WHO TOOK TWEED'S MONEY?

INTERESTING TESTIMONY AT THE WOODIN INVESTIGATION.

Mr. Mangan on the Stand—Ex-Senator Kennedy Questioned—What Mr. A. D. Barber Knows—Favors to the Young Democracy—Mr. Abraham Van Vechten's Speeches.

ALBANY, April 30.—The Woodin Investigating Committee met in Congress Hall again this morning. All the members of the committee were present, although it is an unusual hour for Senators to be found in Albany. Senator Woodin was present with his son and counsel, and maintained the dignified demeanor and intense interest which he has exhibited all along.

Mr. S. R. Mangan, President of the National Trust Company, was the first witness sworn. He testified that he knew ex-Senator Winslow, and presented that part of his account with the company dated from June, 1870. He had always kept an account there. His private account as an individual was different from his account with the Merchants' Bank of Watertown. Deposits were made by him as banker, but for no very large amounts, hardly more than $10,000 at any one time. His account as banker was closed up when the Merchants' Bank organized. According to the books, his first private credit after the organization of the bank was for $2,600, June 2, 1870. The sale of 25 shares of National Trust Company stock made up this credit. He had owned about 100 shares of the stock originally. The next credit is on the 14th of June, and amounts to $20,000, the result of a loan to J. E. Winslow made by witness; supposed J. E. Winslow to be Norris Winslow's brother then, but understands she was his wife. The check was endorsed by J. E. Winslow and deposited to the credit of N. Winslow. On the same day $10,000 was drawn against it, and on the 17th another check was drawn to the same amount. There are no other credits to N. Winslow. Witness did not have with him any accounts of Winslow previous to this time. There is a small balance due Winslow now. He did not know any reason why Mr. Winslow should have drawn the $20,000 loan upon J. E. Winslow's check.

Ex-Senator George N. Kennedy of Syracuse testified that he was a Senator from 1868 to 1872. He was acquainted with Senators Woodin and Winslow. He went at some length into the history of legislation during the year 1870, which has already been published. The Cities Committee, he said, consisted of four Democrats and three Republicans. He was one of the Republican members. Tweed was Chairman. Most of the election law of that year was drawn by the witness himself upon consultation with Republican friends and Reform organizations in New York city. It was passed and signed by Gov. Hoffman before the Tweed charter, under the arrangement made by the Democrats with the Republicans, in the Senate. The Republicans agreed, when the election law was passed, to vote for the charter. In 1871, the audit clause of the tax levy was passed, which gave the four heads of departments the entire financial legislation for the city. Witness said that he believed the charter had many very valuable clauses in it. The difficulty was in the selection of the men to carry it through. He did not know of any money being paid to any Senator for his vote on the passage of that charter, and did not remember any circumstance which would indicate any such payment having been made. He had been in Tweed's room at the committee meetings, but did not remember ever meeting any other Republican Senators there who were not also on the committee. Senator Woodin had taken a somewhat prominent part for a new member there, but he was the main man. He knew very considerably about it. Witness was a member of the Tilden Committee on Cities met in one of Tweed's parlors. He did not remember ever to have seen Woodin before that committee, except upon bills relating to his own district.

Upon a reference to the journal showing the vote upon the tax levy of 1870, it was shown that Mr. Woodin voted for it, along with Bowen, Lewis, and James Wood, who, with Winslow, composed the celebrated five "tainted Republicans" about whom all the charges now under consideration were originally started. The County of Tweed's bill was passed by Republican votes. The witness had voted against both of those bills.

Charles M. Cleary said that he was in Albany in 1868, but he never held any office until 1869, when he was appointed Complaint Clerk by Tweed, and held that office for two years, both of which offices he held until Mr. Tweed resigned. He had been removed by Van Nort, Tweed's successor. His pay was $3,000 a year. He had known and acted with Tweed for many years. He came originally to Albany to do our work, and he thought he was the man who did do. He kept a record of bills introduced and of their course during legislation. He remembered the Hackleberry charter, but he was sure that he did not know of the payment of any money to any Senator for his vote on that bill. He had never known of any expenditure of money for the passage of the Tweed charter. Tweed had a safe in his house, but it was for Mr. Tweed's jewelry. Tweed was appointed Commissioner of Public Works when a clerk was appointed at the head. He was instructed, he said, to be very quiet in regard to these matters. A Mr. Leveridge kept Mr. Tweed's books. He had never been requested by Mr. Tweed to solicit members to come to his room.

The afternoon session of the committee was made more than usually interesting from the fact that A. D. Barber and Abraham Van Vechten were witnesses. The memory of Mr. Barber proved to be very defective when over the committee attempted to go outside of the inquiry which it was first appointed to investigate, and ask questions of any other members of the Legislature than Woodin and Winslow, but he was ready and positive with his answers that he never knew of any money being paid, either of them. He refused to answer several questions which he said he had seen it stated that he needed "immunity" for something or other, but he did not know what, as well as his allusions to the swain of politicians who came here from New York and all parts of the State to influence members, was received with laughter and applause by the committee. He was a perfect *sans gêne* and the readiness with which he turned aside all efforts to entrap him, drew from Mr. Schoonmaker, one of the committee, after the adjournment, the remark that Barber is a shrewd man, and he has been engaged with men who employed him, if he was employed.

Mr. Van Vechten managed to get in a little speech on almost every question that was asked him. He testified that he had not taken any interest in legislation within the last two or three years, but had attended at Albany to try to get or prevent legislation. He had been retained for that purpose in 1870, principally for the Erie Railway legislation. He had taken no special interest in New York legislation of that year. He thought he might have had general conversations with members and Senators about that subject, but Mr. Tweed was a director of the Erie Railway, and he had conversation with him upon the subject of Erie matters. He did not remember to have known Mr. Woodin or Mr. Winslow, and had no knowledge of any money being used to influence a vote upon any of the New York bills. He had been in the habit of cashing checks for Tweed, and supposed he might have cashed a few in that year. He supposed it was true the money was used, if used in that way at all, to influence the Young Democracy. He had no record or memoranda of the different checks. Some of them were for as high sums as $5,000 or $10,000. Tweed never told him that he might have cashed checks for Tweed in 1870, but the amount of money which he furnished in that year he could not tell. He could not say that the aggregate amounted to $100,000 or $200,000. He did not know positively that any of these checks were used for the purpose of forwarding New York legislation, but he had the impression that it was for the purpose of influencing the Young Democracy. The largest check cashed for Tweed was at least not over the amount of $10,000. Very likely they were for not less than that. He did not remember the persons who cashed the checks. He did not know the men whom Tweed had about him. He never knew the purpose for which the checks were to be used, and had never been asked in any way to help influence the New York legislation which was then pending. He had no conversation with Woodin or Winslow in New York matters that winter. He was paid for his legal services for the Erie Railway by that company. He was never retained by Mr. Tweed. Mr. Gould, the President of the company, retained him. The bills which Mr. Tweed's company wanted were large, say, $100, or over.

Mr. A. D. Barber testified that he had lived in Utica for the last twenty years. He had held a position of Harbor Master in New York city eight years. He had known Tweed for twenty years, and was there in 1870, and was active in the interest of Mr. Tweed. He had occasionally had conversation with members and Senators upon the subject of legislation.

By Mr. Carpenter—Was any money used there?

Mr. Barber, who had heretofore spoken very promptly and readily, suddenly shut up like a trap, and said that he could not say that any money used in Tweed's possession in the Republican Legislature was used in influencing any legislation in that year. He supposed it was used, if used in that way at all, to influence the Young Democracy. He had no record or memoranda of the different checks. Some of them were for