ORA PRO NOBIS.

Lamentable Mental Condition of Hoax's Army of Martyrs.

CONFESSOR POLAND'S ORDEAL.

Congressional Absolution Not To Be Obtained by Much Agony and Fasting.

Colfax and Blaine Unable to Hold the Same Doctrine.

THE ABOMINABLE TRUTH

Financier Dawes and Professor Brooks Beyond Sackcloth and Ashes.

The Serpent from North Easton Tempted Them and They Did Yield.

KELLEY STEELED TO THE CORE.

"Why Should I Repent?"—"Vows Made in Pain are Violent and Void."

THE LAST FROM JUDGE UNCLE SAM.

Depart from Me—Henceforth I Know You Not!

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 1873.

It is impossible to understand the Crédit Mobilier investigation or to sum up its results merely from the testimony which has been or which will be produced before Mr. Poland's Committee. The motives which underlie the conduct of the witnesses, the judges and the accused Congressmen, must be revealed before we can fully appreciate the case. The results, however, have been different from the expectations of everybody. It was no design of all the persons concerned either in the frauds or in the investigation to make no searching inquiry and to stop short at any thorough revelation of the truth. This was the intention of the Speaker in asking for the investigation, it was the intention of the House in ordering it, and it was the intention of the committee in conducting it. Judge Poland has not asked a single question likely to extract from a witness anything that the witness would not be willing to tell, or calculated to make the investigation deeper or broader by opening up new sources of information. That the inquiry was as thorough as it became is owing to the stupidity and the impudence of the accused and the selfishness which induced them to seek to save themselves at the expense of Oakes Ames. The labors of the committee have brought out some startling revelations, but they are not remarkable in comparison with the exposures which might have been made. Indeed, I may safely say that we have been told only a small part of the truth; but these results, meagre as they are, though far greater than they were intended to be, are secretly deplored by the republican leaders, who are now making Mr. Blaine feel the weight of their displeasure for having brought so many misfortunes upon the party. The Speaker is suffering to such an extent that it is openly asserted that he can never be President, and a strong effort will be made to defeat him when he seeks re-election to his present position. This opposition takes shape only in bitter innendoes and a segregation of enmities which may result in a strong combination against him in caucus. If the conspiracy can not be made powerful enough to defeat him it will not openly assert itself; but it has many loose elements of strength which are slowly gathering into form. The victims of the Crédit Mobilier exposures look upon the Speaker as the author of their misfortunes. He, as well as they, was upon McComb's list in the beginning. They naturally supposed that he, as well as they, was guilty of the charges brought against him and them. Now they see that he has escaped, and that what was his safety was their destruction. He was first to deny any complicity with the frauds, and, believing him "loaded" with the bonds as well as themselves, they took their cue from him in making denials as broad and comprehensive as his. In some quarters exception was taken to the manner and form of these denials; but they meant, if they meant anything, that the persons making them had no dealings with Oakes Ames in Crédit Mobilier stock. As a campaign trick the exposures were worthless, because the country relied upon the words of Mr. Colfax, Mr. Dawes and the others as true. It is a compliment to the American people that they were so slow to accept what might prove to be base slanders, and it is in consequence of this faith in the accused, which was their momentary triumph, that their downfall became so complete. If they could have foreseen the result or fathomed a policy which could not fail to drive them from public life Blaine's denial would have stood by itself, and they would not have been compelled to resort to a hundred expedients to sustain their original falsehood. It is the original falsehood which hangs like a millstone around their necks and drags them down to the lowermost depths of degradation.

WHAT THE CREDIT MOBILIER WAS AND IS.

The Crédit Mobilier of America is a so called corporation born in fraud and used for fraudulent ends. The name was exceedingly well chosen; for it had about it an air of mystery and immensity dazzling to the common imagination, but it was only a name. The Fiscal Agency of Pennsylvania, incorporated by the Legislature of that State in 1859 at the instance of General Duff Green, with a charter broad enough to permit of every conceivable kind of commercial enterprises—building railroads being only a part of its business—was seized upon and appropriated by the first conspirators. There is a story told that the charter of this corporation was obtained by an outlay of $50,000 among the members of the Pennsylvania Legislature; but this is not true, the original company being only a wild and impracticable scheme of Duff Green's. The Fiscal Agency still exists as much as it ever existed, and Duff Green, now an old man of eighty-two, is yet its president. It was not the Pennsylvania Legislature which was purchased for $50,000, but some of the officers of the agency; and it was not the agency which was sold, but only its shadow. The shadow was as good as the substance to Oakes and Oliver Ames, Dr. Durant and the others, and upon it they proceeded to build the solid structure of the Crédit Mobilier. The object of this new company, founded upon nothing and without any authority, either in law or in fact, was simply to rob the government for the benefit of a few stockholders in the Union Pacific Railroad. It was a so-called corporation within an actual corporation, and was intended only as a vehicle for absorbing the capital of the road. It was a matter of common notoriety that its contracts were mere thefts—frauds upon the government. Every Congressman who bought stock in it knew this or could have known it. Organized for a purpose so simple, its work apparently ended when the road was built; but it might yet be used for running the road, as it was formerly used in constructing it, for there is quite as good a reason for its future operations as for its past robberies.

HOW THE M'COMB EXPOSURE WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

A scheme so dishonest was certain to breed differences among the commercial adventurers who brought it into existence. Stock that paid a dividend of a thousand per cent is not to be had every day, and Colonel McComb had subscribed for some shares in the Crédit Mobilier for his friend Fant, of Richmond, which he thought ought to be given him out of the "peculiar" stock allotted to Ames for the purchase of Congressmen. Ames resisted this, and a suit was the consequence. The papers in the case implicated a number of prominent men, and the story is that they were stolen from Ames' lawyer. The theft was engineered by W. P. Wood, the detective, and the papers were placed in the hands of Marshal Murray, the expenses being borne by several leading democrats in New York whose names have not yet been revealed. Murray secured their publication, but, apart from the confidence reposed in the word of the accused persons, of which I have already spoken, the effect of the publication was deadened, not only by the mistake of Murray in the vehicle he chose to make them public, but by the fact that McComb's list was evidently a list of persons whom Ames intended to bribe, and whom it was by no means certain he had bribed, even admitting the intention. In the end it turned out that the list was only partially correct. Blaine was on it. Ames offered him some of the stock, but he determined to sleep upon the offer, and slept to such purpose that he was able to decline it. Boutwell was also on the list, but he declined the offer as soon as it was made. It was thus that these two escaped, and their places were taken by James F. Wilson and W. B. Allison, of Iowa. It is doubtful whether Blaine knew who had yielded to the temptation which he escaped so narrowly; but he knew there was sufficient truth in the charges to make it unsafe for him to rest under the imputations.

THE TUB TO THE WHALE.

Under all these circumstances it was necessary that something should be done to keep public opinion from becoming excited over an apparent assent to the truth of these accusations. Though it was impossible for the country at first to believe that men who had been so honored and trusted—all of whom had still before them brilliant prospects of honor and usefulness—had been so base, the charges were so specific and the accusations so straightforward and concise that they could not be passed by in silence. If the allegations had been by innuendo they could have been answered by indirection and without the interposition of a whitewashing committee. It is in this that Speaker Blaine is justified before even the most unscrupulous of his party friends in asking for the investigation, though he is not the man to waste many regrets if his political rivals should be destroyed by the machinery which alone could save them. If they were out of the way his own path would be clear, and if they were rescued both they and the party would owe him a debt of gratitude. To him it was six of one and half a dozen of the other, and I think he was more disposed to rescue than to destroy them. The most murderous of rings have always preferred an abject and obedient slave to the necessity of attaining safety or success by assassination. Blaine is the Richard III. type of statesman—a most magnificent and able Richard it must be confessed—willing either to condone or destroy, and Colfax and the rest might have licked his hand and lived if they had not been imprudent enough to goad Oakes Ames to fury. The Speaker knew, as everybody else knew, that Ames was not anxious to expose anyone beyond the narrowest limit which the necessities of the situation required. The necessities of the situation were felt as much by the party as the Speaker. The Vice President of the United States that is and that is to be, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Speaker of the House, the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Chairmain of the Committee on Appropriations, one or two Senators and a number of Representatives were accused of bribery. Blaine knew that he could go before a committee, tell his story and have Ames corroborate it. He was not bound to inquire whether Ames could or would corroborate the others. He was innocent and they might take their chances; so, looking out upon the sea of his own future, he saw that a resolution of inquiry would be safety for himself and a tub to the whale for the rest. He scarcely imagined that they would attempt to make Oakes Ames the scapegoat of their sins, or that he should be pursued by them after their reputations were destroyed. Now they and their friends are cursing him as the cause of their destruction, though he did for them everything it was in his power to do. He gave them a committee that would whitewash them if it was possible to apply the brush. It is a rumor at the capital—very annoying to Mr. Cox, but, whether true or false, believed by many leading men on both sides of the House—that Blaine dictated the committee, Cox only doing his bidding. A representative, peculiarly well informed on this whole subject, told me in so many words that the Speaker only consented that Cox should take the chair after seeing the names of the committee. The committee itself was unobjectionable to the accused, and, whether Blaine dictated it or not, it has exactly suited his purposes. It is in no sense a smelling committee. The only man upon it who is really in earnest is Merrick, of Maryland. Banks, who, as a liberal republican, holds the balance of political power in its organization, has absented himself from its sittings and from Washington during much of the time it has been at work. The rest are the party friends of the accused, accustomed to look upon the alleged criminals as their masters. Their investigations have been conducted as we would have expected, the only good thing they have done being the opening of their doors when they were coerced into opening them. In itself the committee has been singularly inert. From the beginning till now it has industriously sought to do nothing. It has moved only as it was moved, but it was always true to this one purpose—to learn nothing and to do nothing—and has most unwillingly recorded the testimony of willing witnesses. Poland has been constantly surprised that where he dipped for lime mud has covered his brush, and the good man from Vermont is bewildered at the results. So is Blaine and so is everybody. But the often quoted remarks about the best laid plans of mice and men explain it all. Some over-virtuous persons relied too much upon the esteem which their ostentatious virtues secured for them. "They told lies about me," says Ames, "till I could stand it no longer," so he turned upon them like a rat lashing his pursuers. They would have derived all the benefit from the HERALD'S jokes upon Hoax if Christian resignation had been among Hoax's many fine qualities. Hoax was at first anxious only to forget; but when he waked up at last he played a hand as full of trumps as Ah Sin's sleeve in the famous contest with Truthful James and Bill Nye.

OAKES AMES.

In order to understand more fully the exposures which followed Ames' change of tactics, it is necessary to appreciate the real character of the man. Like the devil, he is very far from being as black as he is painted. He is a hoax, but not a hoaxer. Instead of being an acute financier, he is simply a stupid shovelmaker. He ought to be at the forge now, and he would be but for blind Fortune. His ignorance is opaque. His intellect is feeble. His conscience is undeveloped. But he is honest as far as he understands what honesty means. He would not steal a pin not merely because it is only a pin, but from principle. If he knew the difference between good and evil he would be a perfectly good man. He bribed Congressmen, it is true, but with him bribing them was a duty. It is doubtful whether he recognized the moral aspects of his actions, or ever will be able to understand that placing the stock "where it would do most good," as he himself said, was bribery. With him it was a sincere purpose of inducing some of the most prominent men in Congress to take a friendly interest in the road. All that he did was to his mind a thing eminently proper to be done. If his moral perceptions had been better and he had known the distinction between commercial enterprise and bribery there would have been no exposure of his best friends; McComb would have had no letters from him and there would have been no papers to be stolen from his lawyers for political purposes; his dealings with his associates would not have been upon the debit and credit principle; he would have testified against nobody, for he would himself have bribed nobody. The case of Dr. Durant illustrates this matter in a way that will make it clear to every understanding. Durant had more stock for distribution than was given to Ames. The one was charged with the buying of democrats, the other bought republicans. Durant knew that this thing was bribery, and he worked by indirection so that the names of the democratic corruptionists will probably remain a mystery forever. Stewart, the recusant witness, was his instrument; but Stewart was not his only tool. Durant encourages the impression that Stewart "goobled up" the funds that were given him. "What did he do with the money?" I asked of a man who professed to believe this story, and was told that he gambled it away. All this may be true, but it looks very much like a lie. Durant is too shrewd a man to be so completely overreached by Stewart. Besides, the sum which Stewart received is entirely inadequate when compared with the amount of money and bonds which Durant had for distribution. Ames had 343 shares of Crédit Mobilier stock, and with it he corrupted ten of the most powerful men in Congress. Durant had 330 shares of stock and $400,000 in money besides. Ten thousand dollars of this went toward Harlan's re-election. In both money and stock Stewart got only $250,000. The rest of it is unquestionably in the hands of democratic Congressmen and of other Congressmen besides Brooks, of New York, and Boyer, of Pennsylvania. Durant is an angel compared with Ames, for he stared Heaven in the face and sinned with his eyes open, while other men's were closed. Ames is a very devil, because he did not know that he was sinning. A gentleman said to me, "After all that he has done, I would make him executor of my will, knowing that he would not deprive my children of a single penny." He is a man of correct business habits, and he was able to account to the Crédit Mobilier for every cent of the corruption fund in his hand. He is a queer compound of shrewdness, rascality, honesty and simplicity, and is as garrulous as an old woman. But he only told what he knew of Colfax and Patterson when he was forced to tell it; and that he has not yet told the whole truth in regard to some of the others is evident from an analysis of the Dawes case.

AMES AND DAWES—HOW THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE DOES BUSINESS.

Mr. Dawes made a very clear and concise denial of his alleged Crédit Mobilier transactions soon after Speaker Blaine had set the example to those who supposed he was a partner with them in guilt. Especially was the leader of the House precise in saying that he owned no stock at any time not bought and paid for with his own money. Men who knew Dawes, or supposed they knew him, were satisfied with his letter, and said that he, at least, would be free from the imputations cast upon him. When he came to tell his story before the committee it was a plea of confession and avoidance. He had owned stock, he admitted, in the Crédit Mobilier, but only for three weeks. According to his own account, when he came to Washington in the Winter of 1866-'7, he had $1,000 to his credit in the hands of the Sergeant-at-Arms. A thousand dollars is a sum of money so vast that the average Congressman is utterly at a loss how to invest it, and even the financial leader of the House—the man who alone is superior to the Secretary of the Treasury in moulding the finances of the government—was so far unequal to the occasion that he was compelled to ask his friend Washburn for advice and guidance. Washburn referred him to Ames, who generally had a large supply of Yankee notions for speculative statesmen. Dawes and Washburn had talked of shares in some Iowa railroad, but Ames recommended Crédit Mobilier stock, and Dawes agreed to take it if the shovelmaker would guarantee him ten per cent upon his investment. This Ames agreed to do, and Dawes took the stock to the full amount of his money which was wanting investment, but he paid upon it only $800. After three weeks he became frightened, because he learned that one of his Pittsfield neighbors was going to sue the company, and gave back the stock, receiving from Ames his $800 and accrued interest. The fact that he took the interest for three weeks shows his careful and methodical business habits; but somehow or other he also got a dividend on stock he did not own, and after a very considerable period he was in Ames' debt $260. The buying and selling and borrowing and lending between these two are mysteries as impenetrable as were all things earthly and divine to Lord Dundreary. Dawes' story seems woven out of the whole cloth and not to be true in any particular. Ames contradicts it in some some of its most essential points, and yet Ames is his friend, pushing him for the United States Senate in place of Henry Wilson. The books of the Sergeant-at-Arms show no signs of his having any money in that quarter when he says he had it. The fact of the receipt of the dividend after he pretends to have yielded up the stock proves or seems to prove that he continued to own it and owns it still. But he found no fault with Ames, and Ames lets him alone. If he had contradicted the shovelmaker he would probably have met the fate of Colfax; but he was too prudent to do anything so reckless, and he accordingly retains the friendship and esteem of Oakes Ames. The whole truth may come out in the end, but I doubt if it will be told any more clearly than it appears from the contradictions in which he has involved himself, for Ames is true to his purpose of telling as little as possible, unless circumstances or affronts compel him to unbosom himself.

WHEREIN OAKES AMES SHOWED FIGHT.

In the beginning Oakes Ames showed little disposition even to traverse the accusations against himself. He appeared to think he could best meet his accusers in the testimony he would produce in the McComb suit. But every day put him into deeper water, and he saw at last that his evidence in that case might be successfully controverted unless he struck back. His first blow was aimed at Patterson, but previously Colfax had put him in an awkward position by virtually charging him with embezzlement. It is asserted in many quarters that he took advice from General Butler as to the best course for him to pursue, but, if he did, he certainly failed to follow such a policy as Butler would have been likely to suggest. Butler is too fond of dramatic effects to have allowed him to kill a single bird till the whole flock had lit. Ames preferred to wing them separately, and he brought Patterson down at the first shot. He met Patterson's denial with proofs which utterly confuted and confounded the Senator, and set off the allegations of the New Hampshire parson that he had never owned any Crédit Mobilier stock with the receipts for the dividends. It was impossible to have aimed a harder blow, and its success was overwhelming. Patterson clung to his story, but Ames added proof upon proof, and at last showed conclusively that the Senator had been imploring him to commit perjury. This only warmed the blood of the shovelmaker, and he next undertook the task of annihilating Colfax. Colfax, too, denied ever having owned any Crédit Mobilier stock, but admitted that he paid Ames $500 on account of stock he was to receive. As, according to his own story, he never got the stock, and had not been paid back the money, Ames was placed in the position of a common swindler. Ames did not have the receipts in his case as he had in Patterson's, and so it was necessary to meet Colfax in a different way. He went to his memorandum book and found that on a certain day he had given Colfax a check on the Sergeant-at-Arms for $1,200, payable to S. C. or bearer. Colfax denied ever having received the check, but his bank account showed that on the same day he had made a deposit of $1,200 in United States notes. But he had already involved himself in contradictions by his tales of his poverty and his declarations that he had no private means, so that he felt his position to be weak, if not utterly untenable. He accordingly gave out that he will be able to prove by three different persons that he received money enough from them to make up the amount of the deposit. Unfortunately for his reputation for veracity, he will be met even here by an ugly piece of circumstantial evidence; for at that time the banks were paying out only their own money and keeping the United States notes in their possession as a reserve fund. It would not have been easy for Colfax to get this peculiar kind of money from three different persons. Under all the circumstances the inference seems perfectly justifiable that he obtained it from the Sergeant-at-Arms, and that the S. C. check means exactly what Ames says it means. Besides, nobody knows what other proofs Ames may be able to produce from the recesses of his capacious pockets.

GARFIELD, KELLEY AND BROOKS.

It would seem that the others would have taken warning from the fate of two such distinguished men as Patterson and Colfax, but some of them had already gone too far to retreat. This was especially the case with Garfield, Kelley and Brooks. Garfield and Kelley denied ever having owned any Crédit Mobilier stock, in the same way that Patterson and Colfax had denied its ownership, and affected to regard the dividends they had received from Ames merely as loans. The stories are the very simplicity of falsehood, and no sensible persons in Washington place any reliance upon them. It was an impertinence to expect people to believe such absurd tales. Garfield's friends are laboring industriously to keep comments on his conduct out of the press, and have succeeded in obtaining a "let up" for him. But even the people who had most regard for him a year ago are ashamed that he should be chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and he feels his disgrace so acutely that it unfits him for caring for his bills. Kelley, however, shows few or no compunctions. He is a man of sublime impudence and extraordinary cheek, but these cannot save him this time. He was among those who received that "fashionable" $329, and even when he affected to pay back the money to Ames he was content that Ames' tearing his check in two and handing it to him again should be considered a "settlement." These are the only republicans who have had differences with Ames, and every one of them has come out of the contest so thoroughly injured in reputation as to be beyond recovery. James Brooks, by pursuing a like course, met with a like fate; for while his case differed from the others in detail and he was free from the hate of Oakes Ames, his guilt was as certain, and General Butler was his Nemesis. Butler had long waited for an opportunity to repay Brooks' denunciations of him as a "gold stealer" during the war, and by inserting the words "or others" after the name of Oakes Ames in Blaine's resolution he caught his old enemy.

EXAMPLES OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS.

I passed the Hon. James F. Wilson in the avenue this morning, and he seemed as merry as a mudlark. There is no reason why he should not be happy, for he had the impudence to tell the committee in substance that he got the stock and the dividends and liked the transaction. Bingham and Scofield and some others put in pleas of confession, but tried to soften the extreme hardness of their lot by the allegations that they had returned their stock. Perhaps they have done so, but people are apt to judge them from a severer standard than they like to be judged by. A grave doubt lingers in the mind as to whether the return of the stock is not only a mere ruse, as was the case with Kelley, and that Ames is their "trustee." It is impossible, therefore, to acquit them entirely of evil intention. They ought to have known as men of business that stock which paid in so short a time a dividend of 1,000 per cent derived its profits from fraud, and as members of Congress they should have known that it was the government which was being defrauded. Unless they knew these things they were not fit for their places, and if they knew them they were equally unfit. Yet there is generally forgiveness for those who confess their faults, while the "unco gude" who deny their crimes to the last are the more severely punished. A lie well stuck to is only as good as the truth when it has the appearance of truth. The lies in the Crédit Mobilier cases have been recognized as lies all through the investigation. People in Washington talk about this or that "lie" of Colfax or Patterson or Dawes or Kelley or Garfield as mere matters of course, and as if it was agreed that it was a lie. Indeed the agreement is almost universal, and this is what makes the sins of these men so bitter and their fall irretrievable. Dawes loses much by his downfall, for if he is not sent to the Senate in Wilson's place as an endorsement of his innocence nobody will make any blunders about his guilt hereafter. Garfield feels his loss to be greater even, for all his friends are asking for a kindlier judgment on his acts on the ground that he is so young and so brilliant. But Colfax loses most of all. He had the Presidency in view four years hence, but now he can never be President, and his lot is made sadder still by the fact that though he formerly had troops of friends most of them have turned against him. And then from every tongue comes the reflection, wrong in principle but correct in fact, that if they had only "owned up" their sins would soon have been forgotten. This can bring no consolation to them, for even if they had "owned up" the confession would have tortured them as it is torturing others whom we are apt to regard as forgiven already; for it is better not to sin at all than to sin and be absolved.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND PROBABLE RECOMMENDATIONS.

The report of the committee is a matter of mere conjecture. The bold and useful thing to be done would be to bring the inquiry to a close and recommend the expulsion of every member of Congress implicated in the frauds. But this is a course demanding too much courage from Judge Poland and his colleagues. Courage is the element which is wanted in this crisis. Perhaps the most that will be done by the majority will be to report the testimony to the House without any expression of opinion whatever. Even this may be done so late in the session that action upon it will be impossible. The only thing to prevent such a feeble course is the general sentiment against bribery and corruption awakened by the investigation. It is unsafe for the republican party to pass these offences by in silence, and to whitewash them is equally dangerous. So the character of the report has not been determined upon; but further developments and a more thorough understanding of public feeling can alone make it what it ought to be. A minority report from Mr. Merrick, of Maryland, if from nobody else, is expected by the democratic side of the House, but it is uncertain whether he will report a resolution of expulsion. If he does the sense of the House upon the question must be tested. In that case the resignation of the members who took Oakes Ames' stock will be the only compromise; for the feeling in the House is very strong that something decisive must be done to appease the offended dignity and honor of the Republic and prove to erring statesmen that they cannot commit crime with impunity.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER OF AMERICA--ITS SECRET HISTORY.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 1, 1873.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

My attention has been called to the report of the remarks of Messrs. Boyd and Smith in the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention in reference to the Crédit Mobilier. The former said that the charter had been granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania for $50,000, after $300,000 had been offered to the Legislature of New York and $150,000 to the Legislature of New Jersey for such a charter, without success. Mr. Smith said that the charter, stock book and papers were stolen and bodily carried off to New York when the company known as the Crédit Mobilier was organized. Neither of these statements is correct. The truth is as follows:—

My father, General Duff Green, obtained the charter of the Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency from the Legislature of Pennsylvania at the session of 1858 and 1859. Not a dollar, not a cent, was paid or offered or promised to any member of the Legislature for the charter. His purpose was to organize a company of American, Mexican and European capitalists, including the European holders of Mexican bonds, to build the Sabine and Rio Grande Railroad in Texas, connecting with the New Orleans and Opelousas Railroad on the Sabine, and to extend that road from the Rio Grande to the city of Mexico and the Pacific.

The then Governor, W. F. Packer, for some time hesitated to approve the act of incorporation—first, because of the extensive powers granted thereby, and second, because he doubted my father's ability to accomplish what he proposed by it. In the summer of 1859 my father went to Europe, with letters from President Buchanan, Señor Mata, then Mexican Minister at Washington, and Señor Lerdo y Tejada, now President of Mexico. He soon returned with written assurances from the European holders of Mexican bonds, acting through a committee and other capitalists, stating that, if Governor Packer would approve the charter, they would put into the enterprise $60,000,000 of Mexican bonds and advance all the funds necessary to build the road from the Sabine to the city of Mexico and the Pacific. The documents he brought with him from Europe satisfied Governor Packer of the feasibility of his plans and of the great public benefit to the United States and to Mexico, whereupon the Governor approved the charter on the 1st November, 1859.

On the 5th November, 1859, the company was duly and regularly organized in Philadelphia according to law, and the whole stock (50,000 shares) taken. The first board of directors were Duff Green, David R. Porter, Jacob Zeigler, Samuel R. Brooks and Oliver W. Barnes: Duff Green, President; William Halsted, treasurer; Oliver W. Barnes, secretary.

The necessity for additional legislation by the State of Texas, and for some satisfactory arrangement with Señor Teuteno and others, who held a prior grant from Mexico for a railroad from the Rio Grande to the Pacific, caused some delay. In the Fall of 1860 my father went to New Orleans to meet commissioners from the Mexican government and to Texas on the business of the road. Anticipating that he might need them at New Orleans or Austin he took with him all the original books and documents, which Mr. Smith erroneously supposes were afterwards "stolen and carried bodily to New York," leaving with Oliver W. Barnes, the Secretary of the company, in Philadelphia, copies. Those originals still exist, and are safe in the possession of their proper and lawful custodians. In December, 1860, my father having satisfactorily arranged the business which had taken him to Louisiana and Texas, returned to Washington, on his way to Europe, to consummate the above-mentioned agreement with the parties there. On reaching Washington he found civil war imminent. Mr. Lincoln and my cousin, Ninian Edwards, had married sisters, and my father held to Mr. Lincoln relations of intimate personal friendship. For that reason he was selected by President Buchanan and Senator Jeff Davis to bear from them to Mr. Lincoln an invitation to come to Washington at once, as Mr. Buchanan's guest, with assurances that he would be received at the White House with all the respect and honors due to him as President elect, and that by acting together they could put a stop to the secession movement and avoid a civil war. Mr. Lincoln seemed at first eager to accept the invitation, but afterwards declined, because Senator Ben Wade, of Ohio, opposed it. The HERALD of January 8, 1861, contained a report of an interview between a reporter of that paper and my father on his return from his unsuccessful mission to Springfield.

Two or three years before the war my mother went to Georgia to pay me a short visit, and was there taken sick. In April, 1861, my father went to Georgia, hoping to find her sufficiently recovered to return to Washington; but, as she could not be moved, he decided to remain with her, and postpone his visit to Europe and the further prosecution of his great enterprise until the settlement of the political difficulties.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company was chartered by act of Congress, approved 1st of July, 1862. That act fixed the capital stock of the company at $100,000,000, and limited the amount of stock to be held by any one person to $200,000, thereby holding out the idea that it was to be a great national enterprise, which could not be "gobbled up" by a few individuals. But it was also provided that the company could be organized on a subscription of $2,000,000 and the payment of ten per cent thereof, whereby it was placed in the power of $100,100 to control the enterprise. The idea was also held out to the public that the management was to be entrusted to men of high character, such as Erastus Corning, William B. Ogden and others of like standing. Those gentlemen, however, relying on this general understanding, stood back on the dignity of their characters, waiting to be elected by a spontaneous action of the stockholders. But Dr. T. C. Durant had managed to secure the requisite proxies to elect himself as Vice President, with a board to suit his purposes; and, to give some character to the organization, a large sum was paid to General John A. Dix for the use of his name as President of the company. Durant's next step was to open a negotiation through George Francis Train and Charles M. Hall for the purchase of the charter of the Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency from Messrs. Halsted, Brooks and Barnes. But that could not be done legally, because neither of the last-named had any authority to transfer my father's majority interest, and Mr. Halsted refused to listen to any arrangement that did not protect my father's just rights. Failing in the attempt to purchase that charter, efforts were next made to obtain a similar one in New York and New Jersey. I know nothing, except from hearsay, of $300,000 having been offered for it at Albany, and $150,000 at Trenton, as stated by Mr. Boyd, although I have reason to believe that in this Mr. Boyd's statement is correct; but he is altogether mistaken in saying that it was afterwards obtained from the Pennsylvania Legislature for $50,000. That sum was paid to Oliver W. Barnes and Charles M. Hall, and not to any member of the Pennsylvania Legislature. It was not paid as purchase money for the charter, but as a bribe to Barnes and Hall for their aid in an attempt to "steal" the charter, as hereinafter explained.

In the Spring of 1863 my father was lying ill in one room of my house in Georgia and my mother in another. About that time the death of my cousin, Mr. Duff Green, of Falmouth, Va., was announced, and it was generally supposed that my father was dead. Tempted by an offer of $50,000, and perhaps emboldened by the idea of my father's death, Barnes and Hall were induced, on May 29, 1863, to fabricate false and fraudulent papers purporting to be "minutes of the proceedings of the commissioners named in the act to incorporate the Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency," and a "certificate" of pretended subscriptions to the capital stock of the Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency.

On the 1st of June, 1863, Barnes "affirmed" before James McCahen, an Alderman of Philadelphia, that these fraudulent "minutes" were "correct." On these fabricated papers and false affirmation, by deceitfully concealing the previous *bona fide* organization of the company by the commissioners in November, 1859, letters patent, dated June 1, 1863, were obtained from Governor A. G. Curtin, purporting to "create and erect the subscribers (*i. e.*, those named in said fabricated papers) into one body politic and corporate, by the name, style and title of the Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency."

These pretended letters patent were then turned over by Barnes and Hall to the Durant-Dix party in New York. They were obtained by fraud practised on Governor Curtin, who doubtless signed them inadvertently, in the usual course of business, and in the confidence which every Governor of a State must necessarily repose in his official subordinates, whose business it is to prepare papers for his signature. But they were a mere nullity, there being no law authorizing their issue. They could have no effect whatever on the previously vested rights of the stockholders under the organization of 1859.

By a subsequent act of the Legislature, approved 26th of March, 1864, the name of the "Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency" was changed to the "Crédit Mobilier of America." My supposition is that the chief—if not the only—object of this change of name was to prevent inquiries being made by Messrs. Halsted, Brooks, Stephen Colwell and others, who, if they should happen to hear of the operations of the Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency, would ask awkward questions, but would never suspect that the great Crédit Mobilier of America, which was building the Union Pacific Railroad, claimed the "franchises, powers, rights, liberties and privileges" of their old Pennsylvania Fiscal Agency.

I am happy to inform you that my father is not dead, as you stated a few days since. At the age of eighty-two his mind is as clear, his eye as bright and his handwriting as steady as they were forty years ago. He is now President of the lawful and genuine Crédit Mobilier of America, whose other officers are William Halsted, Treasurer; Benjamin E. Green, Secretary; Samuel R. Brooks, Jacob Zeigler and John Rice, Directors, with one vacancy, caused by the death of Stephen Colwell.

The Durant-Ames-Alley Crédit Mobilier is a bogus concern, originating in fraud and based on fabricated papers, falsely "affirmed" to be correct, by which the charter was not stolen, as stated by Mr. Smith, but only attempted to be stolen.

BENJAMIN E. GREEN,
Secretary of the Crédit Mobilier of America.

MORE INDIAN TROUBLES IN CALIFORNIA.

Difficulties at Yaquina Bay—Settlers Alarmed.

[From the Atla California, Jan. 28.]

By the arrival of a schooner from Yaquina Bay, we learn that there is great excitement among the settlers of that region on account of the conduct of the Indians, who were continuing their wild dance in hopes of bringing back to earth their dead braves. The medicine men declare that they have received a message from the Great Spirit to the effect that their friends will not return until some of the whites have been killed. The settlers around Toledo are building a block house fort for their protection, while the people around Elk City are fully alarmed at the conduct of the Indians, and a number of families have gone across the mountains into Benton county for safety. On the 12th instant the fine residence of E. N. Sawtelle, three miles below Elk City, was burned to the ground, having been fired by the Indians. At Elk City the excitement became intense. The women and children were placed on board the steamer Oneatta for safety, and men armed with Henry rifles and revolvers were picketed on the outskirts of the town. They captured one Indian, who had been employed by the whites, and he said "he was sick at heart, as he had spent the whole night in a talk with the 'Siwashes,' at Old Sambo's camp." He declared that the Indians were very mad, and had determined upon a general outbreak, and were going to kill all the whites and appropriate all their property. He had refused to join the Indians, and had come to the whites for protection. He afterwards denied his story, saying he had told it for the purpose of scaring the whites. The citizens, however, believe they are in great danger, and are collecting all the settlers. They are loud in their complaints against General Palmer, the Indian Agent at Siletz Reservation, who has gone off to Salem, instead of attending to his duties at the Reservation, and who might do something to restrain the red devils if he was among them.

MR. GREELEY'S WILL AND THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY,
No. 19 EAST FOURTH STREET,
NEW YORK, Feb. 4, 1873.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In your reporter's account of the hearing at White Plains in regard to Mr. Greeley's will, Mr. Isaiah T. Williams was spoken of as the counsel for this Society. This is an entire mistake, as we have not been a contestant, and have had no counsel or representative in the case. Your obedient servant, C. L. BRACE, Secretary.

THE HERALD ALMANAC.

This most useful book, in the second year of its publication, presents in its pages for 1873 additional claims not only for a continuance of the popularity it attained by its first great issue of 1872, but for a more widespread and popular recognition of its right to the title of the almanac *par excellence* of the day. Such a book was long a *desideratum* in the almanac, or what but poorly represented to be the almanac, literature of this great metropolis. The *Herald Almanac* supplies all that was so long desired, and to the fullest extent, as proved by the immense circulation of its first issue and the unprecedented demand for the present issue—already going through its second edition—covers all the ground that can properly or beneficially be compressed within the scope of such a work.

Almanacs were published by the Arabs in Spain centuries before Columbus left there to discover America, and but for whose discovery almanacs would be at a discount here to-day. A pretty ancient and respectable genealogy to trace back to, and so from that time to this, through the intervening cycles of years, and in all countries, almanacs have risen, flourished and died, and still, Phœnix-like from their ashes, have sprung innumerable other almanacs, all, like their ancient prototype, treating of things astronomical, changes of the moon, rising and setting of the sun and moon, eclipses, &c. The *Herald Almanac* is itself great as an eclipse, for it has completely overshadowed and obscured the two rivals who hitherto had all the business of "political" almanac making exclusively to themselves. One of them, in an expiring effort, has produced an excuse that fears to show itself on the news stands, and the other was forced to delay its publication till the *Herald Almanac* was out and its deficiencies in election returns could be supplied from its unusually full official tables. The great almanac eclipse of 1873 is, however, complete, and, though the erst rivals may struggle against the *Herald Almanac* obscuration for a time, final extinguishment is inevitable. It is a consolation to them, no doubt, that they go down together; that what was fatal to one was fatal to both, and that the result was not unexpected, for, with the appearance of the *Herald Almanac* of 1872, their disappearance was only a brief question of time.

The success of the *Herald Almanac* was assured from the first. No pains, labor or expense have been spared to make the work comprehensive, complete and thoroughly reliable upon all the subjects treated of in its 250 pages of carefully collated and selected matter. It is principally to these selections of entirely new matter, or "specialties" never before introduced into the counterfeit presentments of almanacs, and indeed to a great extent unobtainable by the speculators in them, together with a greatly improved treatment of almanac matter proper, that has made the present work a necessity to all engaged in any of the branches of business treated of under its heads of specialties. It was from the fund of information thus presented—information novel, interesting and invaluable—that the HERALD'S new departure in publishing an almanac was observed, commented upon and at once popularly accepted. The *Herald Almanac*—or, to give it its printed title, the *Herald Almanac and Financial, Commercial and Political Register*—is all that its title imports or claims to be. Under the several heads of finance, commerce and politics will be found important tables, invaluable to the gold broker, the banker, the dealer in government bonds and securities, in railroad and miscellaneous stocks and securities, to the merchant and produce dealer, to the shipper and all engaged in the home or foreign commerce of the port of New York and all the other ports of the United States, and to all interested in the staple products of trade and commerce. Under its head of "Election Returns" will be found the fullest, most reliable and accurate returns ever compiled after any election contest. These returns give the votes for the Presidential, Gubernatorial and Congressional candidates, by counties and districts, and of some of the principal cities by wards, all compiled from the official documents of States and counties. The comparative vote for President in every State, and in our own State and county, has been most carefully revised, and will be referred to in the future as the only guide by which to cast the political horoscope in future contests. In this branch of the work—the only branch, in fact, other city almanacs claiming to be political ever presented anything new or of interest to the class of readers to whom it was designed—the *Herald Almanac* presents in such a clear and perspicuous manner the results of the election in each State and county and town, showing total votes for candidates, majorities, whole votes, increases and decreases of votes in the Presidential and Gubernatorial returns; the personnel of the several State governments, and the political status of the State legislatures, as to completely cast in the shade all election returns ever presented before on the pages of an almanac. Its specialties, under the head of "Missing Heirs," "Mariner's Guide," "Cyclone" and "Hurricane Charts," "Cautionary Weather Signals," tables showing the time of high water at all the principal ports of the United States; depth