GRANT'S INVESTIGATION.

A DUTCHESS COUNTY ASSEMBLYMAN ON THE STAND.

What he Knows About Speaker Smith's Election—He Bodges Honest Dr. Green-lee's Charges—Col. Leet's Inquiries after Custom House Plums—Makes the White House his Headquarters in Washington.

The Senate Investigating Committee resumed its session yesterday morning. The first witness was Mr. Lindsay, who produced the following letter, written in ink. Leet's handwriting:

"If Mr. Bixby guarantees to the party controlling the "general order business" of the North River, exclu-"sive of Inland and Natural line of steamships, the sum "of $5,000 per annum profits, payable in monthly install-"ments in advance, or should the receipts from the "business of general order goods exceed the sum of "$5,000 per annum, then the amount in excess to be "equally divided between Mr. Bixby and the contract-"ing party, he will use his influence directly in the business of his warehouses. It is understood that all receipts from storage on general order goods are to be considered as profits. Bixby furnishing warehouse room as an equivalent for the influence above quoted. Should this arrangement be continued beyond one year, then the sum to be guaranteed to be $5,000 per annum. This to take effect on July 15, 1869."

Mr. Bayard—Did Leet ever complain to you, Mr. Lindsay, that his share of the profits of the general order business, $5,000, wasn't enough for him?

Mr. Lindsay—Yes, sir, often. He said he had come to New York to make money, and he was bound to make money.

Mr. Howe—Many come to New York with that determination and fail, don't they? A.—Yes, sir; I came to New York with that determination, and I've failed.

Mr. Bayard—Did you prepare any written statement with regard to this matter? A.—I have written many letters about it. I made it my duty to ascertain the influences that were at work for the removal of Mr. Grinnell.

ONLY A VOLUNTEER.

Q.—Was that influence open or secret? A.—Mostly secret. I should hate to go into the details. I assure you I have no testimony to offer that will reflect upon the President. I spoke with them last night at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, and they told me I was but a voluntary witness.

Mr. Howe (laughing)—In this conflict we hold just as in the late war, that the volunteers are as good as the regulars.

Mr. Casserly—Who told you that you were but a voluntary witness? A.—I don't remember.

Q.—Have you the order by which Collector Grinnell gave Col. Leet the control over the general order business? A.—Yes, sir. Here it is.

The following letter was read:

CUSTOM HOUSE, N. Y., COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, July 23, 1869.

SIR: I have directed Deputy Collector Williams, of the Warehouse Division, to send all packages of all goods coming under "general orders" on the North River, with the exception of those from the Inland and National lines of steamships, to such store or stores as may be indicated by you and associates with you. In giving this order, I desire it should be distinctly understood as a condition, that the business shall be conducted to my entire satisfaction, and that the charges for storage shall not in any case exceed those demanded in other bonded warehouses.

(Signed) M. H. GRINNELL, Collector.

J. W. LINDSAY, Esq.

Q.—What were Leet's relations with Babcock and Porter? A.—Leet was a partner in the mess in which Babcock and Porter were.

Mr. Pratt—Explain the same mess? A.—Well, it is a combination of men who share their expenses of living generally.

Q.—These three men were married, were they not? A.—Yes, sir, all three.

Mr. Casserly—What did Leet receive from the War Department beside his income from the General Order business? A.—I think his salary was about $4,000. His rank in the army was Lieutenant Colonel or Major, I don't remember which.

THE PARTIES IN ONE "MESS."

Mr. Buckingham—Do I understand you to say that Babcock and Porter shared Leet's profits, and you have heard of it? A.—I only said they were partners in messes.

Q.—They always no idea that Babcock and Porter were interested with Leet in the General Order business? A.—No, emphatically no.

Mr. Casserly—Were these partners in the mess ever receive packages from the Custom House? A.—Leet told me so. Porter has received word from Moses that a cask of wine is on the way here. I was very much vexed by his using the familiar word "Moses" to designate Mr. Grinnell.

Mr. Pratt—I infer from that that the aim and purpose of that mess were eating and drinking? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—And for the purposes of eating and drinking $15,000 were not enough? A.—Yes, sir; Leet complained that the salary of $3,000 were not sufficient to defray the expenses of the "mess."

Mr. Howe—What time did Leet complain that his $3,000 were not enough? A.—Oh! he made those complaints to me in the early days.

Mr. Casserly—How long before Col. Leet became connected with the general order business did you know Grinnell? A.—I knew him well before the war, when I was insurance. He called at my store and made inquiry with regard to the different "plums" in the Custom House.

Q.—Do you know what his relations with Babcock and Porter were? A.—Very cordial, indeed; very intimate.

A TERRIBLE CALAMITY AVERTED.

Mr. Howe asked about, his hands in his pockets. He replied in the Dutchman's way and then as he was going to swallow one of the Senators; but he didn't. He only paused.

Q.—Did you ever hear that you received from Leet letters, or letters from Babcock or Porter? A.—Yes, sir; while I was at Washington the letters were sent to me at the White House.

Q.—How long did he continue to do that? A.—During the whole period that I was in Washington.

Mr. Bayard asked the witness to give him an idea of the General Order system.

Mr. Howe—That has no connection with the Custom House? A.—Yes, sir.

Mr. Buckingham—If you want to bring out that there were frauds—

Mr. Howe—I don't want to bring out that there were frauds.

Mr. Buckingham—If you want to show that Grinnell was a partner in the General Order business, he was Stocking, I suppose.

Q.—Where did your acquaintance with Grinnell and Leet commence? A.—I knew Grinnell before he came to New York. I was his waiter in the army.

Q.—Where did your acquaintance with Leet commence? A.—I knew him before he came to New York. He was a waiter in the army.

Q.—Have you any letters of introduction from Senator Morton and others? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What became of the account of these letters? A.—Yes, sir.

CUSTOM HOUSE OFFICES BOUGHT.

Mr. Howe—Do you know of Custom House appointments being made by any person whatever? A.—Yes, sir. I believe it is the case. I

Mr. Pratt—Do you know of any influence is thus made? A.—I know that it was said.

Q.—Do you know of the case? A.—I have no knowledge.

Mr. Bayard—Have you heard of exorbitant charges for storage? A.—Yes, sir, general order goods would be hurried into the store to avoid charges. I was willing to pay a

Mr. Howe—Do you recollect Stocking's letters of recommendation? A.—Yes, sir, addressed to Senators Morton and Conkling.

Q.—Do you remember the contents of those letters? A.—Yes, sir. They were general letters of recommendation.

Q.—About the same as those of Mr. Washburne and the President? A.—I have not seen those letters.

Q.—You stated that the places in the Custom House were to be paid for by money. Do you know to whom the money was paid? A.—No, sir.

MR. GRINNELL KNOWS.

Q.—You don't know anything positive about the sale of places? A.—I did. I had no doubt about it.

Q.—Did you see the several cases. There is no doubt about it? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do the warehouse keepers pay the inspectors? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—What is the motive for that? A.—I suppose to hurry up and hurry in bonding the goods in the stores.

Q.—Was the order issued to you by Mr. Grinnell it was in the interest of the Administration? A.—Yes, sir, I understand it was.

Q.—Do you know Mr. Grinnell before he came to New York? A.—I do know Mr. Grinnell before he came to New York.

Q.—Do you know Mr. Grinnell before he was in the army? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Did you ever hear your name mentioned in connection with the General Order business? A.—I have been a good deal talked about.

Q.—Did you think you had received from Leet letters, or letters from Babcock and Porter? A.—Yes, sir; while I was at Washington the letters were sent to me at the White House.

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