THE FLORIDA FRAUDS.

Local Republicans Anticipating Further Disclosures.

TERRIBLE STAIN ON THE PARTY

Dennis on the Way to the National Capital.

M'LIN'S DETAILED STATEMENT.

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DENNIS' ACCOMPLICES.

Charles Francis Adams on the Latest Development.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

JACKSONVILLE, April 25, 1878.

Continued investigation develops more and more testimony on the republican election frauds and new and unexpected affidavits are coming to light. I have just read an affidavit from an ex-Sheriff in regard to frauds in Levy county. It is filled with the most infamous statements. The writer testifies to fraud after fraud, and finally says that a proposition was made to burn the State House at Tallahassee, and that after a consultation, in which Governor Stearns was present, it was decided not to do so, the reason being that the democrats probably had certified copies of all the returns. He says that he was paid $10 to assault and whip Babcock, a democratic editor in Jacksonville, and that he did knock Babcock down. He was put before the Congressional committee and made to tell a lively story of having been maltreated by Kuklux, which he now says was wilfully false. His affidavit discloses the method in which the republicans handled their roughs, bummers and strikers in the election and count, he being one of the most conspicuous of that class and having been sent out on various errands. He confesses what the democrats then charged—that he, in company with Hodge, Deputy Marshal, was ordered to seize and destroy the ballot boxes at Cedar Keys, and that they were prevented only by armed resistance of Sebring and other democratic custodians.

EFFECT OF THE CONFESSIONS.

It is certain from the location of this affidavit that the anti-Hayes republicans are at work collecting testimony. The democrats of New York certainly, and probably Washington, have been at work through agents. Dennis and two others who have been at work collecting proofs left at seven this morning for the North. Dennis stops in Washington; others go direct to New York. There is uneasiness here to-day among some of the prominent republicans in consequence of Dennis' confession. They are afraid that he may make further disclosures that may come near home. The federal office-holders have little to say, and treat the confession lightly, but they are still very anxious to know what the result will be and who is back of it. All Higgins, the former County Clerk, who refused to canvass the votes with a liberal republican County Judge, and who is now Deputy Collector of Customs, said that this disclosure was a terrible stain on the party. "But," said he, "what Dennis says falls, of course, heavier on him than on the rest, although its bad enough for all of us." Many democrats think that the first practical use the confessions will be put to will be in the approaching Congressional campaign. Mr. Avery, a prominent democrat, said to-day that he hoped there would be no attempt to oust Hayes. "The country is at peace, and I don't believe the majority of the people of the South want any reopening of the case, although they know that Tilden was elected President." He condemned the course of the State authority in treating with Dennis. All the documents have gone on to Washington.

THE CASE TRANSFERRED TO WASHINGTON.

It is believed that the case is virtually transferred to that place. Dennis will be there probably to-morrow night, his summons to go having come from Bisbee. There is but one agent at work in this State now, and, when he heard that the matter had been published, said, "Well, the game is up, but they can't hurt our case; it is fully made up." It is claimed by local republicans that Dennis says the democrats committed frauds as well as the republicans. This amounts to literally nothing. If Dennis talks that way he does it simply to soften things down. There is no doubt that he has a full case, showing that the State went for Tilden and that he will not be diverted from this end when he gets to business. He says he is ready to prove it by proof outside of his own confessions or the confession of others. He is too shrewd to take the risk he has taken on a slouchy showing. He says "Hayes is the damnedest traitor that has lived since the days of Judas Iscariot," and while Dennis may coquette with his old party associates, he will be found full of business when told to make his case out.

M'LIN'S STATEMENTS.

McLin has made two statements in writing. The first was obtained by the special agent who was working the matter up. He showed it to State Senator Henderson and asked what he thought of it. Henderson replied it was too vague and timid, and that McLin could do much better if he wanted to. He showed several points on which more definite assertions might be made. The special agent then gave Henderson this paper to keep, and said he would get a better one, as McLin was in earnest about giving the truth, and the vagueness was simply unintentional. He went to see McLin at once, and in a few days returned with an amended and a fuller statement. The first statement has been read generally, once or twice copied, and offered for publication. It contained nothing more than what McLin has said time and again in conversation. The last statement is kept very secret, and the custodian of it remarked that $10,000 could not purchase a copy of it. McLin positively refused to give your correspondent an order for a copy of it, although he stated in a very general way what it contained.

The agent who has been probing the matter spent yesterday in Tallahassee, where he went to see Bloxham. A very general rumor prevails that Congressman Springer, of Illinois, was in Gainesville with Dennis a short time ago. Dennis denies this, and I cannot confirm it.

HAYES AND THE SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS.

Wilkinson Call, a democratic elector, thinks that "Hampton, Lamar and other Southern democrats who traded with Hayes will not let him be turned out if they can help it." He says, "Hayes has certainly kept his part of the bargain and stood like a man up to his side of the contract. Hampton and his associates are too honorable to break theirs, and see him slaughtered for sticking to them. They are no more bound to unseat him now than they were when they bargained to permit his inauguration. They know then just as well as they know now, that he had not been elected and was not the rightful President." He thinks the Congressmen implicated in the trade will be in an awkward fix if the case comes up in Congress, as they cast their votes in the teeth of the facts, and yet can't go back on Hayes.

INTERVIEWS WITH PARTIES IMPLICATED IN THE CONFESSIONS OF M'LIN AND DENNIS—STATEMENTS OF THE NEGRO VANCE AND MAJOR JAMES BELL—ANY KNOWLEDGE OF FRAUD DENIED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1878.

Among the persons named as having been concerned in the manipulation of the Florida election are Vance, a colored man, formerly a teacher in Florida, now a messenger in the Post Office Department, in the Sixth Auditor's office. Vance was one of the inspectors at the famous precinct Archer No. 2, and is charged by Dennis with having been one of those who added 219 votes to the poll lists there. He was found to-day by a HERALD reporter in the Post Office building, where he was in the quiet discharge of his not very arduous duties.

STATEMENT OF VANCE.

Upon being asked for his statement in regard to the offence attributed to him, he said:—

"I have gone out of politics entirely, and have nothing now to do with the business any more. It has been an injury to me, and I have had a good deal of fighting, having been placed in positions where I had to strike back, and this is just such a case. I do not want to say anything about it one way or another just now; in fact, I do not think I will notice it, because, being out of politics, I do not care to have anything more to do with them one way or another."

On further reflection, however, Mr. Vance added:—

"I cannot yet say what this confession of Dennis will prove to be. Of course I cannot take as being exact and technical what is stated in the papers, but I think my proper plan is to wait until the actual paper arrives, which covers the so-called confession of Mr. Dennis, when I will see what it contains. I don't know what it is yet. I will wait till I see it. Mr. Dennis is a very good man; he always keeps his word and acts up to principle in his dealings. As long as I have known him I have had much to do with him and always found him correct and honorable. I cannot think that he has made any statement against me. He will be here in a few days, and will speak for himself. If in the meantime it should appear necessary, by reason of any seeming authenticity in the statement said to come from Mr. Dennis, I shall prepare a letter for my vindication and defence. So far as any wrong doing or fraud is concerned in the politics of Florida, I don't know anything about it and have not had anything to do with it. Of course, I have had to do a good deal of rough work in politics in behalf of my people, but I have always tried to do right. Rather than get mixed up with any further troubles such as I have been in heretofore, I would, if I could not help it, resign my position. I do not seem to be much bettered by all the rough experience I have had, but I want to get along quietly now and am determined to do so. If I prepare a statement I will fully defend myself and meet any charges brought against me, but I will wait for the present and say nothing just now."

WHAT MAJOR JAMES BELL SAYS.

Major James Bell, of Jefferson county, Fla., who claims that he has been misrepresented by Judge McLin, was called upon by the HERALD'S reporter to give his statement in regard to his connection with the Florida campaign and election. The following colloquy took place:—

"Was there to your knowledge any fraudulent or illegal changing of votes to the number of 100 or any other number in Jefferson, in the precinct of Waukenah?"

"There was not of my own knowledge, but there were reports that such had been done by some of the inspectors, who were represented to have added or changed some votes to the extent of about one hundred. Recently I had occasion to investigate these reports as the accusation now made was likely, I thought, to be brought up at any time, and I find that the whole thing was mere idle braggadocia on the part of some of the inspectors or their friends. I never looked into it before when I heard what I thought mere idle boasts, because I could not see how it could be done."

"Will you please give me your manner of reasoning whereby it appeared to you that this was impossible?"

"Well, now, I, as clerk of the election at that precinct, wrote down the name of every man who voted on the clerks' list as did also the democratic supervisor who made out a separate list then and there. The inspectors of election also checked on the poll list the name of every man who voted. When the ballots were counted the number of ballots in the box exactly tallied with the number on the list of the clerk and supervisor, and on the poll lists checked by the inspectors, which is very unusual. Now there were 153 democratic ballots in the box, while the democrats could only prove that there were 149 democratic voters who voted at that precinct. The democratic Supervisor, Dr. Bellinger, who is one of the most intelligent and able men of his party in the State, a man of sterling integrity, was allowed ample time to write every voter's name and examine their qualifications, and he retained this list and knew every man who voted at this precinct, and hence it was impossible without his detecting it to have committed the fraud, as is alleged, in adding 100 names to the number of voters. When the election was over he declared that the election and count were as fair as any that were ever had. All these facts can be ascertained by referring to his evidence given before the Select Committee of the House on the recent election in Florida. This case was thoroughly investigated then by that committee, and, with the exception of a few who it was claimed had voted being under age or non-residents, not a particle of suspicion rested against this precinct. Knowing his character for honesty and fairness, although a democrat, I conceded by the better judgment of Dr. Bellinger everything in the manner of voting and counting the ballots, &c. Without exception it was the quietest and most orderly election I have ever known in my life. In fact, I crave the most thorough investigation which can be had into the matter as far as I am concerned, and most positively deny that I had anything to do with or was privy to any frauds in that precinct."

"What has been your experience with the administration in political matters and what is your attitude now toward it?"

"I worked hard for the success of the republican party, openly, boldly, squarely and honestly in my county of Jefferson, Florida. We got out nearly the entire colored vote, in spite of the strongest opposition and one of the most bitter canvasses in any part of the State. As it was the home of the democratic Chairman of the State Executive Committee he made it the battleground of the campaign. We had raised our majorities from about fourteen hundred to two thousand, which led to the erroneous idea that frauds had been perpetrated. I worked faithfully, not only in the campaign, but in procuring evidence for the canvassing board, and was promised that I would be well provided for by the friends of the administration, and I came on here, as I was one of the few carpet-baggers who had made nothing out of office in the South, and I was compelled to accept a clerkship, though led to expect something better. I was then detailed and sent to Florida as a timber agent. After being there less than three months I was unceremoniously dismissed, the only reason given being that the money was exhausted. But I recognised it as only the sugar coating to a bitter pill, because I became convinced that with the administration, so far as holding federal office in the South was concerned, no carpet-bagger need apply. I would also state that I believe my county was the only county which celebrated the President's inauguration, and, by the way, the HERALD, through its representative, contributed the ammunition and rockets to make the display.

THE SPEECH OF MR. PURMAN.

The Florida developments bring to mind here a singular speech delivered by Mr. W. J. Purman, republican member from Florida in the House of Representatives, on the 13th of February, 1877, on the Florida election. Mr. Purman was at that time the member from Florida of the National Republican Committee. The burden of his complaint was that the republican politicians used the carpet-baggers and then dropped them. He said:—

It is singular to contemplate how much in achievement and in rascality is expected from Southern republicans in national elections, and yet how studiously they are unaided in their campaign emergencies and ignored in the hour of victory and possession.

In this assertion of ingratitude he appears, however, to be in error, for the Florida republicans who had to do with the election returns seem to have been well cared for. Stearns was made Hot Springs Commissioner; McLin, Judge in New Mexico; Gover, Consul, and of the minor people Vance is in the Sixth Auditor's office, Post Office Department building; Joseph Bowes, who, it is alleged, put in the pudding or thumbnail tickets, is clerk in the Redemption division of the Treasury Department; Black is a messenger in the Philadelphia Custom House; a white man named Delon, who was at one time clerk in the Treasury Department, was transferred to the Charleston Custom House. This man pretended to have rendered valuable service in changing votes, but republicans think that his claim is an imposition.

TREATMENT OF SOUTHERN REPUBLICANS.

Speaking as a member of the National Republican Committee he revealed, in these words, the secret of the campaign of 1876:—

Is it any wonder, sir, that the republican party has been growing weaker and weaker each year in the South and all for want of fostering care and encouragement from our national party functionaries? Is it any wonder that both our leaders and masses are filled with disgust and demoralization, when, before the election and during the campaign, they were compelled to hear the proposition gravely propounded whether a "solid South" should not be encouraged and be permitted as the safest issue upon which to rally or fire a "solid North," and upon which sectional excitement, that Red Sea of trouble in which so many of our countrymen were swallowed up in civil war, our candidate should ride in triumph into the White House?

REGARDING THE FLORIDA ELECTION.

He proceeded next to the question of the Florida election:—

But it is a fact, sir, which I cannot stand upon this floor and deny, and which every man, woman and child in my State knows, that Florida was lost by the republican party in the late election, and that the democratic Governor and the Tilden electors were truly elected. I cannot return to my State and look my constituency in the face, if, standing upon this floor and in the presence of the American people, anxious and entitled to know the whole truth concerning this dangerous Presidential issue, I should shrink from the responsibility of doing justice to my State and defending her honest political victory against the wilful perversion of a dishonest and unscrupulous State Canvassing Board.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE JOB.

He gave an account of the vote in several counties, of which this is a specimen:—

Your committee, in pursuing their investigation discovered that a fraud had been committed at Archer precinct no two in the county of Alachua, whereby 219 votes were fraudulently counted as having been cast for the republican electors. The fraud was easy of discovery, as its existence was a matter of general belief among men of all parties, yet it was attempted to cover it over by convenient affidavits, so that its naked deformity might not shock the sensibilities of the Board of Canvassers. I know, sir, that it was not an imaginary, but a real fraud, that was committed at this precinct and I violate no personal confidence in making this declaration. I know, further, that Comptroller Cowgill, a member of the Board, was personally consulted upon the fact of this fraud having been committed, and that he gave his assurance that if it were plausibly covered up before the case came before them for adjudication it should suffer no scrutiny or discount at his hands. Purging the vote of Alachua county of this well known fraud, the Tilden electors would have been elected by over three hundred majority. The Board should have rejected the entire vote of Alachua as false and fraudulent. In consequence of the perpetration of this fraud, and as democratic frauds were undoubtedly committed in the county of Jackson, as will appear to an unbiased mind in reading the testimony taken by the committee, these two counties (Alachua and Jacksonville) should have both been thrown out for the same reason, and in the exercise of a power and duty incumbent upon the Board by this just and lawful proceeding the vote in the State world have stood 709 majority in favor of the Tilden electors. Viewed in any manner, whether in the light of law or fact, we cannot escape the truth that the democratic party really elected their Presidential electors in the State of Florida.

This speech shows that the whole of these new developments were recited as indisputable facts by a member of the National Republican Committee in a speech in the House more than a year ago.

THE FRAUD IN BAKER COUNTY.

The following affidavits are furnished in connection with the confession of McLin and explain in detail the fraud in Baker county:—

State of Florida, Baker county, ss.:—A. A. Allen, being duly sworn, says that he is a citizen of the county aforesaid, and is thirty years of age. That he was Sheriff of said county during the year 1876, and participated in the Presidential election of that year as a republican. That after the election, and when it became the duty of the proper county officers to canvass the precinct returns and make a county return to the State officers, deponent knew that M. L. Coxe wanted E. W. Driggers, County Judge of said county, to join with the said Coxe, and one John Dorman, a justice of the peace, and make a legal canvass and return. Deponent know that Driggers refused to do this, and that such being the case, the law provided that this deponent was the only other officer of the county legally authorized to take the place of said Driggers and make a legal canvass.

The said Coxe, clerk, desired this deponent to act in place of said Driggers, but deponent declined to do so, and said Coxe and Dorman then proceeded to make a canvass and return and sent the same to the State officers. This canvass and return was correct. One Paul B. Canova, father of George P. Canova, who was a candidate on the republican ticket for the Legislature, approached deponent before the said Coxe and Dorman made their canvass and said if deponent would not join them this deponent could have the benefit of his (the said Canova's) open pocketbook and his influence for the best office in the State.

A CANVASS MADE.

Deponent further says that after said Coxe and Dorman had made their return as aforesaid, this deponent was approached by said Driggers, who said, "Allen, unless we do something they (meaning the democrats) will beat us." Deponent replied, "Well, let it rip." He then said, "We can make a canvass." Deponent then asked him how we could have a canvass when we had no Justice of the Peace, as Dorman had acted with Coxe. Driggers replied, "Bill Green has been appointed." Deponent then consented, and said Driggers and this deponent then arranged to canvass as soon as we could get possession of the Clerk's office. We got possession of the Clerk's office after dark that night, and, in company with Green, looked over the precinct returns. We found that by throwing out the returns from Johnsville and Darbyville precincts, which both gave democratic majorities, it would give the county to the republican Presidential electors by forty-one majority, and this would change the county from ninety-five democratic majority, which was the true and lawful vote. After determining to throw out these two precincts we obtained a blank from the Clerk's office, and then proceeded to the residence of George P. Canova, and there filled out the return according to our determination, signed it and handed it to said Driggers. After the count was over in Tallahassee said Driggers informed this deponent that "our return was recognized all right by the State Board of Canvassers."

These two democratic precincts were thrown out arbitrarily, without law or evidence or shadow of right, and was done to throw the county republican and give the State to the Hayes electors. This action changed the vote of the State about the same in relative majorities as it did the county of Baker. By giving the true return, which would include the two democratic precincts, the democratic majority in the State would be about ninety-five. By excluding these precincts and by taking the false return signed by Driggers, Green and this deponent, the republican majority in the State would be about forty-three on the face of the returns.

Deponent cannot state the fact from personal knowledge, but he believes, and the truth was understood to be at the time, that this fictitious count and return and the illegal rejection of the returns from the Darbyville and Johnsville precincts, was concocted and carried out through the instigation and management of one John W. Howell, E. W. Driggers and George P. Canova, and further this deponent saith not. A. A. ALLEN.

State of Florida, Baker County, ss.:—Before the subscriber, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the State and county aforesaid, appeared A. A. Allen, who deposes and says on oath that the above statement is just and true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th of April, A. D. 1878.—F. J. POXS, Clerk Circuit Court, Baker county.

MARTIN L. COXE'S AFFIDAVIT.

State of Florida, County of Duval, ss.:—Martin L. Coxe, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he now resides in the city of Jacksonville, in said county of Duval, and is forty-three years of age. That he was the County Clerk of Baker county, Fla., in 1876, and ex-officio clerk of the Circuit Court. That he was at said time, and has always been, a democrat in politics and voted the democratic ticket in 1876. That he well remembers the events of the Presidential campaign of that year and the events that transpired after the election on the 6th of November, 1876, and until the close of the canvass by the State Canvassing Board at Tallahassee in December following the election. That he is well acquainted with E. W. Driggers, County Judge of Baker county in November, 1876; A. A. Allen, Sheriff, and William Green and John Dorman, justices of the peace.

Deponent further says that immediately after the election he became aware that the county of Baker had gone democratic by 95 majority. That he became aware of this fact for the reason that, as the clerk of the county, he was the legal custodian of the returns from the precinct officers, and was informed verbally how the vote was before the returns were opened on the 10th day of November, 1876. The vote of the county was also known to said Driggers and Allen, and was also known in Tallahassee.

From various sources of information this deponent believed that unless a speedy county canvass was had that either a surreptitious or fraudulent return would be concocted by said Driggers and his confederates or that the ballot boxes would be stolen from his office. Deponent was therefore solicitous that a speedy canvass and return should be made, and in that view he applied to A. A. Allen, sheriff, to join deponent, and one John Dorman, justice, and make a canvass.

Said Allen declined, and this deponent then thought the safest way was to get Dorman and make a return and put the whole thing on record. Said Dorman and this deponent accordingly made a canvass and return on the 10th of November, 1876, and sent the same to the Secretary of State and Governor the same day. Deponent further says that on the 10th day of November he received a notice from Driggers to meet him, said Driggers, and said Dorman, on the following Monday, the 13th day of November, at deponent's office, in Sanderson, to canvass the county vote and make return thereof to the proper State officers. Accordingly, deponent and said Dorman were present at the Clerk's office ready and willing to make the canvass with said Driggers. During that day deponent saw said Driggers on two separate occasions in Sanderson, and solicited him to join said Dorman and deponent in making a canvass in accordance with his notice and in obedience to law. Said Driggers declined on both occasions, and upon the ground that he was satisfied with what had been done by deponent and said Dorman.

Deponent remained around the Clerk's office and in Sanderson until about dark on the said 13th day of November, and then started for his home, which was then about five miles distant. That some time thereafter deponent was informed of the fictitious and fraudulent return made by said Driggers, Allen and Green, but was not fully informed of the fact until the canvass opened at Tallahassee.

Deponent further says that he testified as a witness before the committees visiting Florida, sent by both houses of Congress immediately after the canvass in Tallahassee; and he refers to the officially printed copies of his testimony, and makes the same a part of this affidavit, except the typographical errors therein contained.

MARTIN L. COXE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of April, 1878.

J. H. NORTON, Notary Public for Florida.

AFFIDAVIT OF A COUNTY CLERK.

The affidavit of C. H. Edwards, a republican county clerk of Leon county and *ex-officio* member of the Canvassing Board, is as follows:—

I was the County Clerk of the County of Leon, Florida, during the election of 1876, and up to January 10, 1877. As such clerk I was *ex officio* a member of the Board of County Canvassers, and assisted in the canvass of the Leon county vote for Presidential electors and other officers voted for at the election of 1876. I was then and am still well acquainted with Joseph Bowes, who was one of the inspectors of election at Precinct No. 13 in said county. I know that prior to the election Bowes, Purman and others had gotten up some diminutive ballots, with intent to use them fraudulently in the election, by stuffing boxes, &c., and I protested against it and urged that the design of using these tickets be dropped. They told me (and I then believed) that they had abandoned the idea of their use. After the election I became aware of the use of seventy-four of these small tickets by Bowes, in Precinct No. 13, where he was inspector.

He told me that he managed to get seventy-four tickets into the box and fixed the poll list to correspond by adding names from the registration list. This addition of names was done in such a bungling manner that I afterward, when the Congressional committee was at work in Florida, censured Bowes for it and told him that he had gotten the party into trouble by his bungling. He replied that he did not care, as his seventy-four votes carried the State for Hayes and made him President. These seventy-four fraudulent votes were canvassed by both the County and State Board of Canvassers, and included in the vote for the Hayes electors of the State.

A SYSTEM OF REPEATING.

I was told by leading republicans before the election that a system of repeating was organized and would be operated on the day of election; that a colored man by the name of W. A. Saunders, who I now learn is in Baltimore, Md., had charge of it. As Clerk of the County it became and was my duty to attend to the registration of voters before the election. I attended to this duty, and know that there was what appeared to me to be an unusually large registration. There was no means in my power, as an individual, to prevent fraudulent registration, and the negroes who registered numbered over three thousand. Many were unknown to me; and in the course of a long registration, consuming some two months, a great many negroes could easily have registered several times, and under different names. From information given me since the election, I should think that between one and two hundred fraudulent votes were polled for the republican party in Leon county. C. H. EDWARDS.

Subscribed and sworn to, &c.

THE FRAUD IN ALACHUA COUNTY.

The following is the statement made by L. G. Dennis about the fraud in Alachua county. It will be supplemented by a more detailed statement:—

WASHINGTON, March 22, 1878.

I have resided in Alachua county, Florida, since January, 1866, and was elected to the State Assembly in 1876, at the same time of the late Presidential election. I was at that time a member of the State Central Committee of the republican party of Florida, and also chairman of the Republican Committee of Alachua county. I was also president of the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua county from 1873 to 1877, and was familiar with the manner of registration and manner of voting, the location of the polls and all other election machinery. As president of said Board, and with the consent of said Board, I located all the polling places, appointed all the inspectors who conducted the election, received and counted the ballots, and made and certified to the returns. I appointed as inspectors of Archer precinct, box No. 2, Green R. Moore, Floyd Duke and Richard H. Black. Thomas D. Vance went at my request to Archer precinct on the day previous to the election, and was appointed by the inspectors clerk of the election at box No. 2, and served as such. I was at Gainesville on the day of election, and on that night and the day following my residence was the headquarters of the republican party, and during the night preceding the election all information was brought to me there.

MEETING PARTY EXPECTATIONS.

Some time after midnight of that night Inspector Black came to my house and reported to me that the result of the election box No. 2 for Presidential Electors was as follows:—For the Hayes electors, 180; for the Tilden electors, 136. A little later Mr. Vance, the clerk at said box No. 2, came and made the same report. Subsequently both Black and Vance came to me and said they had the returns from Archer precinct box No. 2, signed in blank by the inspectors, and that they would make out the returns so as to meet the expectations of their own party. They retired to a private room, where they remained two or three hours, and then informed me that they had added about two hundred names to the poll list as having voted and had increased the republican vote to that extent, and I afterward learned that they had added 219 names to the poll list.

I entered the room while they were employed there, and saw them copying names from the county registration list, upon which those who had actually voted at Archer precinct, Box No. 2, were checked off, and the new names were selected from the names of republican voters who had not already voted at that precinct. After completing the returns in this manner they filed them, with the ballot box, with the County Clerk.

ACTION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The County Commissioners met a few days after election, the board consisting of I. E. Webster, Clerk of the Court; W. H. Belton, Justice of the Peace, and Louis A. Barnes, the Sheriff, all of whom were republicans. During the canvass Inspector Moore appeared before the Board and submitted an affidavit to the effect that the returns from Archer precinct No. 2 were false, and that the true returns should be for the Hayes electors 180 votes, and the Tilden electors 136 votes, but the Board decided they could not hear evidence as to the truth or falsity of the returns, and upon the face of the returns the vote of the county was as follows:—For the Hayes electors, 1,934; for the Tilden electors, 1,267. The result included the 219 votes for the Hayes electors which were added to the vote cast at Archer precinct, box No. 2, by Black and Vance. These returns were sent to the Governor and Secretary of State. After these returns were filed with the Secretary of State an effort was made to invalidate them so far as Archer precinct, box No. 2, was concerned. Affidavits signed by Floyd Duke and Greene R. Moore, and an official statement from Mr. Webster, clerk, was filed with the State Canvassing Board for the purpose of showing that the returns from Archer precinct, box No. 2, were false and fraudulent. It also appeared that Mr. Belton, the Justice of the Peace, had not signed the return filed with the Secretary of State and Governor. One of the duplicate returns was sent back to Alachua county, and Belton's signature was obtained. Moore also was induced to make a counter affidavit denying the truth of his former affidavit. A counter affidavit was also obtained from Floyd Duke denying his former affidavit.

The Grand Jury of Alachua county investigated the Archer precinct matter, but failed to find any fraud, and passed a resolution to that effect, whereupon Mr. Webster was induced to withdraw his statement and make another to the effect that he was satisfied that the return was all right. Then affidavits and statements were laid before the State Canvassing Board and the returns were counted. This result gave the Hayes electors 219 votes more than were cast for them.

I have never heretofore made any written statement or given any evidence regarding this election in Alachua county. L. G. DENNIS.

The above was sworn to in Florida before a justice of the peace, and is certified by the Secretary of State.

FRAUDS IN COLUMBIA COUNTY.

An entirely new development is made in regard to the frauds committed in Columbia county. Neither before the Returning Board nor the House Investigating Committee was it alleged that there was anything crooked in Columbia county.

State of Florida, Columbia county, ss.:—A. A. Henderson, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he was the Deputy Clerk for the county of Columbia, Fla., during the year 1876, and was a republican in politics. That one Alonzo A. Hoyt was the Clerk of said county during said time, a republican in politics, and, at the election of November, 1876, was a candidate for the Senate of the State of Florida.

That, as the clerk of said county, said Hoyt was charged by the law of the State with the duty of properly and legally registering the voters of the county. The statute in Florida, in 1876, required the registration of all voters to be complete six days prior to the day of election. That after the time for completing said registration said Hoyt requested this deponent to meet him at night for the purpose of making additions to the registration lists of said county. That, in pursuance of said request, this deponent did meet said Hoyt at the house of this deponent, between the hours of nine o'clock P. M. and two o'clock A. M. of the 2d day of November, 1876, and added 179 names to the regular registration lists of the county. That said Hoyt had said names on a slip of paper in his pocket and directed this deponent to put them on the registration book. This deponent did so, and the names are to be seen in the handwriting of this deponent in said book, which is now a part of the records of said county of Columbia, and can be seen in the clerk's office. That these names, so recorded, were the names of men representing republican voters and names that represented negroes and republican votes. That the men represented by these names never took the oath required by law to qualify them as legal voters and the insertion of their names as the registration book of the county was a fraud and in every way illegal. Deponent further says that there were four polling or voting places in the county aforesaid, and that these four places were all situated in the town of Lake City, the county seat of Columbia county, and were numbered one, two, three and four.

THE NEGRO VOTE.

He further says that a large majority, and, in fact the great bulk of the negro vote was cast at the polls numbered two and three. That by law each poll was furnished with a copy of the registration list of the county, and upon which it was the duty of the inspectors of election to check the name of each voter as he voted and return said copy to the County Clerk's office of the county, with the poll list and returns from such precinct. Deponent says that the copy of the registration list used at Precinct No. 3 was not returned to the Clerk's office, as required by law, to the knowledge of this deponent, but was missing after the election, and is not now a part of the record of the County Clerk's office, and cannot be found.

Deponent further says that the poll list required by law to be kept by the inspectors and clerks of election in Precinct No. 2 of said county, and to be returned by said precinct officers, was never returned by said officers to the Clerk's office, and that the same is lost and is now no part of the records of the Clerk's office of said county.

He further says that he has examined the remaining portions of the records now in the Clerk's office and finds that about fifty-one of the persons who were fraudulently registered, as hereinbefore stated, voted the republican ticket on the day of election for Presidential electors in 1876 in the county aforesaid; that he has good reason to believe, and does believe, that nearly all of the remaining number of the 179 persons illegally registered voted at the precincts where the record was destroyed or lost, as hereinbefore stated.

Deponent further says that said A. A. Hoyt is now a fugitive from justice, he having been indicted for the fraudulent registration hereinbefore set forth; and said indictment is now pending in the courts of this county, as will more fully appear by the records of said court. A. A. HENDERSON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 11th day of April, 1878.

JOHN VINZANT, JR., Clerk Circuit Court, Columbia county, Fla.

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CLERK.

State of Florida, Columbia county, ss.:—John Vinzant, Jr., being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the Clerk of the county of Columbia, State of Florida, and the keeper and custodian of all the records of said county, except the probate records; that he was appointed Clerk of said county on the 29th day of January, 1877, and succeeded one A. A. Hoyt, who was the Clerk of the county during the year 1876, and up to the date of the appointment of this deponent.

Deponent further says that he has examined the record of the election held in said county for Presidential electors in 1876, and finds that the copy of the registration list used by the inspectors of election at Precinct No. 3 is lost or destroyed, and never came into the possession and custody of this deponent as such clerk. That the poll list, which should by law have been returned by inspectors of precinct No. 2, is not now in the Clerk's office, and never came to the possession and custody of this deponent as such Clerk, and is not any part of the records of said office.

Deponent further says that the original registration book kept by said Hoyt as clerk is in his (deponent's) possession, and the same is now a part of the records of said county. That he knows A. A. Henderson, and that he is informed and believes that said Henderson was the deputy clerk of said Hoyt during the time stated by said Henderson in his affidavit. Deponent further says that he has examined the said registration list, and finds that the names of the persons mentioned in said Henderson's affidavit were registered in the handwriting of said Henderson.

Deponent further says that said Hoyt has been indicted for the fraudulent registration mentioned in said Henderson's affidavit, and that said indictment is now pending in the Court of said county, and that said Hoyt is a fugitive from justice, he having escaped from the custody of an officer having him in charge on said indictment. JOHN VINZANT, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, April 11, 1878.

[Seal.] W. M. IVES, Jr., County Judge.

WHAT BOSTON DEMOCRATS THINK—INTERVIEWS WITH CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LEVERETT SALTONSTALL AND JUDGE JOSEPH ABBOTT—A GREAT FRAUD AND SHOULD BE AVENGED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

BOSTON, April 25, 1878.

When the HERALD reached here to-day, containing the full confession of Dennis and McLin of their operations in Florida during the agitation over the electoral count in that State, it caused a good deal of excitement among politicians of all classes, and furnished food for discussion at the clubs and hotels, to the exclusion of almost every other topic. Your correspondent made a brief tour among the leading democrats with a view to ascertaining what their opinions were on the great question raised by these disclosures.

VIEWS OF CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

The first call was made on Charles Francis Adams, in his office on Court street. The venerable statesman was found quietly seated in his office, and when the question of the Florida confessions was broached he expressed his willingness to talk on the question, although he said he had not read the whole story as printed in the papers. "I am not at all surprised, sir, he said, that such confessions should be made. That fraud was practised in certain Southern States during the election of 1876 I have never entertained the slightest doubt. I expressed that opinion in my letter to Mr. Tilden, written on the 4th of March, 1877. I still stand by that letter and I am as fully convinced now as then that Mr. Tilden was lawfully elected President of the United States, and that he was counted out by the Electoral Commission, which was all wrong. The only impediment in the way of opposing that fraud exists in the fact that the conspiracy was so well planned by the conspirators themselves that it will be a very difficult matter to prove who were the guilty parties.

IN STATU QUO.

Q. What do you think of the expression credited to General Butler that Hayes was a fraud and should be turned out? A. I had not heard of that; Mr. Butler and I are different persons, however, and although turning out Presidents might suit him it would never suit me. The establishment of a sound, permanent form of government is a very difficult thing to accomplish, and no matter how stable a government might be the slightest confusion or crash is always sure to cause trouble and upset matters. I therefore am in favor of allowing matters to remain *in statu quo*. I have arrived at this conclusion after giving it considerable thought and study. Although I am willing to admit that Hayes has proven a great failure and that his installation in office was undoubtedly accomplished by fraud. When the Electoral Commission was in session in Washington during the month of February, 1877, I was very much alarmed for fear that the peace of the country might be disturbed.

ON THE BRINK.

At one time it appeared to me that as a nation we were on the brink of a steep precipice, and I feel that the country at large owe Mr. Tilden a debt of gratitude for the patriotism and self-denial he exhibited under such trying circumstances. Should another Presidential election ever be held in this country under similar conditions, I do not see how a terrible civil war can be averted.

Mr. Adams then discussed the Electoral law, and said that unless Congress amend and improve the present system the country will always be on the verge of a terrible revolution at each national election. He denounced the men who under a weak and imperfect law used such corrupt means to carry through their base schemes, and predicted that they would all in time be discovered and consigned to the infamy they deserve. Mr. Hayes, he thinks, is a very weak man, a failure as a politician and statesman, so that he has not even the merit of turning a great wrong into a national blessing.

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL'S OPINION.

Leverett Saltonstall, who represented the democratic party at Florida during the count, was waited on this afternoon. He stated that he was not surprised that these disclosures were made. "Though I wish," he said, "to see no disturbance of the Presidency during the term that now exists, yet it is gratifying to feel that the statement I made to my party immediately after my return from Florida, which were doubted by the republican press here, are fully confirmed and proven to be almost exactly true to the letter. After my return I told the people that Mr. Tilden was undoubtedly entitled to the electoral vote of Florida, and this statement is now proved to be true beyond the shadow of a doubt.

HE ASKS FOR QUIET.

In regard to the Blair resolution for the reopening of the Presidential contest, not being in Congress I am not called upon to express an opinion, but, notwithstanding, I think the country has been sufficiently agitated, and I ask now only for quiet and the restoration of good feeling, which, I think, is being rapidly brought about. All I ask is that Congress should immediately take such steps as will render the commission of such gross and glaring frauds in the future impossible, and that the lesson now before the people and Congress should be improved so that the country may not again be disgraced by such an exhibition of political infamy. No country can afford to stand quiet and see its treasured rights taken away without falling low down in the scale of public and national morality. Mr. Hayes is not entitled to the seat he occupies, for the vote of Florida belonged to another."

JUDGE JOSEPH ABBOTT'S VIEW.

Judge Joseph Abbott, who was in Congress during the electoral count, and who took a prominent part in the investigation in South Carolina, stated to-night to the HERALD correspondent in an interview that the recent revelations in the Florida matter only substantiated what was conclusively proven during the agitation over the count. The fact, he said, that fraud was committed was always clear to his mind. "Hayes was never elected President, but obtained his seat and holds it by the perpetration of the most atrocious frauds that ever were committed against the liberties of any people. I think after a careful examination of the evidence given before Mr. Thompson's committee that no fair-minded man can come to any other conclusion than that the vote of the State had been fairly given to the democratic electors. The decisions of the State courts go to show this more forcibly. The Legislature and all branches of the State government protested against the outrage, but the vote of the State was given to the Hayes electors."

THE BLAIR RESOLUTION.

Q. Do you believe in the Blair resolution for opening the controversy? A. In regard to that I am not now prepared to give my opinion. I will remark, however, that I do not believe it would do any harm to anybody or to the country at large to undertake to punish fraud, particularly one so gigantic in its proportions as this.

NO DISTURBANCE PROBABLE.

If such an inquiry were to unseat President Hayes I do not think it would cause any great disturbance of business interests, nor do I believe that any disturbance will result from trying to ascertain the whole truth and nothing but the truth in reference to these frauds. On the contrary, I think that the great mass of the people are very much more interested in this matter of asc