

# The Highland News.

HILLSBOROUGH, OHIO.

Thursday, June 25, 1857.

## The Defalcation in the State Treasury—Further Particulars.

The investigating committee appointed to examine the condition of the Treasury, since the late defalcation, has not yet reported, but from various sources the public has been put in possession of some additional facts connected with the transaction. It appears that the amount of the deficit in the treasury is considerably larger than was at first supposed. Instead of \$500,000, it is believed to reach \$775,000, or over three-quarters of a million. Of this sum about \$223,000 was lost by being deposited in broken banks, by the former Democratic Treasurer, Mr. Brelin. The balance of \$552,000, Mr. Gibson says was drawn from the County Treasurers by Mr. Brelin, and has never been paid back into the treasury, although Mr. Brelin promised it should be. In revealing the fact of this heavy indebtedness of his predecessor, Mr. Gibson violated his official duty, and committed a great wrong, but it does not appear that he was guilty to any further extent, whatever future developments may show.

What has become of the missing money, who got it, and what use was made of it, are questions about which the public are still in the dark; but from certain private financial speculations of Mr. Brelin, in connection with "Wild Cat" banks, during his administration as Treasurer, which have recently come to light, a pretty good guess may be made. We have not room at present to go into details, but will give them hereafter. It is stated that the securities on Mr. Brelin's two official bonds, each for \$250,000, are substantial ones, fully worth the amount of the bond, and that the Attorney General will proceed to bring suit against them for the recovery of the same. The securities on Mr. Gibson's bond are also ample.

We copy below some further particulars, and a card from Mr. Gibson, in his own defense:

The Columbus correspondent of the Sandusky Register writes as follows:

One thing, thus far, is apparent; that John G. Brelin, late Treasurer of State, had acquired possession, during the last months of his term of office, of large amounts of money, which, as the law then stood, authorizing the Treasurer of State to draw on County Treasurers for a portion of the State tax-collected, never appeared, because not required to appear, as charges against him on the books of the State Auditor. In these amounts thus drawn from the counties lie the immense defalcation just developed, and in endeavoring, with the most honest motives to secure to the State the amounts so withheld from the Treasury by Mr. Brelin, his successor, Mr. Gibson, after having received the payment of our TRINITY HUSBAND THOMAS DOLLARS of this defalcation has fallen a victim to a misplaced confidence in the word of his predecessor.

In another, and later letter, this correspondent writes:

Brelin had, as I have heretofore hinted, during the November and December preceding his surrender of office, drawn, in accordance with a law then existing, somewhere between \$700,000 and \$800,000, avowedly to meet the January interest on the foreign debt. This amount never appeared as a charge against him on the books of the Auditor of State, for the simple reason that the law under which Mr. Brelin made his drafts, precluded him from any interference with the Treasurer in this matter, and placed the movements and doings of the latter beyond the control of the Auditor. To the dangerous operations of this law, Auditor McKim had repeatedly called the attention of the Legislature, and earnestly invoked its repeal. In his last Report, page 18, in the proceeds of these drafts lay the bulk of, if not the entire defalcation of the former Treasurer, which Mr. Gibson is now made to bear.

The following appears in the Tiffin Tribune, of June 12th—Tiffin is the home of Mr. Gibson:

### A STATEMENT.

I have resigned the office to which a generous public called me, and am now the victim of a slander, which a venal press seizes upon my misfortune as food for excitement. But to all this I must submit. I have implored the great Ruler for wisdom and courage to meet it all.

But I am under untold obligations to the people of this county, irrespective of party, and to them a statement is due, of the causes that led to my resignation.

My predecessor failed to pay what he owed the State, by a very large sum. He paid what the accounts showed against him, but failed to put me in funds to meet receipts which he had given to county treasurers. These were legally binding on the State, and I was compelled to receive them as cash. When Mr. Brelin failed to put me in possession of the funds, I should have made it public.

My kindness of heart, which, with me, amounts to positive weakness, led me to rely upon his assurances, and he had paid all, except the \$204,000 reported.

This was my great and only error. I may have been a wrong. I found it impossible to obtain the amount from him, and it was then manifestly proper that I should resign and invoke a legal examination. Its result will soon be known, and by I must abide.

No one has ever suffered by me nor shall they.

I rely upon a full acquittal from pecuniary liability to the State from just causes. Conscious of no wrong myself, I am not excited nor will

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