles about the 10th ult., by shooting him with a rifle—the muzzle against his breast—while asleep. Heath has been arrested. So far as appears from the statement in *The Star*, he cannot be convicted, because the only witness to the murder was the Indian's wife, who was at his side when murdered.

Henry A. Bush was shot and killed near Sacramento on the 26th ult., by John Keller. The difficulty had its origin in jealousy on the part of Keller, who says that Bush tried to induce his wife to leave him.

D. E. Henderson was shot and mortally wounded in Sacramento, on the 22d ult., by John Black, during an affray between the latter and John Keenan. Henderson was a quiet spectator at the time. Several shots had been previously fired between the combatants. Black had been married a short time before to a young lady of Sacramento, but the marriage had been kept secret because her relatives disliked him, but after the affray and his arrest, she could keep the secret no longer.

There was a fire in Vallejo on the night of the 20th ult. R. Bunker and J. Barry were losers to the amount of about $3,000.

The same night a stable belonging to Mr. Kepleman, in the Stanislaus Valley, was burned, with five horses in it. Loss about $3,500.

Frank Brand, teamster, was killed near Gilroy on the 7th ult, by a wagon running over him. The accident occurred during a hail storm, which rendered the horses restive, and while exerting himself to hold them, the foot-board gave way, and he fell under their feet.

Edward Rail was killed near Red Bluffs on the same day, by a tree falling on him. He had cut down the tree to kill a coon.

Two Frenchmen, named Basque, brothers, were murdered about the 10th February, near San Miguel, by a gang of highwaymen.

The Fugitive Slave case, wherein C. A. Stovall, of Mississippi, seeks to get possession of a negro boy named Archy, has continued to occupy public attention here. It will be recollected that after protracted legal proceedings in the State courts, the negro was given up to his master by a decree of the Supreme Court. Stovall attempted then to carry off his slave by the steamer of March 5, but was prevented by a writ of habeas corpus, issued by Judge Freelon, of the Court of Sessions of San Francisco. The proceedings under the writ were prolonged several days, and terminated by the negro being set at liberty. Before he could leave the court-room, however, he was re-arrested by authority of a process from a United States Commissioner, issued under the Fugitive Slave act. Since this time the Commissioner, George Pen Johnston, has been busy nearly every day hearing evidence and argument in the case. C. A. Stovall himself left for Mississippi on the steamer of the 20th of March. He has a brother here, however, and regular agents who represent him. It is now alleged that Archy is a fugitive from justice, he having stabbed a white man in Mississippi and fled, and that his master, in crossing the Plains on his way to California for his health, came up with his runaway slave and retook possession of him, and his bringing him to California was necessary in order to get him back home. It is supposed that Stovall will procure from the authorities of Mississippi a requisition for Archy, and that he will be taken back rather as an escaped criminal than as a fugitive slave.

From Our Own Correspondent.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 5, 1858.

Another effort is making to have our State Capital removed. The people of Oakland have been working to have the seat of Government removed to their village, and they seem to have a fair prospect of success. They held a public meeting on the 19th ult., and the meeting adopted resolutions, promising that in case the Capital should be removed to Oakland, they would present to the State all the land needed for public buildings, and the use of a wooden State House in which the Legislature may hold its sessions during next Winter. The resolutions were presented to the Assembly; that body appointed a Committee to visit Oakland; the Committee did so; and telegrams from Sacramento announced day before yesterday that the Committee would report in favor of Oakland, and that the Assembly will undoubtedly pass the bill for the removal. We have no statement about the prospect of the project in the Senate. Oakland has one great advantage in the eyes of the legislators over Sacramento; lying just across the bay, and only 12 miles from this city, it will be convenient for the young bachelors—who form the majority of the holders of the State offices—to visit San Francisco and enjoy its society. Sacramento is too small to furnish the requisite amount of amusement for so many.

The Indians having given trouble lately in Colusi, Tehama and Shasta Counties by stealing cattle and killing white men, Gov. Weller has requested Gen. Clarke to send some United States soldiers to the vicinity of the Nome Lacke Reservation, near which the troubles have occurred. Gen. Clarke has promised to send a detachment of dragoons as soon as the season will permit them to move from Fort Cook.

The mail which arrived on the 30th ult. brought news that the opposition line of steamers had been withdrawn. The Sierra Nevada had previously been advertised to sail to-day; many persons had engaged their passages, others had intended to take passage in her, and many had come to the city prepared to go in either boat which should offer to take passengers at the lowest rates. The opposition being withdrawn, the mail line immediately raised their prices to $300 in the first cabin, $200 in the second, and $125 in the steerage. Those who had bought tickets on the Sierra Nevada were offered their money or passage in the John L. Stephens. These persons had reason to be dissatisfied because they could not get such good rooms or berths on the John L. Stephens as they had engaged on the Sierra Nevada. In the latter vessel they were among the first choosers; in the former among the last.

But the indignation on the part of these persons was as nothing to that of those who had not bought their tickets, a considerable number of whom were probably unable to pay the prices demanded after the withdrawal of the opposition. There were probably six or eight hundred miners in the city intending to go with the steamer to-day, and they felt the change of price pretty seriously. They called a mass meeting, and a number of speakers entertained the multitude with abuse of the Mail Company; "monopoly" and "extortion" were the key words to all that was said. One speaker proposed to form a company to go overland to Texas from San Diego, telling his hearers that they could get mules at that place for $30, cross to Galveston, Texas, in two months, at a cost of not more than $100 for road expenses, and then sell their mules for $60 or $70. He succeeded in making up a company of sixty men, and they left this city on the 3d inst. on the Southern Coast steamer, some intending to land at San Pedro, and others at San Diego, but all agreeing to meet at some point not far inland. They will find that good mules are worth from $100 to $150 at Los Angeles and San Diego, and scarce at that. It is probable that one-half of them will remain in the southern portion of the State; the others will arrive in New-Orleans in about three months, and if they go well prepared, they may find the trip a very pleasant one. Most of the newspapers throughout the State are loud in their denunciation of the "monopoly," and declare it to be productive of great injury to California by preventing immigration; and it is no doubt true that if the prices were reduced 50 per cent, there would be much more travel.