WASHINGTON.

The Story of Detective Bell Before the Clymer Committee.

THE TESTIMONY IN DENIAL.

Statements of the Attorney General, Mr. Luckey and Mr. Bradley.

AN ALLEGED POLITICAL CONSPIRACY.

Indignation Over the Herald Exposures of the Indian Ring.

Secretary Bristow and the Whiskey Ring.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1876.

MR. LUCKEY IN RESPONSE TO DETECTIVE BELL—THE STORY OF A POLITICAL CONSPIRACY AND THE EFFORTS TO DEFEAT IT—WHAT LOVE FOR HIS OLD COMMANDER PROMPTED A SPY TO DO—AN EXPLANATION OF THE FAMOUS CIPHER.

The following is the statement made by Mr. Luckey, formerly the President's Private Secretary, to-day before the Clymer committee concerning his relations to and dealings with the detective, Bell:—

I was in St. Louis during the latter part of last November as a witness in the Avery trial. I went there solely for that purpose, and in no way at General Babcock's solicitation nor in his interest. While there Mr. Bell came to me at the Lindell Hotel. I recognized him as one who had been seeking some position under the government two or three years before, and at the time had called at the Executive Mansion and represented himself to me as a former spy of the Union army during the war, and had shown me testimonials of his faithful service in that capacity, and had related some of his hairbreadth escapes when taken prisoner by the Confederates. I had been unable to assist him, and had not seen him nor heard of him again until he came to me in St. Louis. He said he wanted to talk to me privately, and had come to me because he felt he could trust me on account of my connection with the President, and he felt that the President should be made acquainted with what was going on. He said the President was his old commander, and he felt that his allegiance and fidelity belonged to him rather than to those who were seeking to do him an injury. He told me he was a special agent of the Post Office Department, and, on account of his familiarity with the duty, had been loaned temporarily to the Treasury Department to assist in procuring evidence in the whiskey investigations; that in that way he had become associated in the office of Mr. Dyer, the United States Attorney, and was treated in that office as an assistant and trusted by Mr. Dyer and his associates; that he had become, in that way, aware of many things going on which convinced him that Mr. Dyer, Mr. Henderson and others were in a conspiracy to have General Babcock indicted, and for the sole purpose of injuring the administration for political effect. He said if it were known that he had communicated to me anything that transpired in the United States Attorney's office he would be dismissed and would lose his place. I replied that whatever he felt it his duty to tell me he might, and that, if it was of such a nature that the President should hear it, I should consider it my duty to inform him. I also said to him that if, in doing what he considered his duty, and if what he told me was true, I thought I could, at least, promise him that he should not lose his place, or, if he did, he should have another one. He gave me a long story of what he had seen and heard; that there were a number of papers relating to General Babcock which Mr. Henderson had been very urgent to have introduced in the McDonald trial, and Mr. Dyer had opposed their introduction, though he had been directed to introduce them by officials of the Treasury Department at Washington; that there had been some feeling about it, and when McDonald was convicted the Secretary of the Treasury and Solicitor Wilson had telegraphed Dyer congratulating him upon his success and saying that they were convinced that his judgment had been correct in regard to the introduction of the Washington papers, meaning Babcock papers. That Mr. Dyer was very much elated at this praise and said he knew he was right and if he had his way they should not be introduced during the Avery trial either, for they would have far greater political effect if delayed until as near the conventions as possible. He told me a great deal more of the same import which I do not recall, and said that they made no secret when alone together of their intentions toward the administration, and expressed their confidence that they would be able to kill off General Grant; that the effect would be to make Mr. Bristow President, and a great deal more of the same character.

He said that a number of detectives were in St. Louis belonging to the secret service of the Treasury Department, and that they watched every movement of General Babcock's friends, and were striving in every way to get hold of something against him; that they had a man in the telegraph office who furnished them with copies of any despatches sent between St. Louis and Washington, and he thought, from bits of conversation he had heard in Dyer's office, that letters sent by General Babcock's friends had been opened and read, and he believed some one in the Post Office, either at St. Louis or Washington, was in their pay or assisting them in that way.

I assured Mr. Bell of my perfect faith in General Babcock's innocence and that I did not believe he would be indicted at all, and that I looked upon the effort to secure his indictment as a persecution and nothing else. I told Bell that he could come to me at any time while I remained there, and if he learned anything more he should tell me.

A short time after Mr. Avery told me that Bell had been talking to him, and had told him that he had been employed by Treasury officials to hunt up evidence against Hoag, one of the absconding indicted revenue agents, and had found a large number of despatches from Hoag under the assumed name of Bixby, and they showed conclusively who had been sending the information to the distillers of the contemplated raids upon them, and that the proof was so clear that any one could see that they had needed no other informer; Bell had said that these telegrams had not been allowed to be brought to St. Louis, but were deposited at Indianapolis, and, as he had secured them from different points, he would be allowed to get copies of them, and if Avery would pay his expenses he would start at once for Indianapolis and get them, and that he could swear to them. Avery said he had given him money to go and he had just left, saying he would take the first train. It struck me as very unfair for Avery's prosecutors to charge him as the particular man against whom all suspicion should rest as the informer when they were aware of Hoag's despotheisi and knew who it was who had given the information; I concluded that if Bell brought Avery these despatches I should feel a great deal more confidence in him; within two or three days he returned with the copies of the telegrams.

The second time Bell called to see me Mr. Bradley, of Washington, was with me; Bell objected to talking before him, but I told him I was perfectly willing Mr. Bradley should hear whatever he had he wished to say, and preferred that he should be present, that he was a friend of mine and a gentleman I could trust fully; Bell had a long report to make of what he had done, heard and seen, and made it very apparent that he was incurring expense and was in great need of money for his family, and should like to have his services engaged in some way. During the conversation of some length he recited about what he had told me before, and gave his solutions of suspicious fragments of conversations he had overheard in Mr. Dyer's office. He said that Mr. Henderson did not seem to feel that he would be retained very long as the associate counsel for the government, and was urgent that all that could be introduced against Babcock should be put in on the Avery trial; that they had letters written on Executive Mansion headed paper, purporting to be from General Babcock, but which, he believed, were copies or forgeries, and he thought they were using them before the Grand Jury to procure an indictment; that he had read or heard read some of these letters, and he had said to Mr. Dyer that General Babcock might be able to give a very simple explanation of them, when Dyer had replied that Babcock would not have an opportunity; his mouth would be closed.

As he was about leaving my room he said he could, he thought, obtain possession of these letters long enough to bring them to us, and we could tell whether they were using forgeries or not, and he might get the other papers and we could see what they were. I at once informed him that I had no money to give him and no authority to employ him; that I would not sanction his doing anything which was illegal or improper to do in the matter; I told him then, if I remember correctly, that Mr. Bradley had come out to St. Louis as counsel for General Babcock, and he was a lawyer and knew what might be justifiable in General Babcock's interest, but I did not; it might be fair, under the circumstances, and it might not, to obtain the truth as to just what was being done, but I did not know and could not sanction anything I did not feel certain of. Mr. Bradley indorsed what I said and Bell left. Mr. Bradley has told me that after I had left St. Louis Bell said to him that he thought I had made a great mistake in not allowing him to get the Babcock papers.

I saw Bell several times before I left St. Louis, and he had about substantially the same to tell as to the political conspiracy which he alleged was contemplated by Messrs. Henderson and Dyer in connection with officials in Washington. About the last thing he told me before I left St. Louis was that when Dyer came back from the court room to his office, after the introduction in the Avery trial of the Babcock telegrams, he said, "That is something for them to chew on at the White House; the next one will be U. S. G.," and seemed to be very exultant.

At no time was anything said by me to Bell or any one else which could possibly be tortured into a proposition to abstract and destroy papers from Mr. Dyer's office, and I don't know how I, as his friend, could have compromised General Babcock more than by such an act. I arrived at home from St. Louis within the first few days of December. Some time after Bell came to Washington and saw me. I had not doubted his sincerity of purpose nor his honesty in his professed attachment to the President on account of his army experience, though I doubted his conclusions very often. Mr. Henderson's attack upon the President, in his argument on the Avery trial, had, to my mind, corroborated Bell's assertion of the bitter feeling he entertained, and seemed to add strength to all he had told me in that connection. Bell told me Dyer was offering large sums for evidence against Babcock, and had employed him to go to Jefferson City and see Joyce and try to obtain something from him by representing that the President dared not pardon him, but, if he would help them against Babcock, they would all join in asking his pardon, and bring such a pressure that the President would have to grant it for fear that he would be thought to refuse through anger at his (Joyce's) course in helping to implicate Babcock. Bell showed me a note or card which Dyer had given him to secure him admission to Joyce. I told him, as he was here, he could tell the President himself whatever he desired to, and I would ask the President to see him. The President heard him and recognized him as having served as a spy under him sometime during the war, or as having carried despatches for him through the rebel lines. General Hurlburt, of Illinois, came in the office the same day or the next, and, as Bell had a testimonial from him, I asked him if he considered him reliable; he replied that he had always been so when with him during the war, and he deemed him trustworthy. Bell told me he had been suspended unjustly by the Post Office Department because, when travelling, he had got out of money, and had been obliged to borrow of a postmaster in order to continue the business he was on, and it was against the rules of the department; but he could not at the time get along any other way. He desired to get in the Interior Department or Attorney General's office. He thought there were chances of working up a promotion sooner in the Interior than anywhere else.

Within a few days he came to me and said that the Attorney General was going to send him to St. Louis to assist Dyer in his whiskey investigations, and he was going just as soon as he could get away; that he was to help all he could; but if any unwarranted or unlawful means were resorted to, such as introducing forged papers, or if inducements for evidence were offered calculated to induce perjury, he was to report it. In short, as I think, he expressed it, to see fair play. He said that in case he discovered something going on which the President ought to know at once, in order to prevent perhaps a great wrong, how could he communicate it. If he telegraphed it would be known in Dyer's office at once, and he would be turned out and a letter might be too late. I told him it was entirely unlikely that any such emergency would arrive, and he could communicate anything he wished by mail; but for fear I might feel to blame if such an occasion should arise, I made a short simple cipher and showed him how to use it in case he thought he ought to do so. I did not distrust the man, and I considered a cipher in telegraphing nothing more than a device to secure the privacy of the despatch, the same as a sealed envelope for the same purpose in sending a letter through the mail. With the purpose I had in view I believed it proper to give the cipher if I saw fit to do so. After providing him a means whereby he could telegraph what he thought ought to be brought to the immediate knowledge of the President as safely as he could send it by mail, I thought very little more about it until I saw it in a garbled state published in the NEW YORK HERALD about a month later, when I could easily perceive how a cipher, harmless in itself, could be made to appear against one by a designing, unscrupulous man. No despatches were ever sent in the cipher, and whatever responsibility there may be in giving it to him is wholly my own, for neither the President nor General Babcock knew of it.

The Attorney General did not appoint Mr. Bell, and he kept occasionally coming to me and complaining that he was being put off, and his complaints became rather annoying. Finally he came to say that he did not think he would be sent to St. Louis at all by the Attorney General, as he had consulted other officials about him and Dyer would know it and would not trust him. He wanted to be appointed somewhere else and suggested the Interior again. I had not yet learned his true character and felt under obligations to assist him, as I had told him in St. Louis I would; so I spoke to the President that Mr. Bell had requested me to ask him to speak to Mr. Chandler in his behalf for an appointment as a special agent in the Pension Office. I am not certain that I ever spoke to Mr. Chandler about him, but my impression is that I did ask him if the President had mentioned a Mr. Bell to him about a place and he had not done so. I lost sight of him very shortly after and never knew for certain whether he got the appointment.

I was subpœnaed by the government as a witness in General Babcock's trial and left for St. Louis the fore part of February, but, before leaving I had heard from Mr. Woodward, the chief of the Post Office special agents, the true history of Bell's suspension in that department and found that he had deceived me in that matter, and I began to distrust him very much. I never knew he was in St. Louis during the Babcock trial, nor have I seen him since until yesterday.

THE EFFORT TO BREAK DOWN DETECTIVE BELL'S STORY—CURIOUS ADMISSION BY ONE OF BABCOCK'S COUNSEL—THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE SYSTEM AT THE CAPITAL.

The testimony in the Clymer committee tends to confirm the statements of Detective Bell and strengthens him with those who heard it. The republican members of the committee for some reason are determined to break him down and to make him out, if possible, a mere adventurer and trader upon other people's secrets. General Babcock to-day owned to having had several interviews with Bell and that he paid Bell $100 in all. He put in as part of this testimony a sworn account by Bell of certain things he had done. Bell suspects that some changes have been made in this, and it will come up again for examination to-morrow. Luckey's statement before the committee generally confirms this affidavit of Bell, but the testimony of Bradley, one of Babcock's lawyers, made the greatest sensation to-day. He confessed that he did engage, not, he said, to destroy papers against Babcock, which Bell might get at in Dyer's office, but to make copies of them for him, or if he could not do that, to send him their substance. This he thought all right to do as General Babcock's attorney, this being before the Grand Jury indicted Babcock.

It begins to look, in the light of recent developments here, as though this private detective business was run into the ground by big and little people in Washington. The air here smells of detectives. It is pretty well known that during the St. Louis whiskey war the ring and their friends had detectives engaged to hunt up the record and private history of General Bristow and Solicitor Wilson. Now one of Babcock's lawyers thinks he did no wrong in employing a detective to surreptitiously copy papers in the District Attorney's office. One hears of detectives searching out the histories of various Presidential candidates, and, on the whole, whatever industry may suffer, it would seem that the private detective business—the trade of the spy—must be thriving, for a good many men do not think themselves equipped for public life without a private force of such spies.

Another thing which begins to appear here is that the republicans are gradually assuming the attitude of defenders of the evils which the investigating committees are developing. It is not unnatural that they should slip into this attitude. It is their duty to see fair play, and it is easy to overstep the limits and become advocates. Their course, where they blunder in this way, makes the discovery of malfeasance or corruption more difficult. But it must in the long run do more harm to the party whose members obstruct discoveries than to the public interest.

A LONG DESIRED REFORM IN ARMY MATTERS—THE GENERAL-IN-CHIEF RESTORED TO HIS LEGITIMATE POSITION—HEADQUARTERS TO BE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON.

Secretary Taft has just reformed an abuse in the management of the army, the beginning of which dates as far back as when Jefferson Davis was Secretary of War and General Scott commanded the forces. Previous to that time the purely military administration which is included in the Adjutant General's and Inspector General's offices was under the control of the General of the Army, and these officers reported to the General, and not to the Secretary of War. Mr. Davis and General Scott did not agree very well, and Mr. Davis, a West Pointer, a man always jealous of authority and a stickler for power, gradually, and as much as he could, drew the control of these offices to himself as Secretary of War. During the rebellion it was inevitable that Mr. Stanton should do the same thing, especially as the General-in-Chief was mostly in the field. When General Grant became President he endeavored to restore the old order of things, and had an understanding with General Sherman to that purpose, but General Rawlings, the first Secretary of War under Grant, strongly opposed it. His opposition caused some disagreement at the time.

Rawlings, however, carried his point. When Belknap became Secretary of War he, too, insisted on retaining and concentrating all the authority in his own hands, and General Sherman, finding himself a mere figurehead and constantly slighted, after a while withdrew the army headquarters to St. Louis. It was stated in these despatches ten days ago that he would probably return, and that the proper control over the offices which, for the sake of orderly and efficient administration of military affairs, should rest in the General's hands, would be restored to him. Yesterday the order was signed and issued by which the adjutant general and inspectors general of the army are instructed hereafter to report to the General-in-Chief, and no longer to the War Department.

Secretary Taft deserves great credit for his quickness to see the advisability of this change for the proper discipline and work of the Army and his readiness to resign a part of the power which he found placed in his hands when he became Secretary of War. If he had been a narrow minded man or given to petty ambition he would have resisted. General Sherman will at once remove his headquarters to Washington and resume the duties which were denied him by Mr. Belknap, and this change will be beneficially felt by the whole army, which will no longer have so much reason to complain of favoritism and of other abuses as it has had under the rule of Mr. Belknap.

Everybody here who is familiar with the details of army management rejoices at this reform to-day and praises the new Secretary of War.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONENT.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1876.

THE POSITION OF MR. PAGE ON THE HERALD'S EXPOSURE OF INDIAN FRAUDS—THE NATURAL INDIGNATION OF A FRIEND OF THE RING.

Congressman Page, of California, affected much indignation in the Indian Committee yesterday after the examination of the HERALD correspondent was concluded. He expressed his determination to force an answer to his conundrums at the bar of the House, but the other members of the committee did not agree with him, and they advised him to let the matter drop and say no more about it. He did not seem inclined to relent, however, until he was informed that, in the opinion of certain members of the committee, he could not compel the correspondent to answer his queries, as they were not in the line of evidence under consideration. Mr. Page protested in a subdued way, but at last yielded to the better judgment of the committee. He then referred to the statements made in the HERALD to the effect that he was inclined to be severe in cross-examining witnesses, and defended himself by saying that he was willing to extend every courtesy to ordinary witnesses, but as for the HERALD correspondent, he, for one, would not admit him to the room during the meetings of the committee. To use his own metaphor, he would be damned if such trash should be permitted in his presence.

The only reason for Mr. Page's hostility is that the correspondent gave damaging testimony against the Indian Ring and said that he had heard ex-Commissioner Smith admit that he had violated the law and took his chances; also that the correspondent had truthfully reported a [illegible] of Mr. Page's extraordinary remarks made during the examinations, showing that Mr. Page [illegible] and acted in such a way that Mr. [illegible] man, arose to to his feet and said that Mr. [illegible] not bully the committee. [illegible] to have his own way, [illegible] week that he would [illegible] that he should have w[illegible] wanted. Chairman Wi[illegible] could protect witnesses and [illegible] country. Mr. Page consoled [illegible] saying that if he was to be dictated to he should leave the room. Mr. Scales gave him to understand that the object of the committee was to investigate frauds and have the truth come out and go to the world.

SECRETARY BRISTOW AND THE WHISKEY RING—THE MILWAUKEE SENSATION—HISTORY OF THE BARK MARY MERRITT, AND THE SECRETARY'S CONNECTION THEREWITH.

The sensational story from Milwaukee about Secretary Bristow's connection with the alleged smuggling case of the bark Mary Merritt is pronounced a concoction of the Milwaukee Whiskey Ring. The facts of the matter as they appear in the official record at the Treasury Department are as follows:—

First, the vessel was not seized for smuggling; second, General Bristow was never retained as counsel in the case and never received a cent, though he had given advice to the brothers Trice, who were his personal friends, and went before Secretary Richardson for them, but with the express agreement that he should accept no compensation, as he never practised before the Department; third, the case was reopened by Secretary Richardson, but not decided; fourth, the case, then under law, was decided upon statement of facts by the United States District Judge who tried it, and upon a statement from Judge Drummond, who also heard the case, that no evidence of wilful neglect or purpose to defraud was shown, and lastly upon the opinions of two successive solicitors of the Treasury, the decision of the last one, Major Bluford Wilson, receiving the assent of the United States District Attorney, who had been engaged for several years in pressing the case against the owners; fifth, General Bristow, when he became Secretary, rejected the proposition to compromise, and refused to have anything to do with the case, because the attorneys of Trice Brothers had ventured to use his name with the District Attorney as holding friendly views in regard to their case; sixth, when in the regular course of Treasury business the case was reached it went into the hands of Assistant Secretary Conant, who was bound by law to decide the matter upon the statement of facts presented by the District Judge, and all this was fully set forth in the warrant of remission, from which it appeared "that forfeiture was incurred without wilful negligence or any intention to defraud."

The case of the bark Mary Merritt was this:—Trice Brothers, of Hopkinsville, Ky., bought a vessel in 1865 of a Canadian, and she was engaged in a regular and legitimate commerce of the lakes, and was never charged with smuggling. In 1869 she was seized upon the report of an informer that she was a foreign bottom and owned by Americans, which prohibited her registry under our laws. There was nothing secret about this kind of ownership, as the Trice Brothers explained their embarrassment fully to Congress a year before the seizure and asked to be allowed to take a regular register. At length seizure took place on the technical violation of law involved in the purchase of the vessel from a British subject. It was in the first instance simply a case of informers seeking moieties, and in the present garbled and unfair publication of the case it is purely the work of the Milwaukee Whiskey Ring. In reply to a private despatch from Solicitor Wilson Secretary Bristow telegraphs to-night from Louisville:—

I never was counsel in the Mary Merritt case; only took part in argument before Secretary Richardson as a friendly act for Feland and Evans. I did not receive a farthing, nor was anything promised or expected. My letter to Evans and one to General Hamilton explain my connection with the case.

THE CHARGES AGAINST GENERAL BOUGHTON.

The charges against General Boughton, Clerk of the Military Committee, the truth of which is now under investigation by resolution of the House, are that Boughton, being Assessor of the Fourth district of Texas in 1869, entered into a conspiracy with Douglass, Rhone & Co., near Tyler, Texas, to run their distillery without paying taxes and divide the spoils between the Assessor and his assistants, named Browning, Flannagan and Hite. This distillery, as alleged, ran under this arrangement for some time and produced a large quantity of whiskey, but was finally caught by Supervisor Bridgeland. When the distillers were arrested they claimed to be innocent, and said that Boughton had represented to them that this thing was done all over the country, and as he was an agent of the government they believed him. They paid $4,500 in settlement of the case as the amount of unpaid taxes on the whiskey manufactured. Boughton and his associates then offered $4,500 as a compromise, which was taken and paid into the Treasury on account as taxes due.

The evidence in the case is in the Internal Revenue Department, consisting of affidavits of three members of the firm of Douglass, Rhone & Co.; also of the Collector and Supervisor of the Internal Revenue and Special Agent Yaryan.

MR. CONKLING'S VOTE ON DANA'S NOMINATION.

The vote for and against Mr. Dana, being given in executive session, was very inaccurately reported in some of the papers, and injustice was thus done to a number of Senators. For instance, it was reported that Mr. Conkling voted against the confirmation of Mr. Dana. This is untrue; on the contrary, Mr. Conkling voted for Dana's confirmation.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1876.

CLYMER'S COMMITTEE IN PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE—EXPERIENCES OF A POST TRADER—ATTORNEY GENERAL PIERREPONT ON DETECTIVE BELL'S STATEMENT—TESTIMONY OF A. C. BRADLEY.

The Committee on War Expenditures met to-day and examined James Trainer, post trader at Fort Concho, Texas. He testified that he was sutler at Fort Concho from 1867, when the post was established, and up to 1876; when the Secretary of War was vested with authority to appoint, he came to Washington armed with recommendations for continuance at the post, and saw the Secretary of War, who told him to go and see General Hedrick; he saw Hedrick and the result was that, although Hedrick was appointed in his place to the post, witness did the business as post trader; he paid A. C. Leighton, who went to Fort Concho with a letter of authority countersigned by General Belknap, Secretary of War, $1,500 in greenbacks, and afterwards paid to Hedrick, $1,000 through a mail contractor named Cheney, by a draft on Northup & Chick, bankers, in New York; the agreement between witness and Leighton was that he was to pay $1,500 in cash and $5,000 in a year if the post paid; he also paid a draft for $1,000, drawn by Mr. Sawyer, a mail contractor, now dead, and does not know for whom it was intended; Sawyer asked for it and he paid it without asking questions; he also paid some $700 or $800 to General W. T. Clark, member of Congress from Texas; this was paid at three different times, the first payment being in currency at the St. Nicholas Hotel, New York, and the other two by drafts; he always regarded these payments as charity. Clark said he was "hard up" and asked the money as a loan; witness did not expect to get it back, nor had he got it back; witness said he paid $250 in currency in the barroom of the Metropolitan Hotel to Simon Wolf, Recorder of Deeds, Washington; Wolf was to have $2,000 if he got him the post, but he failed; had seen Wolf since his return; had also paid $350 assessment for political purposes; he was also Postmaster at the time at a salary of $15 a year.

[Witness created great amusement in the committee by his peculiar movements, manner of speech and witty remarks.]

He said that when he paid the $1,000 to Hedrick he told Cheney and Leighton that he did not intend to pay any more.

J. Freidlander post trader at Fort Stockton, and George Bowers, post trader at Fort Whipple, Arizona, were examined. Neither had paid money directly or indirectly to any one for their appointment or continuance in office.

Attorney General Pierrepont testified, that about the middle of December last a man named C. S Bell sent in his personal card to his office, and subsequently called with a card from the President; this card is lost, mislaid, or thrown into the waste basket—it read something like this:—

The bearer wishes to get employment; I think he might render valuable service.

Bell then said he wanted employment in the Secret Service, and as high wages as were given in that service; Bell seemed to talk in a commanding way; the witness told him he would see the President first, in the Cabinet meeting next day; in the Cabinet meeting he asked the President if he knew anything about the man; the President answered that he had either known or heard of him during the war as a scout or detective, and that he now wanted an appointment in the Secret Service; Bell called the next day and asked if he was to be employed; witness questioned him as to what services he had done heretofore; he answered that he had been employed by the District Attorney at St. Louis because of extraordinary means he had of getting at some papers in the possession of Joyce; he said he left St. Louis because Dyer had not the means to pay; he said that as soon as Dyer would write or telegraph that he wanted to employ him; witness would act promptly in making the appointment and preparing the instructions; Bell came in next day or the day after and showed a despatch he had sent to Dyer to the effect that, if Dyer would employ him the Attorney General would sanction it; there was an interval of a few days, during which time Bell did not call, but in the meantime the witness had talked with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General, and found that his record in these departments was very bad; he never knew of Bell's existence before he first presented his card, and has never seen him since he refused to give him his appointment; neither Babcock or Luckey had spoken to him about Bell; witness said said that the interview Bell speaks of in his testimony was entirely imaginary, and denied every part of Bell's evidence referring to him where it conflicted with this statement.

A. C. Bradley was sworn and testified:—

I reside in Washington and know C. S. Bell; I first met him in St. Louis in November last, between Thanksgiving Day and the 29th of November; I first heard of him through Mr. Luckey; on the 4th of November General Babcock said he had received a telegram telling him to come to St. Louis, as his name had been mentioned in the McDowell case; General Babcock asked me to go there as his counsel, and ascertain for him all I could in relation to the matter, and if necessary send for him to come; I went to St. Louis, and in a few days after I got there I met Mr. Luckey; about Thanksgiving Day Mr. Luckey told me he met Mr. Bell, who had been engaged, or had some relation with Avery's matter, and that he had been engaged to go to Indianapolis and secure the Hodge despatches; he said that Mr. Bell said he had the run of the District Attorney's office, and he either offered to go there and steal all of the papers and have them copied or remove them for the purpose of destroying them; Mr. Luckey said the proposition was so astounding he did not put much faith in him; subsequently Mr. Bell returned from Indianapolis and brought copies of the Hodge despatches; I went to Mr. Luckey's room, and Mr. Bell came in; at first he declined to say anything in my presence; Mr. Luckey told him that unless he talked in my presence he would not talk at all; I made a memorandum of some of his statements; he said he was not employed by Mr. Dyer, but that he was solid with Colonel Dyer, because he was working up a fraud perpetrated by the Gas Company; that he was a friend of the President, and that he desired to serve him because he thought there was a conspiracy to drag him down; that there was an influence conspiring, with Secretary Bristow at the head of it, to superinduce the downfall of the President; he said that during the McDonald trial Bristow wrote to Dyer demanding that the Washington papers be put in evidence so far as they related to General Babcock; Dyer said he had a head to lose, and he thought the thing ought to be prolonged from month to month until near the time of the Presidential election, when it will act better; that he heard Dyer say, "How will this set on their bowels?" referring to the Babcock telegrams; he said that he had heard Henderson say that he would see U. S. Grant in hell before he would help him; when Bell made these statements it seemed to me perhaps there was some truth in his statements; judging from Bell's statement that there was a conspiracy against General Grant and concluded to get as much information from him as I could; I never authorized Bell nor any one else to bring any papers to my room at the Lindell Hotel and destroy them; I asked him to get all the information he could as to the nature of the evidence against General Babcock, and to get such copies as he could; when I left St. Louis I told him, if he was unable to get copies of the evidence, to send me the substance; so far as Luckey is concerned, he had nothing to do with Bell; before I left Washington General Babcock never authorized me to do anything which was illegal or improper whatever; after I returned to Washington I received a letter from Bell; it concluded by asking its return, as "God knows there are enough papers in existence now;" I took a copy of it and expected to give it to the committee to-day, but I have not received it; the letter said that the District Attorney, in order to secure the indictment of Babcock, was using forged letters; also that Dyer had been endeavoring to procure letters from Joyce; witness acknowledged the identity of a letter written by him to Bell, requesting him to come to Washington, and that he would be cared for, and continued:—Bell came on, and I did not have much to do with him afterwards; he frequently called to borrow money, but I did not invest in that way; I paid him in St. Louis $10 at one time and $50 at another; General Babcock knew nothing of Bell until after I returned to Washington.

Q. You say you did not ask him to get copies of papers from District Attorney Dyer's office?

A. I did; he said they were laying around loose and that he could get copies easy.

Q. By whom were you authorized to ask Mr. Bell to come here? A. Mr. Luckey said that if he came on he might get an appointment; he said that he believed that Mr. Bell could procure a place if he came here; that he had rendered valuable services as a scout and might obtain an appointment.

Q. What induced you to think you could get a man an appointment in whom you had no faith? A. Well, the government either has to or does employ detectives. I told Mr. Luckey, however, that I didn't think much of them.

Q. Did Mr. Bell ever bring you any papers at all to look at in St. Louis? A. No, sir.

Q. When did you first get acquainted with this man? A. When he returned from Indianapolis to get the Hoag despatches in the interest of Avery; I met him at the Lindell Hotel about the 29th of November.

Q. When did you first conclude Bell was a rascal? A. Well, after he had been in Washington awhile he made a statement that General Babcock had sent him to the Attorney General; this General Babcock denied, and I concluded he was lying in order to borrow some money from me.

Q. What was Luckey doing in St. Louis in November? A. As a witness for Colonel Avery; he was not called as a witness in the Avery case because the Court made a ruling which would have excluded his testimony and he went home; Bell repeatedly said to me that it was a great mistake on the part of Mr. Luckey that he refused to allow the evidence to be taken from District Attorney Dyer's office.

Q. Where did you meet Bell when he came to Washington? A. He came to my office; I don't remember what passed between us; Luckey was in my office a few minutes when he was there; he was passing in a carriage and I called him in; he said at first he didn't have time; I have no recollection how long we were together.

Q. Was it a prolonged interview? A. All my interviews with Bell were prolonged; he generally did all the talking himself.

THE EMMA MINE INVESTIGATION—AN INTIMATION THAT GENERAL SCHENCK IS TO BE EXCULPATED BY THE COMMITTEE—THE QUESTION OF INTRODUCING ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY.

Mr. Phelps, of counsel for General Schenck, presented to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day a list of witnesses whom he desires to have summoned.

Mr. Hamilton suggested that no further testimony be taken concerning the history of the Emma Mine.

General Schenck invited the most searching investigation, and insisted that the committee should cover the whole ground, showing all facts connected with the history, progress, ownership and sale of the mine, the testimony against him being contradictory in various points, but implicating him in alleged fraudulent transactions.

Mr. Springer, of the committee, asked General Schenck if the committee should say that he honestly and in good faith acquired an interest in the mine, irrespective of any fraud that might have been committed by others, whether he would still desire a fuller investigation for the sake of others.

General Schenck replied that he desired such investigation for others as well as for himself. The ground he took was this—that he was neither a dupe nor a rascal. He knew he was neither, but he invested his money in the mine with a view of bettering his condition. He made his investment with his eyes open. He wished to show not only this, but that the mine is still an enormously valuable property, and the failure was owing to the mismanagement of the company in England. He did not want to appear as a simple booby, taken in by others, and therefore desired to have the value of the mine fully established. Not one particle of the testimony of Lyon would be received in a court of justice. That witness having indulged in innuendoes, reports and inferences, these things had gone to the world on the wings of lightning to his prejudice, connecting him with an alleged fraudulent purchase and sale of the Emma mine.

Mr. Hamilton, in support of his suggestion, said the investigation was ordered with reference to General Schenck alone, who had now been heard before the committee. He did not see what the history and sale of the mine had to do with General Schenck's investment in the stock. He understood a suit concerning the Emma mine was pending in a New York court, and that was the proper tribunal where the original vendors of the mine should be vindicated or censured.

Mr. Springer said a statement had been made that Mr. Day was called to testify against General Schenck; but such was not the fact. A gentleman of Illinois had written to him that Mr. Day, having been one of the original owners of the mine, could furnish information on that subject and he was therefore summoned. To the first question asked of him the witness answered that he had no knowledge of General Schenck's connection with the mine.

Mr. Banks said the way that Mr. Day was introduced led him to believe that his testimony would be adverse to the Emma mine business. It was under that belief he asked Mr. Day whether he knew of any fraud?

Mr. Schenck remarked that both in England and America the whole matter of the Emma mine had been spoken of as a great swindle and scandal and his name had been connected with it in a manner to throw darkness over him. Therefore everything connected with it should be made clear as light.

Mr. Phelps briefly argued that it was necessary for the complete vindication of General Schenck that all the facts relative to the character of the mine should be given. If it was universally believed, as alleged, that the mine was a fraud General Schenck must have known it. Therefore the committee were right in hearing testimony, and having heard one side they should hear the other, so that General Schenck's vindication should be as complete and as broad as the attack which had been made on him, and therefore the testimony should be allowed to proceed with a view of showing the complete honesty and fairness of the Emma mine sale.

After a conversation between the members of the committee, involving Mr. Hamilton's suggestion, the committee held a session with closed doors and adjourned till to-morrow without coming to a conclusion as to whether they will admit the testimony proposed by General Schenck.

THE SPENCER CASE—CLOSE OF THE TESTIMONY FOR THE PROSECUTION.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections of the Senate onassembling this morning, announced that they had concluded not to issue subpœnas for the three colored men named by General Morgan, counsel for the prosecution, in the Spencer case yesterday, on the ground that the testimony, which it was proposed to elicit, would not only be irrelevant, but inadmissible. The prosecution then closed their case, and Alexander White, of Alabama, was called to the stand for Mr. Spencer. He testified in brief, that he knew of no corrupt means being used to secure Spencer's election. General Morgan began his cross-examination of the witness, but soon after the committee adjourned until to-morrow.

THE TRANSFER OF ARMY HEADQUARTERS TO WASHINGTON—THE AMENDED ORDER OF SECRETARY TAFT.

The order issued from the War Department yesterday, transferring the army headquarters from St. Louis to Washington, has been amended so as to direct the Adjutant General and Inspector General to report to the General of the Army. The following is the order, as amended:—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1876.

The Adjutant General will promulgate the following order for the information and guidance of all concerned:—The headquarters of the army is hereby re-established at Washington city, and all orders and instructions relative to military operations or affecting the military control and discipline of the army, issued by the President, through the Secretary of War, shall be promulgated through the General of the Army, and the departments of the Adjutant General and the Inspector General shall report to him and be under his control in all matters relating thereto.

ALPHONSO TAFT, Secretary of War.

THE SILVER CURRENCY BILL AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE.

The Senate Finance Committee recommend that various important changes be made in the so called "Silver Currency Bill" of the House of Representatives and as reported from the Committee, and placed on the Senate calendar. Its provisions are as follows:—

The first section appropriating $163,000 for printing and engraving United States notes during the remainder of the current fiscal year is unaltered.

A purely verbal amendment is made in the second section, which requires the Secretary of the Treasury to issue silver coins of the denominations of ten, twenty, twenty-five and fifty cents of standard value in redemption of the full amount of outstanding fractional currency as rapidly as it may be presented for redemption.

The third and last section of the House bill which proposes to make the silver coins of the United States of the denomination of $1 a legal tender for amounts of $50, and all the subsidiary silver coins a legal tender for $25 is entirely stricken out and two new sections are inserted as follows:—

SECTION 3.—That there shall be coined at the mints of the United States a silver dollar of the weight of 412 8-10 grains troy of sterling silver; the emblems, devices and inscriptions of which shall conform to those prescribed by law for the gold and silver coins of the United States, with such modifications thereof as may be necessary to render the said dollar readily distinguishable from the trade dollar; and in the coinage and delivery thereof the same deviations from the standard weight of fineness may be allowed as are prescribed by law for the trade dollar, and the said dollar herein authorized shall be a legal tender at its nominal value for any amount not exceeding $20 in any one payment, except for custom dues and interest on the public debt; and the trade dollar shall not hereafter be a legal tender.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to exchange the silver dollars herein authorized for an equal amount of United States notes, which shall be retired and cancelled and not be again replaced by other notes; and he is authorized to exchange such silver coin at its nominal value, for silver bullion at its market value, to be ascertained and announced from time to time by the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury; and the United States notes and fractional currency redeemed under this act shall be held to be a part of the sinking fund provided for by the existing law.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator Sherman, states that the silver dollar, whose coinage is thus provided for, will be of the same weight and fineness as the old silver dollar, the coinage and issue of which was stopped a number of years ago, and that its value will be about six per cent more than the value of two of the present half dollars.

A MAD DOG.

Yesterday afternoon two children, named James Rannay and Maria Gallaghor, aged respectively nine and six years, while playing in Stuyvesant Park were bitten by a mad dog. The animal was not captured.

THE LANSFORD MURDER.

KILLING OF MINE BOSS JOHN P. JONES—CONFESSION OF ONE OF THE MURDERERS—KELLEY CONVICTED.

MAUCH CHUNK, April 6, 1876.

The trial of Edward J. Kelley, indicted for the murder of mine boss John P. Jones, has occupied the attention of the Carbon County Court for ten days past, and been listened to with great interest by large numbers and created no little excitement among the people of this entire community. Doyle, the accomplice of Kelley, was tried at the January term, and convicted of murder in the first degree. On the 22d of February he was sentenced to be hanged on the 23d of March. The Govern