REVELATION OR APOCRYPHA?

Tweed's "Confession" Yet a Sealed Book to the Public.

EFFECT OF A COOKED STORY.

Showers of Denials and Avalanches of Explanations.

WOODIN WAXETH WROTH.

"Is the Colossal Malefactor to Convict a Statesman?"

John T. Hoffman, Hugh Hastings, "Ike" Oliver et al., Deny and Denounce.

TWEED CHARTER GHOST STORIES.

Legislators of the Past and Present Decry, Defy and Deprecate.

"HORACE TOLD ME TO DO IT."

"He Could Get What He Wanted Without Us."

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ALBANY, April 17, 1877.

The proposition made to the Attorney General by Tweed—that he was prepared to give up all his property, tell all about his accomplices and be a good and faithful witness for the people—naturally enough created some excitement here, where there are some ten or twelve members of both houses who voted for his famous charter of 1870. The so-called confession in your contemporary was so deftly dovetailed into the synopsis of Tweed's proposition as given to the correspondents of the press by his lawyer, Mr. John D. Townsend, that many were deceived into believing that the confession sent from here was really what Tweed made to the Attorney General. To the initiated it is needless to suggest that the alleged confession was prepared in New York from the drippings of Mr. Tweed's conversations in Ludlow Street Jail. Still it was an ingenious sensation, and took well for the day. But it is not the confession that the Attorney General has in his possession, and which he intends to keep under lock and key until he sees his way to making proper and effective use of it. What the Attorney General holds may be guessed at by any average newspaper reader who has followed the developments of the Ring conspiracy as they have appeared from time to time. The Attorney General has documents enough to keep him busy for awhile, but, as he says himself, he thinks it would be both cruel and unjust to accept all of them as unimpeachable proofs of criminality.

WHAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS.

Meeting him this afternoon in his office, I asked him, "You have very likely read the reported confession of Tweed published in New York?"

"Yes," he replied, "but all, except perhaps one statement, in that so-called confession I have heard time and again."

"What is that one statement?"

JUDGE FOLGER EXCULPATED.

"The statement in reference to Judge Folger, of the Court of Appeals. I never before heard that Tweed paid money to Judge Folger. As yet I have not read the documents given me by Mr. Townsend, because they cover a great deal of paper and are in manuscript. But when Judge Folger drew my attention to the printed statement in regard to him, I glanced through the papers and found that Tweed entirely excepts Judge Folger from being the recipient of any money at his hands, intending, no doubt, to exculpate him from certain vague charges that were formerly set afloat concerning the Judge being indebted to Tweed for his election."

NOT THE REAL CONFESSION.

"Then you look upon this printed confession as being simply crystallization of the current gossip?"

"Nothing more than that. It is impossible it could be otherwise, for the reason that Mr. Townsend only arrived here yesterday. After his arrival he sent me word that if convenient he desired to see me, and feeling unwell I requested that he might postpone his call until to-day. Mr. Townsend certainly did not give this alleged confession to anybody, and even in the interest of his client it would be injudicious for him to do so. But I have the best evidence that he did not do so from this statement in reference to Judge Folger, the only one I have had, as yet, time to investigate."

THE OLD STORY, SIMPLY.

"Could you let me have the full text of Tweed's propositions?"

"Why, it is merely the same as what he addressed to Mr. Charles O'Conor. Accompanying it are various documents, of which I am not prepared to speak, and even if I were I doubt the propriety of the prosecution making public what in such cases is invariably kept private to aid the ends of justice."

HUNTING UP FACTS FIRST.

"How long do you suppose, Mr. Fairchild, it will take you to put the machinery of the law in operation against those accomplices of Tweed?"

That is impossible to tell. I will not proceed before the proofs are convincing to my mind. There is a large mass of papers, but not necessarily a large mass of proof. There has to be investigation in many quarters before these statements in my possession bring home conviction. Where that is morally certain I will act, but nothing will be done at random."

A TALK WITH MR. TOWNSEND.

Before he left for New York I asked Mr. Townsend what he thought of the confession, and he answered, "Except one or two statements there is nothing new in it. We have been hearing of these charges and of the very men who are charged for several years past, but the story happens to come in now at the critical moment, and from its circumstantial appearance it seems genuine."

"But no doubt it contains some facts embraced in the documents you surrendered to the Attorney General?"

"It does in a way, but the Attorney General could never take action on such a confession as that. I furnished him with checks, vouchers, memoranda and letters, and even with all these it will take him some time to determine where a clear and winning case can be established. Nothing was furnished by me to the press except the summary of Tweed's proposition which all the papers received. I have copies of what I gave the Attorney General, but until he notifies me of his willingness to let them be published I cannot allow them to appear."

JACOBS ON THAT TWEED VOTE.

In regard to the vote in 1870 on the Tweed Charter, Senator Jacobs said he did not want to be interviewed, but subsequently remarked that there was a point which, so far, every one had overlooked. There was no fight over the Tweed charter. The fight was over the young democracy charter, which at that time everyone supposed would pass, but several democrats deserting their cause it fell through and then came the other one. All the reformers, including Horace Greeley and Dorman B. Eaton, were here favoring it, and it was the democrats who voted against it who were suspected of being influenced. If any one was it would be an interesting thing to refer to the New York republican press of 1870 and see how it stood in relation to what you call the Tweed charter.

HORACE GREELEY ASKED SELKREG TO VOTE.

Senator Selkreg said:—"I voted for what is called the Tweed charter on the personal solicitation of Mr. Horace Greeley, an old political and personal friend, who, in an interview with me here in the Delevan House, expressed the opinion that that was the best thing to be done, because by its passage we could secure a proper election law for the city of New York. There was a great diversity of opinion at the time, and I consulted with Mr. Greeley as I would with any friend who assumed to know all about the city of New York. That explains my connection with the Tweed charter and that is all there was about it. There were ninety-six votes in the Assembly for it and this fact, when but sixty-five votes were necessary to pass the charter, disproves the idea that all its supporters were purchased. There were only two votes against it in the Senate. What would be the use of buying thirty votes when but seventeen were needed?

MR. MORRISSEY'S AVOWALS.

Senator Morrissey said, "I've read the story about the Tweed charter, and all I've got to say is that, if any one received a dollar fraudulently, either directly or indirectly, they should be exposed and punished. I never got a dollar out of the city treasury in my life. While these fellows were stealing I was fighting them all the time. There is nothing new, however, in this so called exposé, and it is altogether too indefinite. What is wanted is a statement of names, dates and amounts, no matter who it hits. I can tell you one thing about Woodin, though, he laughs at it."

HUSTED SEES NOTHING WRONG IN IT.

Jimmy Husted, the bald eagle of Westchester, said, "I voted for the charter, as did Governor Alvord and Mr. Littlejohn. I didn't know much about New York city matters then, for I had only been here a year. I voted at the solicitation and on the recommendation of Mr. John R. White, the only republican member of the Assembly from New York city. I didn't see anything wrong about the charter, and, furthermore, I don't see anything wrong about it now. The trouble was with the men who administered it. You know who drew it, don't you? It was Judge Edmonds. By the way, the entire republican press of the city was in favor of it, if I remember correctly. The vote given by a morning paper on the passage of the charter is wrong. That vote was on ordering the bill to a third reading. On its final passage there were only five against it, and these five were Pierce, of Franklin; Reamer, of Yates; Wright, of Ontario; Walker, of Genesee, and Murphy, of New York, Murphy being the only democrat. Horace Greeley said to me then, 'Husted, if I'd been a member of the Assembly I'd have voted the same as you did,' and he added, 'but I think we will beat 'em in the Senate.'"

A GREEN MEMBER.

Mr. J. V. Baker, of Washington county, said:—"I've got no explanation to make or information to give. In 1870 I represented the same district that I do now. It was my second term here, but I was only twenty-five years of age, and I formed the habit of following the lead of Messrs. Alvord and Littlejohn. There was scarcely any opposition to it in the House, and at that time I didn't suppose there was any objection to it."

"OLD SALT'S" STATEMENT.

Thomas G. Alvord said:—"I voted for the Tweed charter of 1870 under compulsion. I fought it all the way through till I found myself deserted by the leaders, by Littlejohn, Husted and Selkreg; but then I succeeded in beating six or seven other damned bills of theirs to put republicans out of office in New York, and when, as it is alleged, the vast sum of $800,000 was spent to carry through the charter of that year."

NOT A CENT FOR NACHTMAN.

Martin Nachtman said it was true he voted for the charter in 1870; but so did every other democrat, except a few soreheads, who belonged to the party of the young democracy. He received no money for his vote, and he looked for none, because he was voting with his party.

BIXBY AND O'BRIEN—A LEGITIMATE TRANSACTION.

Senator Bixby said in relation to the alleged statement of Mr. Tweed that he never had fifteen minutes' conversation with Tweed in his whole life. The facts of the case were simply that Mr. James O'Brien has a claim against the city amounting to $300,000, and, wishing to raise some money, one-half interest in the claim was sold to Tweed for $20,000 in cash and some mortgages on uptown lots, and in consummating this sale I acted as Mr. O'Brien's attorney. Nothing was said by me nor, to my knowledge, by Mr. O'Brien in connection with this transaction with reference to immunity being offered to Mr. Tweed or to a stoppage of the investigation which was then going on. It was purely a business transaction, entirely legitimate in its character. No one would be foolish enough to believe that any human power could stop the investigation which was then pending, and so far as I am concerned I had no desire to accomplish any such purpose even if I could. The Tammany people at that time, as they have been since, were opposed to me and I was opposed to them. The very first meeting which was held in the city of New York to specifically denounce the frauds of Tammany Hall was held at Brevoort Hall, and at that meeting I presided, and at that time it was almost as much as a man's life was worth to take that position. I have been a persistent and consistent opponent of the Tammany Ring and Tammany Hall generally ever since. I held no public position at the time of this transaction, and my relation to it should not be criticized.

EX-SENATOR THAYER.

At the time the charter was before the Legislature Mr. Francis S. Thayer represented the Rensselaer district in the State Senate, and he and Senator Harry Genet were the only Senators who voted against Mr. Tweed's great scheme. Mr. Thayer, who resides in Troy, was called upon by your correspondent this evening with the view of ascertaining his opinion of Mr. Tweed's confession. The ex-Senator was not inclined to say much about the Ring legislation. During the time that it was said Mr. Tweed owned the Legislature he performed his duties conscientiously and wanted to believe that his brother Senators did the same. His opposition to the charter was based on motives which he considered sufficient to guide him in his official action. As regards the charge of corruption brought by Tweed against some of the prominent Senators and other officials Mr. Thayer did not wish to be understood as believing it. His opposition to the charter placed him in a peculiar position, and now that the great "Boss" had "squealed" he did not want to be mixed up in any of their squabbles. Your correspondent, however, was favored with a written statement, prepared by himself, containing all that he wished to say on the subject. Mr. Thayer's statement is as follows:—

REASONS FOR OPPOSITION.

During the pendency of the charter I opposed it, because I thought I was doing the best thing for the city of New York. I thought that the charter conferred too much power on the Board of Audit, and might lead to great frauds in the various departments under which the control was placed. The republican Senators had a caucus over the charter; I stood alone in opposition. The other Senators favored its passage, expressing a conviction that if Mr. Tweed could have his charter a very stringent Registry law would be adopted which would be beneficial to the republican party. On this question the caucus were quite unanimous and the charter was reported favorably. On the strength of this representation the charter was passed very quickly after it came before the Committee of the Whole, but during the time that it was before the Senate I offered a score or so of amendments which were calculated to modify its powers. All these amendments were swiftly voted down and the charter was hurriedly passed. As regards Mr. Tweed's implication of certain Senators as recipients of bribes through Mr. Winslow, I know nothing.

HEARD MONEY WAS USED.

Mr. Thayer says he heard rumors that money had been used to grease the wheels of legislation, but he is unwilling to believe that his brother Senators acted from corrupt motives on the unsupported statement of Mr. Tweed.

CORRESPONDENT—Were you ever approached by Mr. Tweed or any of his lobbyists?

MR. THAYER—Never, either by implication or otherwise.

CORRESPONDENT—Did you not think it strange that other senators did not take the same view that you did of the charter?

MR. THAYER—I did think it a little singular that I stood comparatively alone, but I did not impute their conduct as the result of any improper influence.

CORRESPONDENT—Do you believe that money was used by Mr. Tweed to corrupt members of the Legislature?

MR. THAYER—I have no right to believe such a thing, because I have had no proof of their corruption. As I said before there were rumors—there are always rumors when any great measure is before the Legislature—but I have no right to suspect a man until I see or hear a definite and specific charge.

CORRESPONDENT—Your opposition was made exclusively on the supposition that the charter would lead to fraud?

MR. THAYER—Certainly; nothing else.

CORRESPONDENT—Did you prophesy the result?

MR. THAYER—Not in the Senate. I verily believed that Mr. Tweed had some hidden motive in urging the passage, but I saw that the charter could not be defeated, therefore I tried to modify it. I did not succeed, but I was always willing to believe that the Senators who voted for the charter were conscientious in their motives.

CAN TWEED BE BELIEVED?

CORRESPONDENT—Do you think that Mr. Tweed is worthy of belief?

MR. THAYER—I would rather not have anything to say on that point. I am not familiar enough with the man to pass an opinion. I never passed a word with him on the subject of the charter in my life.

It was quite evident that Mr. Thayer did not want to believe that the republican Senators had been corrupted by Tweed or acknowledge it if he did believe it.

EX-SENATOR KENNEDY.

A representative of the HERALD waited upon ex-Senator George N. Kennedy at Syracuse this evening, to ascertain his opinion of the alleged Tweed exposures. Mr. Kennedy was one of the very few Senators who was re-elected to the Senate in 1870 and 1871, and consequently took a prominent part in the legislation of those two years. He was the only republican member of the Committee on Municipal Affairs and opposed nearly every measure proposed by the Tammany legislators at that time. When the reporter asked his opinion of the Tweed exposures he replied that he did not know what to think. He noticed by the afternoon despatches that the alleged disclosures were considered sensational and absurd in Albany, and he should be very much surprised if Tweed had made any statement implicating the gentlemen named who were in the Senate at the time, especially in regard to Senator Woodin.

BELIEVES IN WOODIN.

Mr. Kennedy entertained the highest respect for Mr. Woodin, and believed him to be a man who had too high a regard for himself to fritter away his reputation by any such transactions as were charged in the disclosures. There must be some mistake.

"Do you believe it possible that Tweed has made this statement implicating these parties without regard to guilt for the purpose of securing his own release?"

I hardly think so, for in his private relations Mr. Tweed was a man who was singularly sensitive in regard to his honor. In regard to affairs in New York he was singularly infatuated.

The statement that Judge Folger received money Mr. Kennedy regarded as highly improbable, as Judge Folger was a man of the highest integrity.

PASSAGE OF THE INFAMOUS MEASURE.

Mr. Kennedy then referred to the passage of the famous Tweed charter, showing that it was just after Hoffman had been counted in over Griswold, and the people of New York city were very much exercised over the corruption of the franchise in that city. Mr. Greeley as a representative of the republicans came to Albany to secure the passage of a rigorous election law which should correct these gigantic abuses in the city. Senator Kennedy had himself drawn a very severe election law making false registration and other offences a felony, and this and the charter was passed together, at least the Election law preceded the charter by a day and was signed by Governor Hoffman the night before the passage of the charter, Mr. Kennedy taking the bill to the Governor himself for that purpose. Every republican but one voted for the charter. The idea with the citizens of New York seemed to be that the charter was secondary to an election law, hence every effort was made to secure the passage of the latter. The main idea of the charter—an undivided responsibility—was good. The great defect was in allowing the Mayor to make appointments for terms of office exceeding his own. Mr. Kennedy reiterated his firm belief in the integrity of Mr. Woodin and his associates, and expressed doubts of the reliability of the alleged disclosures, when the interview closed.

EX-SPEAKER HITCHMAN.

Ex-Speaker Hitchman, who arrived this evening, says that in regard to the Tweed charter of 1870 he voted with his party and not to do so would leave grounds for suspicion. He says further that the said charter was advocated by Horace Greeley and by the leading republican papers of the city of New York. Mr. Greeley also remarked in his hearing that if Tweed would give New York city a good election law, that they could pass their charter and that he would enable them to do so. In regard to Judge Folger, he thought there could be no truth in the charge that he received money from Tweed, because he was always a bitter and uncompromising enemy of the "Boss." The only member in the New York delegation who voted against the passage of the bill was Colonel Michael C. Murphy.

EX-SENATOR WINSLOW.

All that ex-Senator Winslow has to say in reference to the Tweed revelations is, that the statements so far as they relate to him are wholly and absolutely false.

SENATOR WOODIN'S DEFENCE.

Senator Woodin's speech in defence of himself against the charges in the alleged confession of Tweed was all the talk this evening. He simply rose to a question of privilege. It was listened to with great attention, and John Morrissey remarked when he finished, "The man who made a speech like that must have acted square." After a few minutes' pause Mr. Woodin spoke as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT—I regret very much on account of the public business that I feel called upon, nay, compelled, to rise to a question of privilege. It is due to myself, it is due to the body of which I am a member, it is due to the immediate constituency which I represent; it is also due to the people of the State. This is the eighth year that I have occupied a place in this body. Of course I have not escaped criticism, nor did I expect or hope to. I have not always acted wisely, but nevertheless conscientiously. Newspapers have occasionally criticised me, sometimes very severely, but until to-day I have never read in the public prints a direct charge of official corruption. I have been advised, nay, threatened within the last two weeks that something would appear in the public prints. I repeat it now, that I have been threatened that unless I should desist from a certain course of action I should bite the dust, and to-day the blow falls, but upon my individual head as water upon a duck's back. But so far as my relations to you are concerned I do not view my present surroundings with indifference. I read from the New York *World* of to-day's issue an extract from an article coming from their correspondent at Albany.

It is unnecessary for my purpose that I should read any more than I shall read:—

It was necessary, says the confession, to obtain for the measure the support of several influential republican members. The person whose influence was most valuable Mr. Tweed considered to be State Senator William B. Woodin, of Auburn. He, therefore, approached that gentleman through State Senator Winslow with various propositions looking to his support, and after several interviews Winslow transferred to him in person the sum of $200,000, with the understanding that it was to be used in securing the passage of the charter. It was his (Tweed's) understanding with Winslow at the time the money was to be divided between Messrs. Woodin and several persons whose names I refrain from reading—"all members of the State Senate, and also with certain other persons"—whose names I need not read—for their influence in the Legislature. This money, in various amounts, as assurances, was afterward paid to parties in the compact. He was a member of the State Senate at the time, and all the parties named voted for his charter.

I read in another place:—

Among the various persons to whom he paid money for their influence in the Legislature besides those already mentioned was Mr. Hugh Hastings, editor of the *Commercial Advertiser*. He gave to Mr. Hastings a check for $20,000, dated three or four days after the passage of the charter of 1870, with the understanding that the money would also go to Senator Woodin. The check, however, afterward came back to him from his bank, where the money was duly paid, indorsed by Mr. Hastings, also by his broker, Jenkins. Mr. Tweed says that at various times afterward he gave Mr. Hastings checks for smaller amounts than the above.

A LITTLE PERSONAL HISTORY.

My appearance in the Senate of the State of New York was in 1870. Almost a total stranger to every member of that body, I came here without pretence, without ostentation, and conducted myself as an humble member of that body during the first and second years of my service. Among the measures passed by the Legislature of 1870 was the Tweed charter, so called, in itself a harmless measure, and only made infamous by the perfidy of the officials whose duty it was to administer it. I remember that its passage in the Assembly was by an almost unanimous vote, and it received thirty votes out of thirty-two in the Senate. The presumption is that no unfair means were used in the passage of such a law, or if there were, that the entire Legislature in both branches was involved.

My re-election in 1871 was by an increased majority. During the canvass, however, there were vague and undefined rumors of bribery and corruption, too indefinite, however, to work any harm to my reputation. My third canvass was hotly contested. Rumors of my personal unfitness and charges of official corruption made pointed so unmistakably to me that I was put to such a defence as one can make in a political canvass. I made a broad public denial of all the charges direct and by insinuation that were against me, and that denial was published throughout the State, and though it was true as Holy Writ in every word, in every sentence, yet the public mind was in that impressible state and condition that it was ready to believe evil rather than good of public men, and I almost suffered defeat in a district where the people up to that time had been ready to fight against the world in defence of my reputation as an honest man. I came near being defeated. It was renewed in my fourth canvass with equal bitterness, but, thank God, without success. I do not blame the general public. The general public have been educated to believe evil rather than good of their public servants, and, perhaps, there is some excuse for that education.

PRESS MISTAKES.

Nor have I complained of the public press, except in special cases. I think the intention of the press is generally to protect the public against corrupt officials, but they also make mistakes, and sometimes good men, honest, well meaning men, are brought under the severe blow of newspaper criticism and censure, and some of them are driven into retirement by means thereof, cruelly and unjustly, too, from which they never are permitted to emerge. Now, near the close of my eighth year in the Senate, where I have labored arduously, and, as I said a little while ago, conscientiously, though not always wisely, I am the subject of renewed attack.

THE COLOSSUS IN VILLANY.

This time I am confronted, if the paper is to be believed, with what purports to be a confession of a malefactor—a man who has been by common consent styled the colossus in villany—a man who stands recorded upon your own record as having testified, under the solemnity of an oath, in the presence of his God, that he never paid nor offered to pay, either directly or indirectly, a penny to any member of the Legislature to secure the passage of any law. I need not read it. I refer the Senate to the Senate documents of the year 1872. He at last, in the course of his crime, was detected, arrested, prosecuted, convicted and incarcerated, and from that incarceration he escaped. He flees from the custody of the law and from a punishment, the duration or limit of which was only bounded by the allotted time of his earthly existence. His flight to the islands of the sea and thence to foreign lands but corroborated the charges made against him. Captured at last and returned to his prison home, with a future before him that promised nothing but indefinite imprisonment and separation from family and friends—that is the man whose testimony is invoked to convict one of your members of official corruption, whom he has exonerated so far as an unqualified declaration under oath could exonerate me and every member of the Senate of 1870 from any such charge. Long continued and expensive litigation had made it impossible for him to make restitution. He panted for personal freedom "as the hart pants for the water brook." He desired liberty more than he desired anything else in this world, and he began to make overtures to Mr. O'Conor and others, and he offered restitution according to his ability. But more was asked than restitution. He was required to make disclosures—to give up the names of his accomplices in crime. It was made a condition of his release

GIVE US NAMES.

He tried his hand at disclosures, but he failed to meet expectation. The thumbscrew and the rack have been applied. "Give us names, and above all and over all give us something which shall involve the members or some portion of the members of the Court of Appeals; but don't stop there; go far enough to reach Senator Woodin and any other Senator who may be at present engaged in trying to secure the passage of legislation which shall protect the city of New York from the burthens which threaten to ruin it in the future; from the unjust legislation of the past." At last coercion, aided by longing for immunity, succeeds, and the long desired confession comes.

Now, Senators, I desire to call your attention to the editorial of this paper. I am not going to make a defence now, but I am looking for a motive. There is a power beyond and over and above that man, which has compelled him to lose himself and speak the thoughts and wishes of others. The article relating to this revelation says:—"One thing, however, is entirely plain and past debate. The so-called political reformers, of whom it is notorious that they co-operated politically with Tweed in the heyday of his power, of whom he now tells us that their co-operation was bought by him with money taken from the public purse, and who are to-day actively pretending to a leading position in public legislation for the city of New York, must at once retire and take away their hands from the ark of the municipal covenant. In so far as they are concerned it is a secondary matter whether they can or cannot disprove the charges of Tweed. While they are disproving these charges, mark their language, I beg of you. They must have nothing to do with framing or modifying the laws and regulations for the conduct of city affairs. I read again from the New York *Express*, in a special despatch from Albany, as follows:—

The Tweed exposure is believed to have settled the fate of Mr. Woodin's combination against the New York city measure.

But I need not and will not stop there. To-day in the Assembly chamber, when one of the measures which received almost the unanimous approval of this body was being considered in Committee of the Whole, a member whose name I will speak, Mr. Spinola, though a deft parliamentary law by so doing, rises and calls the attention of the Assembly to that bill and the name of the person who introduced it in the Senate, saying his name is to-day connected with some awful disclosures. I beg pardon for violating the parliamentary law and practice in speaking the name of the member of Assembly, and it is, perhaps, a waste of time to say that that person does not rise to the altitude of my lowest contempt. I speak not for others whose names are in this catalogue of offenders, but for myself.

I do speak and with great plainness of speech. For the present it is enough for me to say, as in the presence of God and with the prospect of a speedy and formal hearing before a committee of my peers, that the statement published this day is absolutely and wickedly false in each and every particular, so far as the same relates to myself. I solemnly affirm before your Senators, and shall speedily put to the trial, that I have never received nor been tendered anything of value in worldly estate for my vote or support for or against any measure before the Legislature before or during my term, and that any and every insinuation or statement tending to the contrary is maliciously and cruelly false, and had its origin in a dead set to do the work of the Prince of Darkness. I denounce the authors of this and every other charge reflecting upon my official rectitude as liars. I ask pardon, that is not a proper word to utter in the Senate Chamber, but the only word in the English language that speaks the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I challenge them to the proof of their words. They shall have an opportunity before a tribunal of those opposed to me in political faith. I ask no favoritism, no shielding of my friends. Confront me with witnesses before any and every tribunal and let the truth come and let it come right speedily, and brother Senators, if it shall at last appear, truly or falsely, that these charges are in any degree sustained I will veil myself like the lepers of the Scripture, take my departure from this hall and go hence through the world the balance of my days, crying, "Unclean! unclean! But I fear not; I fear not. Take me where you will, before any and every tribunal; close my mouth; deny me counsel if you please; and there is not a man living, nor was there one living who has since died, who will or could connect me in any way to this transaction. Senators, it is due to you, and from you to me, because of the constituency that I claim to represent here, I ask that you shall speedily investigate these charges and ascertain whether this $200,000, or any part or portion of it, ever came into my possession, or was ever tendered to me, or was ever talked about by any human being, whether by Tweed or by any one of those engaged in his work here, or whether there was any arrangement with Mr. Hastings that I should have any part of the $20,000 check. It is due to me that you should do it at the expense of the public business, for it is public business. You can address yourself to no better task than to spend the remainder of this session in unearthing and disclosing and exposing every corrupt practice of members of your own body and trying to provide remedies and protection against the like in the future. I ask, therefore, that you appoint a committee of three, four or five persons. If I could have my preference you would take one man, a democrat, and let him report here speedily the result of his investigation. I fear it not, and ask of you that you shall not hold in existence political friend or foe, and suffer yourselves not to receive or retain any bias, one way or the other, until the testimony shall come out; and if it does not deliver me completely, perfectly, fully from these charges, then I am willing to be branded as the chief of offenders, and should be treated accordingly.

RESOLUTION ASKING FOR A COMMITTEE.

I have drawn a resolution, leaving the number of members composing the committee blank, and desire to read it to the Senate.

Whereas an alleged statement of William M. Tweed, published in the New York *World* of to-day, states, among other things, that the person whose influence was most valuable to Tweed was considered to be State Senator Woodin, of Auburn, and he (Tweed) thereupon approached that gentleman through State Senator Winslow; that $200,000 was paid to Senator Winslow with the understanding that it was to be used in securing the passage of the charter, and that he (Tweed) had assurances that said sum was divided among the certain parties, among whom was Senator Woodin; and whereas said alleged statement further states that $20,000 was paid to Hugh Hastings with the understanding that the money was also to go to Senator Woodin; therefore,

Resolved, That Messrs. —— be and they are hereby appointed a committee to take testimony, with power to send for persons and papers; and, if need be, to sit in New York city and fully investigate whether said Mr. Woodin ever received or promised to receive any portion of the moneys hereinbefore referred to, and to report to the Senate, within ten days, the testimony, together with their opinion, and recommendation; and they are hereby authorized to command the services of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate and also employ a stenographer.

Mr. Harris stated that although the Senator (Mr. Woodin) expressed a desire that the committee should be composed of two of the opposite political faith and one of his own, still he did not think there was any special reason for departing from the usual course.

Mr. Woodin stated that it was a personal preference that the committee be constituted of three Senators, a majority being of the opposite political faith. He continued:—"I have the utmost confidence in the failure to make out anything against me, and all I ask is that there shall be a speedy report. Let it be what it may, but let it be speedy. That matter has got along with. I give notice now that my hand is not to be "taken off the municipal covenant," not the least, but is to be held there with all the might and all the power that I command to do justice for that city, and I shall be found to be the poorest subject in all this great land to be bull-dozed out of the Senate Chamber.

On motion of Mr. Harris, the number of the committee was made four, and the Chair named the members as follows:—Messrs. Carpenter, Sprague (reps.) Schoonmaker and Bradley (dems.)

JUDGE FOLGER'S DENIAL.

ALBANY, April 17, 1877.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING JOURNAL:—

The New York *World* of to-day contains this sentence:—"He (William M. Tweed) mentions Judge Folger, of the Court of Appeals, * * * to whom he paid money."

William M. Tweed never paid me any money. The statement is not true. CHARLES J. FOLGER.

We are authorized from Attorney General Fairchild to say that he has never heard or known Mr. Tweed to utter a word that could be considered derogatory of Judge Folger, although Tweed has spoken to the Attorney General of him (Judge Folger) as a formidable political and legislative opponent.

We are also authorized from Mr. John D. Townsend, Tweed's counsel, who delivered to the Attorney General the paper called a "confession," to say that Judge Folger's name is not mentioned in it, nor that of any other judge of the Court of Appeals.

The statement published in the *World* appears in a despatch from Albany. We are informed that when the despatch left Albany it did not contain this statement at all. The publication so injurious to the unsullied name of Judge Folger is this shown to be absolutely destitute of foundation or warrant. No one who knows him would have credited it for a moment.

A SENSATION AT THE DELEVAN.

In the Delevan corridors to-night the speech of Senator Woodin is the sole subject of conversation. The general impression is that no man could have the audacity to stand up and make such a speech unless he was conscious of his innocence. They say if Hugh Hastings could have taken $20,000 to deliver professedly to Senator Woodin and put it in his own pocket, why not Winslow do the same? The result of the whole thing will be to make the republicans rally all the more determinedly around Senator Woodin, now that they believe the alleged Tweed confession was sprung to defeat the reform measures pending for New York city.

MEETING OF WOODIN'S COMMITTEE.

The Woodin committee had an informal meeting tonight in the library of the Senate Chamber, and tomorrow the Sergeant-at-Arms, Corning, will leave for Watertown to subpœna ex-Senator Norris Winslow, the most important witness of all, as he is charged with receiving the big bribe of $200,000 to distribute among several other Senators. The committee will meet in New York on Friday, probably at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. The Attorney General will most likely be summoned in the morning, and all the mysterious papers he has under lock and key will come suddenly before the gaze of the public. In New York Tweed himself will be called to the witness stand, and Hugh Hastings and Thurlow Weed and other magnates of the metropolis. There is a lively time ahead.

THE "CONFESSION" IN THE CITY.

WHAT IS THOUGHT IN NEW YORK OF TWEED'S ALLEGED REVELATIONS—WHOLESALE DENIALS AND EXPLANATIONS—THE ACCUSED BRISTLING INTO DEFENCE.

New York had again a great sensation yesterday, namely—the revelations alleged to be contained in Tweed's confession, which is now in Albany awaiting the action of the Attorney General of the State. These disclosures were literally the talk of the town, although, strange to say, they did not create any surprise, as might be supposed. There were many who shrugged their shoulders in a "I told you-so" fashion, as though they had known all along of the deep damnation now at last revealed by Tweed. At the same time there was some astonishment at the use made of some names, as that, for instance, of Judge Folger, of the Court of Appeals, which had never before been associated even by Rumor's idle tongue with the crimes of the Ring. Among politicians it was very generally believed that this "confession" would exercise a potent effect upon the politics of the State, and that it would bring several influential politicians to the slaughter house.

"It will hurt the Woodin charter seriously," said one prominent local politician; "for what faith can people put in a reform measure championed by a convicted confederate of Tweed—that is, if he is convicted?"

CHARLES O'CONOR.

In his magnificent residence overlooking the Hudson from Washington Heights the venerable Charles O'Conor was found.

When the subject of Tweed's confession was introduced the old lawyer's face took on an expression that—but for his notorious good nature—might be called cynical. Mr. O'Conor has reserved a peculiar expression, which he only wears when talking of the Ring suits.

Mr. O'Conor said that he had not seen Tweed's confession and consequently could not give an opinion to the press on the subject of its validity. As time wore on and the conversation became more general Mr. O'Conor mentioned a few facts here and there which at present will be of interest to the HERALD's readers, as they give an insight into the secret history of certain transactions that have long been subject of public talk.

TWEED'S OFFER TO MR. O'CONOR.

The letter of Mr. Tweed to Mr. O'Conor, first made public in the romantic story of the escape of "Big Six" was brought by a messenger to Fort Washington, and Mr. O'Conor did not respond at the time, but subsequently sent a blank to the prisoner, which he was to fill out. It remains yet to be seen whether the confession of Tweed covers the points on that blank or whether rough spots have been gilded over with little flourishes of romance. Mr. O'Conor has confidence in the gentlemen who procured the confession from Tweed, and has no reason to doubt that they have done their work thoroughly. Mr. O'Conor is inclined to think, unless the greatest care was exercised in drawing it, that the confession is not as exhaustive as might be. When Ingersoll was released from jail Mr. O'Conor took him in hand and told him plainly that he was required only to give facts. His examiners were not at all anxious to hear things that would please or gratify them; they only wanted facts which would facilitate the recovery of the city's money. Ingersoll gave the prosecution the only real information they now have, and though he did not know all he told all he was possessed of. Whether Tweed has done the same thing remains yet to be seen. The letter which Tweed wrote to Mr. O'Conor was never shown to any one by him, and consequently its publication must have been caused by the prisoner or some of his friends.

The confession which is now in the hands of the Attorney General was first brought to Mr. O'Conor, at his house at Fort Washington, by some messenger from Tweed, but for reasons best known to himself Mr. O'Conor refused to look at or have anything to do with the document, and it was taken away. Mr. O'Conor seems more interested in the results that are to accrue from Tweed's confession than from the confession itself, and this may be accounted for by the fact that much of what has been published as part of the confession and as news to the public is no news to Mr. O'Conor, as he has known or strongly suspected as much for a long time. Mr. O'Conor thinks that little good will be done by the publication of Mr. Tweed's confession unless those who aided him in his unholy practices are brought to justice.

EX-GOVERNOR HOFFMAN.

Ex-Governor Hoffman was met at the Clarendon Hotel. On having his attention called to the alleged confession of Tweed he said that the reference to himself as to signing the charter was incorrect; it was not signed at night, as stated, but in the day, in the ordinary course of business, at the Executive Chamber.

"I signed the charter," said Mr. Hoffman, "because I believed it was a good charter and a charter that was much needed. In this opinion I was confirmed by the entire press of New York city and State. Everybody seemed to be of this opinion until a year after its passage it was found that somebody had been stealing under it. That it was a wise and well considered charter is evident from the fact that several of its provisions are operative to-day in the municipal government of the city."

Governor Hoffman said that he declined to express any opinion as to the other matters mentioned in this confession, except to say that the publication of it in the form in which it appeared was manifestly unfair to everybody mentioned therein. It either ought to have been published in its entirety or not published until it became a document in a court.

MR. HASTINGS LAUGHS.

Mr. Hugh Hastings, the editor of the *Commercial Advertiser*, did not seem to be at all perturbed by the charge that he got a check for $20,000 from Tweed for Senator Woodin. His face was wreathed in the jolliest of smiles while answering the queries of the writer, and the remembrance of that stirring time when these transactions occurred seemed to give him pleasure, not pain. Mr. Hastings ridiculed the idea that this money was for Senator Woodin.

"Do you think that if I received such corruption money I'd take a check?" he asked laughingly. "Don't you think I'd be smart enough at least to take the money in bills?" And with sententious humor he said:—"I admit the check (that was given in the course of a legitimate business transaction which I will explain at the proper time), but I deny Woodin. As to my having brought Jay Gould to him, I admit that also. I had certain business transactions with Tweed, entirely legitimate they all were and I am not ashamed of this business association. This check was given me in April, 1870, and over thirteen months later (on May 25, 1871), such men as A. T. Stewart, August Belmont, John T. Johnston, John Jacob Astor, Henry Hilton, Levi P. Morton and others did not disdain to associate themselves with Tweed in the directory of the Viaduct Railroad. I didn't blame Tweed even for dragging in my name in this affair. The poor man has been squeezed to tell something, to make some startling disclosures, and what won't a man do to gain his liberty? I shall be only too glad if the device makes him free at last, for I think the old fellow has suffered enough.

JUDGE FOLGER PROBABLY MALIGNED.

This frank and good natured statement was supplemented with some views on the story in general. "Of course there is some truth in it," said he, "but it is mixed up with a great deal of romance. For instance, the charge that Judge Folger, of the Court of Appeals, accepted money from Tweed is perfectly preposterous. In 1871, when Tweed, Creamer and Genet tried to carry through the scheme of the Broadway Railroad, Folger delivered in the Senate Chamber a most scathing denunciation of Tweed and his accomplices that I ever heard. It created a tremendous sensation, and I remember how Tweed winced in his seat at every one of Folger's diatribes. Now, I tell you old Tilden is behind this so-called confession. He wants to soil the names of the men who have been against him and has been working for Tweed's liberation on condition that he should make this so-called confession. You may rely upon it there has no doubt been also an attempt to implicate Chief Justice Church through the "confession," and all it is because the Judges of the Court of Appeals were against Tilden and O'Connor, who stand together, what will be the results of the confession? None at all. A few of these men will see their names dragged through the mire and that's all. Of course there is no possibility of a cent of this money being recovered from any of these parties. They'll all imitate Tilden's course in that big railroad suit against him when he pleaded the statute of limitation."

MR. HASTINGS' STATEMENT CORROBORATED.

Alderman Van Schaick, who indorsed the $20,000 check to Hastings, was also called upon. All he would say was that the check was deposited with him