

THE BRIBERY CASE.—We this week give an account of the recent attempt to bribe Col. Piollet. The testimony exposed a most flagrant attempt at corruption. Our comments are deferred by its length.

The committee of investigation made a report and Mr. McCook was handed over to the civil authorities and held to bail in the sum of \$2000.

DEFERRER.—We are again obliged to postpone Editorial Correspondence, &c. Next week we shall endeavor to bring up the rear.

Judge Woodward and the Supreme Bench.

It is refreshing to notice the free utterance, and bold assertion of truth, evinced by the Harriburg Reporter, especially when contrasted with the miserable subserviency of others, who assume to be the oracles of the party, but who nevertheless have given their "bend," and snail pay tribute, or "their occupation is gone."

The Harriburg Reporter of the 12th inst., contains a letter from its Washington correspondent, in which, among other things, are some remarks on the alleged causes of Judge Woodward's rejection, and the part taken in the matter by the Supreme Bench. We like the frankness of the writer; but not more than his sentiments. That the Judges, one or more of them did vote in the course against Judge Woodward, appears beyond doubt. We anxiously wait to have the injection of secrecy taken off; until then, we can only speak from the next best source of information. We have had no doubt, but the primary cause of opposition to Judge Woodward from the Supreme Bench, was the settled, unyielding and unmitigated hostility of some of the Judges, especially one of them, to every member of the Reform Convention, who advocated the measure to reduce the Judicial tenure to a term of years, instead of "doing good behavior," as it then was. One of the Judges, omits, no opportunity, in season, or out of season, to denounce those who participated in this reform. Another of them is not less envious than is the other. Another of them is not less vindictive than the others. What chance had Judge Woodward with those of such passions. He was the bold and persevering leader in the reform of the Judiciary. He was in the Convention, a delegate from northern Pennsylvania; where but one sentiment prevailed, with all parties, on this subject. What but this reform induced the north to give a large majority in favor of a new constitution.

Most ably, eloquently, and successfully did Mr. Woodward stand as the champion of this reform. The whole north had spoken with one voice; it was that the Judicial tenure should no longer be for life. It was for the north that Mr. Woodward was in that Convention. His eloquent, convincing and unanswerable arguments in favor of abolishing the life tenure. They ever remain an imperishable monument of his fame.

To avoid the consequences of this reform, Chief Justice Gibbons resigned, while he had the opportunity of being again re-appointed. This boon he received from the hands of Gov. Riker. Thus a position was given him, where he might, if so disposed, overthrow the man who had so faithfully and zealously contributed to a reform, called for with acclamation from the north. The name of Geo. W. Woodward is remembered by some on that bench, only as the man who strove to limit the tenure of their office. It is said that a statement found its way into the United States Senate, alleging that eight cases out of nine of Judge Woodward's which came to the Supreme Court were reversed. Whether this statement was furnished by one of the Judges, we are not informed, although it is said to have been handed about by one of them. It was said the reports would show this unfavorable commentary on the character of Mr. Woodward as a jurist. On examination it was found that with but few exceptions, those cases only that were reversed were in the reports; while nearly all of those which were affirmed and withheld; many of them containing decisions of great importance. Is it not very strange to say the best of it. We say, and we hold ourselves responsible to prove it, that instead of eight cases out of nine, of his being reversed, that an average of seven cases out of eight have been affirmed; and more, that no Judge in northern Pennsylvania has been more fortunate in this respect than Judge Woodward. Shall we sit tamely and see him sacrificed and butchered by such fabricated and villainous abuse. Shall an honest man be thus hewn down again and again, as if such an man had no friends? We wait the future. Some of the Supreme Bench were governed by motives different from that of others. Envy and jealousy drive their share of the work. Judge Woodward was thought too young to be lifted over their heads; that one of their number ought to be selected. This feeling commenced shortly after he went into his Judicial district; especially was it expressed by his predecessor, who is now on the Supreme Bench. We opine that he may live to see the difference in the destinies of men, who forget the necessity of a pure heart and clean hands. Hereafter we may say more on this subject. We commend this article with the design of extracting from the letter alluded to, not intending to protect our remarks to this length.

[From the Reporter & Journal.]

The Philadelphia correspondent of the Harriburg "Union" under date of 27th January, among other remarks relative to the rejection of the nomination of Mr. Woodward, says: "I believe the ground of his rejection was an alleged variance between his views of the length of the Judicial tenure, and those entertained by the generality of the members of the profession of the law. The Senate is generally composed of lawyers, who could not recollect the THEORY OF ONE who would ADVOCATE a proposition to REDUCE the Judicial tenure to a term of years with his consent in MAKING AN EARLY APPLICATION FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR LIFE ON THE SUPREME BENCH."

This correspondent whether a bona fide Philadelphian or one of the host of that disunion sheet, has willfully given currency to a falsehood. He knew well that Judge Woodward never asked the nomination—but that he did recommend the appointment of Judge Jones. He was sincerely the friend of that gentleman and is incapable of the treachery and trickery by which certain other men have stained power and peace. Indeed, the principal opposition to Judge Woodward has come from men whose

"Base envy writes at another's joy, And hates that excellence it cannot reach."

They envy his talents—and fear his integrity, and would fain couple his name with some act akin to the vile deeds which have secured to them an immortality of infamy; and another bastard democratic sheet has boasted that certain young Supreme Judges in Pennsylvania protested against the confirmation of Mr. Woodward. No democratic sheet, but this. The base trampling of one of those men in the dust, an exhibition of his official life, and the petty enmity of other exhibition upon all occasions, show their capaciousness for any thing else than seats upon the Supreme Bench. A real secret of their denunciations is that the abolition of the life tenure, was the work of Mr. Woodward. His democratic principles indeed him in favour of a plan by which the Judges might be held accountable, and for this act the discharge of a duty, is owed to the party—and for the change which the people asked, he has incurred the wrath of some of your Judges. The correspondent of the Union seems to think that the

lawyers in Senate regarded the course of Mr. Woodward in the Convention, as unprofessional, that is, Mr. Woodward as a lawyer, ought to have kept his tongue in the Judiciary by supporting the aristocratic privileges conferred upon Judges &c. by the old Constitution. That is the issue—and I, for one, am glad that they have blundered upon the true state of the case; and I wish the people to know that their advocate and friend in the Convention, has called down upon him the opposition of lawyers and Judges, for the sole reason that like an honest democrat he espoused the cause, and interests of the people. It is also alleged that many of the decisions of Judge Woodward have been reversed by your Supreme Court. If so, it is but rational that his enemies should embrace even that made of revenge, for their poisoning, loss, in a life office, besides this, a reversal of an opinion of a Judge of the Common Pleas, by Supreme Judges, who frequently reverse their own opinions, it seems to me, should not do an injury to any Judge. Another objection to his confirmation was raised by reference to his views upon the subject of charters. He was charged with supporting that the charter granted to the Bank of the United States was not a bona fide contract, and that the legislature had full power to abrogate it. This was sufficient to excite him with Webster and other whigs—and officers and stockholders in banking institutions. This should be understood among the people—four-fifths of whom held the same opinion. The whole matter may be disposed of very briefly. Judge Woodward has been defeated simply because he entertained and advocated true Jeffersonian principles—and supported the cause of the people in opposition to the interests of a few aristocrats, who would fain hold unlimited powers for an unlimited period, and be wholly irresponsible to the people for their official conduct.

[Correspondence of the Bradford Reporter.]

HARRISBURG, February 12, 1846.

MESSRS. GOODRICH.—Your paper containing the proceedings of the democratic meeting of our county, held on the 3d instant, was received by me at this place; the doctrines set forth in the resolutions are sound to the core; and bear evidence to the fact that the right spirit is abroad among the people on the subjects of both State and National policy, most vitally affecting their interests. But while it is becoming that the people should investigate and proclaim their convictions, it is also proper, that we should be moderate and forbearing towards those who do not view these subjects in the same light with ourselves. I have been led to this reflection not only from the resolution of the meeting in relation to the "Resolutions respecting the Tariff," which passed the Senate unanimously, but from having learned from private sources of information, that there was a disposition with some of our people, to cast censure upon Mr. Sherwood, our Senator, (and Speaker of the Senate) for his vote.

Although I think the vote was wrong, we should reflect that the Tariff has been proclaimed as a democratic measure, throughout a large portion of the Commonwealth; is one upon the effects of which democrats honestly differ; and that resolutions of a similar character have repeatedly passed both branches of the legislature with entire unanimity; even so lately as the last session, resolutions similar to those which recently passed the Senate, were passed without a dissenting vote; our own representative voting for them, no public disapprobation of which was ever expressed; on the contrary, if I mistake not, resolutions approving in general terms of both our Senator and Representatives, have passed some of our democratic meetings since that time. I am sure Mr. Sherwood desires to act in accordance with the wishes of his constituents, when he understands definitely what those wishes are; and I am certain he does not approve of the tariff of '42, in detail, but when placed in a position which compelled him to vote for it, or be denounced as a "free trade man" (which all are who venture to favor its modification or repeal) he did not feel under the then existing circumstances at liberty to assume the latter attitude. Mr. Sherwood is an able man, makes an efficient and dignified speaker, and does honor to his district; the democrats of Bradford may well feel satisfied that a sensible impression has been made in this subject, in favor of equal rights, and that their immediate Representatives have stood up to the vote, regardless of denunciations of monopolists.

A DEMOCRATIC CITIZEN OF BRADFORD.

Meeting of the Conference.

At a meeting of the conferees from Bradford and Tingo counties, convened at Wellboro', on the 17th day of February, 1846, for the purpose of agreeing upon a Senatorial Delegate to the next Fourth of March convention, for the nomination of Canal Commissioner; Messrs. J. F. Means and William E. Barton were present from Bradford county; and Messrs. A. C. Bush and J. Lowrey from Tingo.

On motion, WILLIAM E. BARTON was appointed chairman, and J. Lowrey Secretary of said meeting;—when the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That Major THOMAS B. OVERTON, of Bradford county, be the Senatorial Delegate for this district to said convention;—with instructions to support Wm. B. FOSTER, Jr.

Resolved, That said Delegate be empowered to substitute in case of his inability to attend said convention.

IMPROVING AN ACCIDENT.—A story is told of Mr. Van Buren, that while on a tour through the West in 1840 he was overtaken in a stage coach, and as he stood up to his knees in mud and asked the driver how the accident happened, was told by that personage that he had already upset eleven members of Congress, and by so doing had secured the votes of every one of them for appropriations to the National Road as he never before had a President for a passenger, he thought he would improve the opportunity by doing his duty to the West, in endeavoring to prevent a Veto, in case another appropriation should pass.

REPORT OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN.—A motion was made in the House, on Monday last, to print two thousand extra copies for the use of the members, of the very able report of the State Librarian. After much discussion, the motion was so amended as to read the usual number, which was carried by a vote of two to one. This report, we believe, is the first which has been made since the establishment of the State Library. It contains some excellent suggestions, which, if carried out by the Librarian committee, will add greatly to the value of the Institution.

THE LATE STORM OF SNOW AND WIND appears to have been one of unusual severity, as far as it extended. Boston papers of Monday speak of it as one of the worst ever witnessed in that city. Huge snow-drifts, in some cases five feet deep or more, lined the streets and sidewalks, and blocked up the lanes and alleys. The sufferings of seamen on the coast must have been dreadful, and it was apprehended that many disasters had occurred on the coast.

Proceedings of the Penn'a. Legislature.

[Correspondence of the Bradford Reporter.]

HARRISBURG, February 20, 1846.

GOVERNMENT.—This has been a week of great excitement at this place arising from an attempt made by an agent of the Lehigh County Bank to bribe a member of the House of Representatives from your county. The subject was brought before the House, on Tuesday last. As I was not present, and as the matter will no doubt excite much interest among the immediate constituents of Col. Piollet, I have taken the liberty of copying from the reports of one of the best reporters in the House the following account of the proceedings:—

Mr. PIOLLET rose and said: Mr. Speaker, I desire to make a statement personal to myself. Whilst in the regular discharge of my duty as a member of the Committee on Banks, upon which, sir, you appointed me, and to which had been referred the matters connected with the investigation into the affairs of the Lehigh County Bank, I received a number of letters from different quarters of the Union, relative to it. I have been waited upon in my room by a gentleman professing to be interested, and whose name I have no reason to withhold—Mr. McCook, to whom I was casually introduced as a gentleman from Ohio. He there stated the object of his visit. He added, that my action on the Committee on Banks would be of great importance to him, and he wished to know if I could not suggest some person to him with whom the matter could be accommodated. I said I would see him again and let him know; I then consulted with several of my friends to whom I entrusted the matter, and whose advice I have acted upon throughout. They advised me to wait awhile to let the thing develop itself, in order to see whether it was the intention to attain the object by corrupt means. Other interviews took place, and this morning he made a direct proposition to pay me some money, upon the statement that three members of the committee had already agreed to report in favor of the Lehigh County Bank, and he wanted a fourth to make a majority. I received four hundred dollars. He counted four hundred dollars and laid it in a drawer in my bureau. The sum he proposed to give was five hundred dollars, four hundred dollars of which were to be given in hand, and the rest when the object was accomplished. When Mr. McCook left the room, I called Mr. Buehler, and he counted the money and sealed it in this package (holding up the package). I now ask to lay the package on the Speaker's table, to be left at the disposition of the House.

Mr. Burrell stated that he presumed the gentleman from Bradford, in speaking of friends under whose counsel he had acted in this affair had in part referred to him. He would only now say that he had advised that gentleman when informed by him that he believed he was about to be approached corruptly in reference to the Lehigh County Bank, to maintain his equanimity, and to allow the affair to take its course, in order that a full and satisfactory exposure could bear faithful testimony to the entire integrity with which the gentleman from Bradford had acted—that he believed his motives were good, and that his conduct throughout was worthy of commendation and respect.

Mr. B. then offered the following preamble and resolutions which were adopted: WHEREAS, Col. V. E. Piollet, a member of this House, has stated in his place that a Mr. Daniel McCook has attempted corruptly to influence him in giving his vote as a member of the Committee on Banks, against the proposed repeal of the charter of the Lehigh County Bank, and that said Daniel McCook offered and gave him the sum of \$400 for the purpose of corruptly influencing him as aforesaid, which money the said V. E. Piollet took, as he has stated, by the advice of friends whom he consulted, as an effectual means of proving conclusively the said attempt, and which money he has laid upon the Speaker's table to be disposed of by the House.

AND WHEREAS, so gross an outrage upon the dignity of the House, and the honor and integrity of its members, should be promptly inquired into and punished. Therefore be it Resolved, That the Speaker of this House be and he is hereby authorized and required to issue his warrant to the Sergeant-at-Arms for the arrest of the said Daniel McCook, and that a committee of five be appointed to investigate this affair, with power to send for persons and papers.

The Speaker then appointed Messrs. Knox, Galloway, Trego, Gwin and Nicholson, a committee to investigate this subject.

The committee of investigation have closed their labors and it is presumed will make a report to-morrow. The statement made by Col. Piollet to the House was fully corroborated by the testimony of Judge Laporte, Mr. Burrell (member of the House from Westmoreland) and others. The testimony is interesting and voluminous. As it would not be properly understood from an abstract, I must refer you to reports which you will find in the "Union" of to-morrow.

IN THE HOUSE.—The bill granting the right of way through Pike county, to New York and Erie Rail Road was taken up on Wednesday last. The bill was supported by Col. Piollet and others. In the course of the debate, Mr. Kunkel, of Dauphin, referred to the pledge given by the friends of the bill that the Legislature of the State of New York would pass a law allowing a connection between the North Branch Canal and the Canals of New York. Mr. Knox stated that a bill of that character was now before the Legislature of New York; and that no doubt could be entertained of its passage. A motion to postpone the bill until the action of New York could be ascertained was rejected, the bill was then read a third time and passed by the following vote:—

YEAS—Messrs. Barber, Bartholomew, Bassler, Beniz, Bigham, Boughner, Brough, Brackridge, Burns, Burrell, Campbell, Chesnut, Clark, Cochran, Cross, Donaldson, Ehlred, Edie, Fassett, Forsyth, Galloway, Gray, Gwin, Haymaker, Hiland, Hill, (Payette), Ives, Jacobs, Johnson, Knox, Ladley, Means, Morrison, Magellan, Mitchell, Morrison, Murphy, M'Abbe, M'Calland, M'Curry, M'Curdy, M'Curley, M'Fauland, Nicholson, Patterson, Piollet, Price, Pomeroy, (Franklin), Pomeroy, (Mercer), Power, Robinson, Samuels, Shuman, Starb, Stewart, (Franklin), Stewart, (Lycoming), Thomas, (Chester), Thomas, (Susq.), Van Hoff, Wadsworth, Webb, Wilson, Worrell, Patterson, Speaker.—84.

NAYS—Messrs. Armitage, Bachman, Bird, Doyer, Connor, Daly, Dotts, Enue, Hale, Hollowell, Hill, (Montgomery), Hinesline, Hoffman, James, Keller, Kline, Kunkel, Larkin, Levan, Matthias, Owen, Snyder, Steel, Stetler, Taggart, Tice, Trego, Worman.—30.

A bill was reported to erect a new county out of parts of Westmoreland, Allegheny and Butler to be called Oregon; also a bill to erect

the county of Columbus out of parts of Lancaster Lebanon and Dauphin.

Mr. Sturgis introduced a bill to repeal the act establishing a Board of Revenue Commissioners.

Mr. Piollet presented petitions of citizens of Troy, for a new election district; of T. Jerrill relative to claim for compensation; and one of citizens of Standing Stone relative to a road removed by the Pennsylvania Canal. And by Mr. Webb of citizens of Bradford relative to certain taxes.

The bill relative to outstanding domestic creditors' certificates passed final reading.

The bill to incorporate the North Branch Rail Road Company, passed through a committee of the whole, and its further consideration postponed for the present.

The committee on the Judiciary reported against the resolution of inquiry as to the propriety of so amending the Constitution so as to restore the good behavior tenure of Judges.

The general Appropriation Bill passed through Committee of the whole, and was made the order of the day for to-day.

Mr. Piollet reported a supplement to the act incorporating the Athens and Ithaca Rail Road Company.

A resolution was adopted directing the Committee on the Judiciary to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to confirm the acts of justices of the peace before the receipts of their commissions in April last.

IN THE SENATE.—The principal business of the week has been the consideration of the bill to grant the right of way through Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company. Numerous amendments to the bill were offered to the bill, & rejected, when the question was taken on the first section and determined in the negative by the following vote:—

YEAS—Messrs. Black, Carson, Darrah, Darstie, Dunlap, Gibbons, Gillis, Hill, Hoover, Morrison, Ross, Sanderson, Sullivan, Williamson and Sherwood, Speaker.—15.

NAYS—Messrs. Anderson, Benner, Bigler, Chapman, Corman, Crabb, Creacraft, Dimmick, Ebaugh, Fegely, Foulkrod, Heckman, Jordan, Quays, Rahn and Smith.—16.

The bill was consequently rejected. To-day on motion of Mr. Quay and Mr. Dimmick the vote was reconsidered, yeas 19, nays 10, and the further consideration of the bill was postponed until to-morrow. Its final fate is considered very doubtful.

The bill to incorporate the York and Harrisburg Rail Road Company passed, through Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Sullivan, from the Committee, on the Judiciary, reported a bill providing for the election of Prosecuting Attorneys.

A bill was introduced to authorize the Canal Commissioners to purchase and place passenger cars on the Columbia Rail Road.

Mr. Sherwood (Speaker) presented a petition relative to the Bingham estate in Bradford County.

The bill to form the county of Blair out of Huntingdon and Bedford was taken up and passed.

The bill to incorporate a company to construct a rail road from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh is now under consideration on second reading.

Yours A. B.

Testimony in the Bribery Case.

Monday, February 16, 1846.

The Committee of Investigation met and organized in the East Committee room of the Capitol. Present, Messrs. KNOX, GALLOWAY, GWIN, TREGO, and NICHOLSON.

On motion of Mr. TREGO, the Committee adjourned to the Supreme Court room, where it was again organized.

Mr. SPEAKER PATTERSON was called upon, and presented a package of money, sealed.

HENRY BUEHLER, sworn.—Saw the package this morning in Mr. Piollet's room.

Mr. McCOOK then rose and inquired if the committee were then going to investigate his case, and was answered in the affirmative. Mr. McCOOK then asked if the investigation was to be ex parte. Mr. KNOX replied that the committee were anxious that justice should be done to all parties. Mr. McCOOK then asked that the committee would desire for a short time until his counsel arrived, which was granted. Mr. McCOOK also proposed to give an affidavit of the whole transaction, but receiving no intimation from committee, did not present it. Mr. McCORMICK appearing as counsel for the accused, the proceedings were renewed.

Mr. BUEHLER, resumed—was sent for about 9 A. M.; Col. Piollet wanted to see him in his room; went there and found him laboring under great excitement; he opened a drawer in his bureau, in which lay a large pile of notes, and asked me to count that money; I proceeded to count it at his request, and while counting it, he said he had been insulted by an offer of it for the purpose of influencing his action as a member of the Committee on Banks; counted the money and made it \$400; he desired me to seal it up, and I did so, and endorsed it; this is the package as sealed by me; the real has not been broken; there are two quarter eagles in gold—the rest is in bank notes upon various banks; have not a distinct recollection of all the notes—believe it was mostly of Plainfield money; this occurred about 20 minutes past 9 A. M.; Mr. Piollet stated that his friends, Messrs. Laporte and Burrell, had gone to the House, and he wanted to have them see it; he was very much excited, and at times regretted that he had not avenged himself for the insult, but he had acted by the advice of his friends.

VICTOR E. PIOLLET, sworn.—Is a member of the Committee on Banks of the House of Representatives. The committee consists of seven members. At our first or second meeting Dr. Samuels presented for the action of the Committee a memorial and papers, containing charges against the Lehigh County Bank; the charges were taken up and acted upon, and witnesses to the number of four were subpoenaed, by permission of the House, and it was made the special order for to-day.

I was casually introduced to Mr. McCook on Thursday or Friday last, in Mr. Buehler's bar room; on Saturday, as I left the bar-room to go to my room, Mr. McCook followed me, saying that he wished to speak with me; I opened the door and told him to walk in; Mr. McCook said that there was an investigation going on before the committee on Banks, of certain charges against the Lehigh Bank, and that it was upon that subject that he wished to speak to me.

He exhibited me a paper upon which there was a written statement of the number of New York Subs published by Moses V Beach, and of two other papers published by said Beach. The number of weekly circulation, was about equal to 300,000. That Mr. Beach had engaged in the Texas annexation affair—that he was one of our strongest political friends. He stated further that Mr. B. had been offered two separate appointments as Consul, by the President, but had declined them on account of his exten-

sive business engagements. He stated that Mr. B. was interested in two Banks in Ohio, I think in Cuyahoga neighborhood, the Lehigh County Bank, Allegheny, the Plainfield Bank, N. J., and a Bank in New Hampshire. That he, Mr. McCook, was also interested with Mr. B. in these Banks. That a very general interest had been manifested by several political friends in the investigation of the Lehigh County Bank. He mentioned that Mr. B. had once assisted Ohio in paying her interest, and had always been his intimate and confidential friend. I mentioned to Mr. McCook that the charges against the Lehigh County Bank were of a grave and serious nature. That besides the petitions there were statements from Jacob Dillinger and others of the best men in Lehigh county. That the investigation would be a fair one, and that if the friends of the Bank could meet the charges there was no disposition to prejudice the case on the part of any member of the committee, so far as I knew. He stated that Dr. Samuels was prejudiced against the Bank, and that the opposition of Mr. Dillinger and others was not of a kind that ought to be considered. I told him that the prejudice of Dr. S. would not influence others of the committee; that they would do it no injustice; nor would they improperly expose any of the books and papers of the Bank. I endeavored in what I said on this interview to convince Mr. McCook that there was a perfectly fair disposition towards the Bank. He said that it was not the policy of our party to war with the Banks; that it had injured our party in Ohio, and our friend in Washington were afraid it would injure us in Pennsylvania. I told him that so far as I knew the sentiments of the committee on Banks, there was no disposition to wage a war on Banks. He referred to the Lehigh County Bank again, and I assured him the Bank had nothing to fear if the charges were groundless. Conversation of a general nature ensued, and Mr. McCook took his leave.

In the course of this day (Saturday) I mentioned to Mr. Burrell that there was considerable interest excited on the subject of this investigation; that some of these things were to me inexplicable. Mr. B. said there were things that had come under his notice that convinced him that corrupt means would be used. (A conversation is here related, in which Mr. Burrell advised that if any thing of a corrupt nature should be offered, it would be best to let it go on and develop itself.) On Saturday morning I was sitting by the fire in my own room, smoking a cigar; Mr. McCook came into the room, drew a chair, and took a seat by me; the first word he said was, I have written for your father to come here; the remark struck me very wrong; that my father was a gentleman of 72 years, was very feeble, and could not make this journey at this season of the year; and inquired, what do you want of my father? He said he wished him here to help him in this Lehigh Bank business; I told him my father was unacquainted with legislation, and could be of no use to him; he replied, I have written to him, and have offered him three hundred dollars to come down here and assist me in the investigation going on before your Committee; I said it was all nonsense for him to write to my father, that he did not know him, and would think it very singular. He then inquired if I knew any one else whom he could employ. I told him that I did not; that I did not think it was necessary for him to go to any expense of the kind, that, as I had before stated, the committee would treat the whole matter candidly and fairly, and that I did not believe any one could influence the action of the committee. He stated that he wanted the report of the committee in favor of the Bank. That three of the committee had agreed to report in favor of the Bank, and that he would deposit \$500 with me, or with any person I could name, if I would vote for a report in favor of the bank, in the committee. I was very strongly excited; it had not appeared to me before that I was to be approached in that direct manner. I said very little, for it was difficult to conceal my emotion. I said to Mr. McCook further, that I would think of it. He urged me, too, to name a friend with whom he could confer. I replied that I would think of it, and probably said I would see him again. Mr. McCook said he would see me on Monday night in my room. A few minutes after he went out. I went to Judge Laporte's room, asked him into my room, and told him all Mr. McCook had said to me. Mr. Burrell had said to me before, that if any offer of the kind was made, I should keep it to myself until we could get it into a proper shape to expose it, but I felt unwilling to trust my reputation in any one man's hands. Mr. Laporte encouraged me to go on; to be careful as to what I said, and see what would come of it. Mr. Laporte then left my room in a manner that appeared very singular to me at the time. In four or five minutes he returned with Mr. Burrell. They both sat down, begged me to be quiet, not to be excited. Mr. Laporte then stated (what I did not know before), that Mr. McCook had on Saturday, I think, approached him in a similar manner to myself.

Last evening, my brother-in-law had come down in the stage, and was put in my room by the landlord. He stated that a gentleman had been there, and left a note for me. I opened it, read it, took it into Judge Laporte's room, and showed it to him; [Here Mr. P. read a note inviting him to No. 22, as his room was engaged.]

Mr. L. advised me by all means not to go into the gentleman's room. I felt like abandoning the whole thing. I observed to Mr. L. that I had better mention this to Mr. Ward, (who had come into his room,) that I had doubts what to do. I stated the matter to Mr. Ward, and he stated my doubts, whether to abandon the project, or receive the money. He said that I should go on—that the thing would not be completed unless carried out in full.

Mr. McCook came to my room about 11 o'clock last evening, and exhibited a bundle of papers and read a list of them, numbering from seven to eight. Mr. Burrell had said to me, if he (McCook) said anything to me, to ask him for a certain receipt, said to have been given for the stock of the Lehigh County Bank. I asked him for it, and he showed me a receipt from the President and Cashier of the Bank for \$100,000, from Moses V. Beach. He said to me—your brother-in-law has come to town.—I said yes—he has gone out. (He had stepped out at my request.) He asked me if I had selected a friend with whom to deposit the money—or would I take it myself? I stated to him that I had not selected any one. He said I wanted to pay you \$250 to-night, and \$250 when the report is made. I said the better way would be to settle the thing on the spot—we probably might not see each other afterwards. He said he would give me his note, endorsed by any one I could name for the remaining \$250. I mentioned that his offer was to deposit \$500—leaving the impression that I would not take a less sum. He stated that he had not the money then—that Mr. Beach, and

the men with whom he acted, and from whom he got the money, were in town, I think at Herr's hotel, and asked me if I could wait for ten or twenty minutes till he could get out, and get the additional \$250? I said it would do as well in the morning. Mr. McCook said it was important to have it settled that night, as the investigation would go on to-day. I mentioned that the Committee on Banks did not meet till after the adjournment of the House, and that my brother-in-law would be in in a few minutes—that it would do as well in the morning—and we parted. I then went to Messrs. Burrell and Laporte, strongly inclined to abandon the project, so far as receiving the money was concerned. Those gentlemen thought it would be a more ample and thorough exposure if I were to receive the money, and I consented to go on.

This morning, at 9 o'clock, as I went up to the barber-shop, I found Mr. McCook in my room. He said he had been waiting for me for some time, and said he had the money. He took off his hat, and took from it a handful of bills of the denomination of 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 dollars; saw them as he counted them over in his lap by the fire; observed the words Plainfield Bank as he counted them over; he counted over \$400—395 in notes, and took from his pocket two qr. eagles to make out the sum.—He remarked that I must wait for the other hundred dollars till the report of the committee was made—he would have to ask me to do it. I unlocked my bureau drawer, where I kept my letters, and remarked, you can put the money there. He done so and left the room.

I instantly rang the bell—the servant came, and I sent him to Mr. Burrell's room to tell him to come; the servant returned and said he was not there, and I sent him for Mr. Laporte. He returned and said he was not where to be found in the house; I then sent for Mr. Buehler, my landlord; I then sent for Mr. Buehler, and asked him to count that money, pointing to it; he said he was very busy, and I said, "I want you to count that money—I have reasons for it—it was paid to me a few minutes ago for my vote in the Committee on Banks, and I intend to take it up to ask the House to make a disposal of it;"—he counted it, and sealed it up in that (here it was produced) package. It may not be improper to state here, that after the offer of the money was made, it was made a matter of great doubt with me whether I should receive it or not, and for the counsel and advice of friends should not have received it.

The cross-examination elicited little new.—The witness, at this stage of the proceedings, avowed that nothing took place at the first meeting to lead him to suspect corrupt intentions, although he testified that after the first interview he had consulted with Mr. Burrell in regard to a probable attempt at bribery. He also stated that Mr. McCook had not told him of any other member of the committee being bribed. In explanation as to whether Mr. McCook named the three who would go for the Bank, he named Messrs. Hiland, Steel and Barber. Hon. JOHN LAPORTE, (Auditor General) sworn.—Mr. Laporte testified to an introduction to Mr. McCook, in January last, by Peter C. Ward, and to his having transacted some pension business for him. That part of the testimony which bears on this case follows:— On Saturday morning last Mr. McCook came to me in Buehler's sitting room, and said your son will be here in a few days—I have written for him. I looked at him somewhat astonished, and asked how did you know I had a son. He said Mr. Ward had told him. He then asked me my son's first name, and when I answered, he said that was his.—He then asked me when he could see me, and said he desired to let me know why he sent for my son. I said I would be in my office after breakfast, and he could see me there. I went up after breakfast, and he came up about 10 o'clock. I asked him into my little office-room, supposing he had something important to communicate—for I had been wondering all the while why he should have sent for my son.— He said he had sent for my son to come here, and he did not want him to do anything that would compromise him as a man or as a Democrat, and he had offered him \$500 to come; he said I am deeply interested in the Lehigh County Bank; there is quite an excitement at Washington in relation to this investigation among our friends, and mentioned the name, among others, of Robert Dale Owen, who, he said, owed his election to Mr. Beach; he then pulled out of his pocket a paper showing the number of papers issued daily and weekly by Mr. Beach; that of the New York Sun, daily and weekly; the Boston Times and Notion, the Bry State Democrat, &c.—calculated in all at equal to three hundred thousand per week. He spoke of his influence; said he had refused an offer to go to Cuba to buy animals, had two offers of consulship, at Madeira, I believe, and had declined them both on account of his extensive business; he said he would deposit \$500 with me to be given to my son when the Committee on Banks should make a favorable report; I told him my son could not leave home; that he had a sick wife, in a very low state of health, and he could not come at all; he then asked me if I could not assist him; I told him no; that I was connected with the administration, and thought it was wrong for any one connected with the administration to meddle with legislation, and that I should not; we were frequently interrupted that morning, more than usual; and finally the Secretary of State came in, and engaged in conversation with Mr. McCook on the subject of Railroads in the West, and he finally left, saying he would see me again; it had not struck me how my son or myself were intended to operate until after he went out.

I went to dinner, and after dinner met him in the bar-room. Cannot say what he first thought we approached each other mutually. We spoke and walked into the parlour. By this time I thought I understood where it was intended my son or myself were expected to operate. I then told him my son could not come.—He said if he had his horses & carriage here, he would have had him here before then, or at least before to-day. He said we had got three of the Committee, and we must have the fourth, and he thought you or your son could operate upon Col. Piollet. He then again operated upon me. I told him I had not been here for ten years and knew very few people, and I was not certain that I could influence Col. Piollet in any way. He said could you use convincing arguments? and again referred to the proposed \$500 deposit. I then referred him to Mr. Burrell. He said Mr. B. Dr. Samuels and Mr. Piollet, I do not know. This conversation began to grow irksome, and John H. Dimmick coming into the room, I said—there is a man, who knows more people here than I do—talk to him—and I got up and went out.—(One thing I forgot to state—