Independent

Republican.

"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

C. F. READ & H. H. FRAZIER, EDITORS.

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For the Independent Republican. MORNING.

BY IDA AFTON, OF DIMOCK.

Monning's rosy light comes dancing
Blithely o'er the sable hills,
Softly in each valley glancing; Bathing in the rippling rills.

Wreathing haloes round the fountain,

Wreathing baloes round the fountain,
Waking ethoes on the mountain,
Sipping dew-drops from bright flowers,
Nesded in fair sylvan bowers—
Langhing, poeping,
Softly creeping,
Through the deep and tangled wild-wood,
Like the fairy steps of childhood. O'er the fragrant meadows glowing.

O'er the traggant meadows glowing,
Where the milk maid trips with glee,
Back her lewy treases flowing,
With the light winds sporting free—
Toving with the bright smiles beaming
Mid the roses sweetly dreaming Neath the sunlight of her eyes. Bright and blue as Summer skies-

Laughing, peoping,
Solly creeping,
Through the garden, grove, and wild-wood,
Like the fairy steps of childhood.

SAVED BY A MIRROR.

It was a very mild winter, and I had traveled a good deal in transacting business, making ready for extensive operations in the coming spring. I had a large amount of money with me on the night of which I speak which I had just collected on a six months? note, of a man who had bought much of me the preceding summer in the city of B--. At the time I received the money, I noticed a fellow standing near who eyed me very closely, as though he was studying my appearance with the intention of recognizing me, if by any chance we should meet again. Thinking from his looks that it might be advisable for me to have the same advantage, L scrutinized his person and countenance hasti-ly, but thoroughly, and he, perceiving himself so much an object of interest, turned upon his heel, and walked away. I had read him through and knew him by heart. He was a slight built, bark complexioned man, with a loose uneasy motion in his gait, which indicated imbecility and vacillation; but one look into his black eye, which had the cunning, intrigue and slealthiness of a Spaniard's, mixed with a certain something which indicated determination, completely altered one's estimation of his character, and set conjecture busy at work in the region of funcy concerning him. But a long and somewhat intimate acquaint-ance with human nature, soon settled my opinion with regard to him, and I made up my mind, to keep my eyes open when in his ricinity, and depositing my money in my; wallet, dismissed the subject from my mind,

and proceeded to my hotel. I little intagined that I was to pass so ing then It examined my apartment thorall prepared, and I could see the leader just mealess for military and all prepared, and I could see the leader just mealess for military apartment thorall prepared, and I could see the leader just mealess for military apartment thorall prepared, and I could see the leader just mealess for military apartment thorall prepared, and I could see the leader just mealess for military apartment thorall prepared, and I could see the leader just mealess for military apartment thorall prepared and in the second sec oughly. It was in the third story, facing the east, and furnished with a single bedstead stand toilet table, two chairs, and a carpet upon the floor. The foot of the bed was to- tol in each hand, ready to blaze away, if any wards the windows, and the toilet table and of them stirred. a large mirror between them; the entrance

to the room from the passage east. no way for any one to get in, save through I'll shoot you like dogs!"

Being somewhat fatigued, I was soon in a sound slumber, dreaming-for sound sleepers do dream-of home, and wife, and child-

I do not know what awakened me, but thought it was the sound of something fallns composed as they are now—for when a of my pistols exploded and he dropped upon way from home the least noise arouses me, and a man don't sleep any sounder with monamong folks he knows nothing about

my room as light as day, but immediately recollected the fact of its facing the east, and looking forth I saw the large full moon beam-

ing in splendor in the starless sky.

Casting a glance around, I saw that one of my pistols was in a reversed position from Dan down with a shot in his right shoulder, what I had left it, and on probing it with a which made him drop his knife, and left me ramrod, discovered that the charge had been with only Bill to contend with. I stood back, drawn, and the cap was also-removed from seized a chair, and whirled it around my the nipple. This startled me not a little. The other had not been touched; but to have one's wedpons tampered with in this way. I hand, and straightened him out on the floor, thought argued anything but good to their for he got hit on the head too. possessor and with the loaded pistol in one

my wearons exposed. and the key in the lock. ought I, the rascals have turned the

key with pliers from the outside.

I drew the key back to examine it, and saw through the key-hole a light, but in an instant it was gone.

Some fellow lodger retiring for the night, I thought; and as my key did not look suspicious, I did not wish to expose my fears to eny thirsty sucker, make myself ridiculous, and lay myself liable to drinks all round the

So I said nothing, trying to assure myself that my pistols were, after all, just as I left them, but I could not satisfy my mind with any conjectures, and determined to sleep lightly the remainder of the night. I now recollected the fellow who saw me take the money and concluded at once that if I made any inuss that night, he would be the fellow I should make it with, especially as I had

seen him since, in the bar-room below. I placed a lead pencil in the door to make a sure thing of it, took my pistols into bed ufter leading the one which caused me so much anxiety, and lay down again, though

with no intention of sleeping.
I listened patiently for a long time, and hearing nothing, was just on the point of dropticking, heard very distinctly, called back

I could not see the door-my back was turned towards it—only by looking in the glass, and there I saw reflected in the full light of the moon, not only the door but a man entering it.

My powers of thought were quickened tenfold. I-did not jump nor start were more I-did not jump nor start, nor move a muscle, that I am aware of, though my first impulse was to leap out of bed immedi ately and blow the fellow's brains out. He was the rogue I expected, the one who saw

me when I took the money.

I did better though by lying still, for close behind him followed another, and after him still another. They made the least noise with which I ever heard human beings move. The ticking I had heard was the foremost one's watch, and it was the only audible voice in the room.

They paused a moment, and one of them

"Close the door, Bill!" This looked suspicious, but the suspicion did not vanish when the leader said very low. but as distinctly as a line cut in steel:

"Dead men tell no tales, but if his money s convenient, we'll let him go to tell his loss. Bill! just rifle them pockets!"

This was addressed to the most brutish looking of the three, a regular animal, who proof of his valor and heroism, as one of the had one of those peculiar leopard-like tages. which have a prodigious bold look, but appear, after all, as though there was a coward behind; a fellow, who if a little worsted would whine like a whipped cur. He ransacked the pockets and found nothing but a handkerchief and a plug of tobacco; he stuck the plug in his pocket.

"He's got his pocket-book under his pilhim, I'm afraid; but look in his boots first, Dan; I don't like to injure bim if it can be

Dan looked the genuine bull dog-I rather admired the looks-into-my-boots which were, of course, anything but successful, and Dan only stand ready to nab his leg and the Government, it is a maladministration of tion could be spared without weakening the "I'll stop him bothering," said Bill. "You arms, while I stick the pillow in his face."

Here's a pretty position, thought I, for a man of my standing in the community; going to have my breath stopped and folks think I died a natural death.

Well! the brute Bill, having amicably

settled the time and manner of my final exit, moved with the same noiseless tread which had characterized all their motions, round to the side of the bed towards which I faced. and the others followed him as still as ever. There I lay, motionless, but with my hands grasping my ready pistols beneath the clothes,

while I watched every movement through my half-closed eyes.

They meant that their actions should be variable custom to look well to my means of simultaneous, so that I should not utter a posed by Mr. Weller: regression to look well to my means of simultaneous, so that I should not utter a defence when liable to an attack, I closely except or give a kick before I was both gagged to military sites, or to placed them, with my kinle, where I could selves in a row, with as much precision as a large defence when with my kinle, where I could selves in a row, with as much precision as a large defence when liable to an attack, I closely except or give a kick before I was both gagged to the saic of certain minutary sites, or to are hereby extended to military sites, or to specific them, with my kinle, where I could be spared without weaklay my hand on them at a moment's warn- company of soldiers, on parade. They were

Quicker than lightning I sprang directly back from off the bed, and stood with a pis Bright said:

"Stand still!" I hissed between my set

Two of the villains, Bill and Dan, seemed them, laid my wallet under the pillow, and perfectly thunder-struck, and instantly to that time, of course, many military posts deposited myself between the clean white drop all idea of having a fight, but I could sec that the other meant to punch me.

His countenance wore the expression of a tiger cheated out of his prey. He cast one sullen glance, and scarcely seeming to strain a muscle, leaped the bed directly for the spot

where I stood.
I uttered a scream, and instinctively drew where I stood. ing. I awoke suddenly, with all my senses back as he did so, and at the same time one the floor mortally wounded.

Seeing my unguarded manner at the ey now, I can tell you, especially when he is stant, both the other fellows, each drawing a knife, sprang for the door at once, well know-As I opened my eyes, I was startled to find ing that in a short time the room would be my room as light as day, but immediately full of the persons who might even now be heard along the halls and passages, and thinking justly, the present was the only chance

of escape.

Again I dodged back and fired, bringing

Gracious! youngster! wasn't there a prethand and knife in the other, I searched the ty sight when the folks came running in as room for my nocturnal visitor, at the same soon as they heard the noise; I'll bet there time cursing my imprudence in thus leaving was! There was Dan flat on the floor, his shirt and coat were wet with blood; there But not a thing could I find which was not was the leader of them tossing and tumbling as I left it. I tried the door. It was locked, in the agonies of death; and there was I pounding Bill with the chair, till his head was

raw and bloody.

When the landlord came in he asked me how the thing came about, and I told him. He sent for a surgeon right away, but it wasn't of any use only for Dan and Bill.

NATURE'S OBJECT IN BEARDS .- To tabou our sinful sex-or to so mark us, on the part of the person always seen, that we cannot unrecognizedly mingle with the more sacred sex in their social privacy—is undoubtedly the main purpose of our hairy masticators. See for instance, how a man who happened to have no beard (and there is now and then such an err-chin among the boys) took advantage of his smooth face to profane that sanctuary of women, a convent! The for-

"A person representing herself as a count Large, vol. 3, page 520. ess de Savatelle has lived for the last forty years, in Versailles, drawing the pension of the deceased countess lady abbess, in retirement, and mixing only in the aristocratic circles of that city. She wore the dress of an abbess, and no one doubted that she was the true Countess and Abbess de Savatelle. A few days ago this person died, and it was

Speech of Hon. G. A. Grow. On the sale of Fort Snelling, delivered in the House of Representatives, June 1st, 1858.

MR. SPEAKER: In the short time I shall trespass upon the patience of the House, I shall not stop to notice the panegyrics pronounced upon the Secretary of War by his friends.-The course of the gentlemen who have spoken in his defense reminds one of what is often seen in criminal courts, when the advocate, throwing aside his brief, appeals to the jury in behalf of his client because of his former virtues and noble character as a man. It is the official conduct of the Secretary of War, and not his private character or past life, that is now passing under scrutiny. When the facts of delinquency of conduct stand upon the record, the criminal at the bar cannot plead against those facts that he has before lived an irreproachable character or past life. If the facts be proven in the record, then the condemnation of the jury passes, and private character or past life cannot be plead in bar of judgment. Arnold himself, up to the time of Andre's arrest by Paulding, Van Wert, and Williams, could have referred to some of the most brilliant achievements upon the bloodiest battlefields of the Revolution in noblest patriots of his country.

What are the facts in this case, and how do they affect the Secretary of War? is the only question involved. It is the mode and manner of this sale that we complain of; and I ogree with the gentleman from Connecticut [AIr. Bishop] that it is a minor consideration what was the amount received for the property. That is not the important considera-'said the leader, "and we've got to burt tion. It is to be considered in determining whether the transaction was conducted fairly or not; and goes only to the integrity of the motive for it. Whenever an executive officer of this Government shall so conduct the affairs of his office, as by collusion, or in any other way, secretly, to give one citizen an advantage over another, in their dealings with tary of War that not one foot of this reservahis office. That is this case. It is not neces defense of the frontier. This was on the 15th sary that there should be an advantage accruing to himself; nor is it necessary, in order to justly deserve the condemnation of the people, that he should personally receive tion. For what purpose? To make a surfilthy lucre. It is not necessary that he should receive any personal advantage in order to make him amenable to an outraged public sentiment. If he so manages the affairs of the Government intrusted to him, as knowingly to give undue and unfair advantage to one citizen over another, he is then ubject to the condemnation of the people. What are the facts in this case? During the pendency of the army bill in the Senate, last to sell the reservation in any way he pleases, session, the didwing amendment was propublic or private. These two agents agree

When this amendment was offered Mr.

"I should like to inquire it there is any provision for a public sale?" "Mr. Weller Those sold under the act teeth. "Did you think to catch arrold drov- of 1819 were sold at auction; but it has Satisfied there was no one in the room, and er so easy? Make the least movement, and been decided that that act was retrospective, and did not apply to any military sites established after the passage of the law. Since

ment; and this amendment is to sell them." "Mr. Bright. At public, or private sale?"
"Mr. Weller. At public sale." ."The amendment was agreed to."-Congressional Globe, vol. 34, page 1046. That is the whole record of the proceedings in both Houses on that amendment attached to one of the regular appropriation bills in almost the last hours of the session. It was the understanding of those who put the pro-

vision into the bill, that there was to be a public sale. Was not the Secretary of War bound to take notice of this intention of the law-making power? The gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. Bishop] says that the law clothed the Secretary with power to sell in any way he pleased, either at public or private sale. Grant that it did. Would that give him the right to sell at secret salo?-This sale was neither a public nor a private one. It comes under the designation of neither. A private sale is where property is sold on offers of purchasers, accepting such offer as the seller thinks best, but with knowledge to purchasers that the property is for sale. But when no one in a whole commufor this that the Secretary of War is arraign- reserve?" ed. Instead of allowing all citizens who de sired to purchase the property, to compete

for it, it was sold without any knowledge in the community that there was to be a sale. What was the law revived by this amendment to the Army bill at the last session ?--

these words: "That the Secretary of War be, and is be sold such military sites belonging to the a military depot?" United States as may have been found to become uscless for military purposes; and the Secretary of War is hereby authorized, on the payment of the consideration agreed for into the Treasury of the United States, to the wants of the country were in a military

The sales which were made under that law were, as Mr. Weller stated in answer to the or some other competent person, whether the question of Mr. Bright, public sales. The reservation could be spared from the militalaw revived by the amendment of the last ry defenses of the country. This he did not session provided for the sale of—what?— do. This is the first act for which we arraign Such military sites as had become useless for him. Next, for ordering a sale in express military purposes. Under the construction opposition to the opinions of those who had of this law, given by the gentleman from the subject in charge, and would be supposed found that the pretended countess was a man! Connecticut, [Mr. Bishop,] the Secretary to know most about it. And thirdly, we arranged in inting any with its immakes without could sell any of your military reservations could sell any or your military reservations anywhere that he deemed useless. The genal whole them are the composition of the sell, instead of giving all citizens an opportunity of his own by the gentleman sell property of his own by the report:

"Question 519." Did you make an examble of the General Government, and in the sale of the gentleman support the convent in intimacy with its inmates, without anywhere that he deemed useless. The gentook in was the looking glass at the toot of the bed.

The sight I saw reflected there, strung my nerves at once to the severest tension, and so vividly did it imprint itself upon my memory that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y the subject to wash out.

The sight I saw reflected there, strung my never at once to the severest tension, and so vividly did it imprint itself upon my memory that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y that I believe the sea of the will never y the sea of the will never y the disposes of the will never y the public property at his own caprice, even the first in mixed with the people as they say. Dr. they was one night under the first to head a right to be a compet the people as they say. The secretary of War in this city, stated he was going to Minnesota. to make some investing the property in the wool of the property in the wool of the will, that would receive no counsel or advice and upon the first one of the people as they say. The first to hellow the secretary of War in this city, stated he was going to Minnesota. to make some invest in the form any unarter, and because of his indomitable wil

military reserves as the gentleman from Connecticut, who devoted much of his time to an effort to prove that this military reservation was no longer needed by the Govern-

Under the law the Secretary could not sell any reservation except such as had become useless for military purposes; but by the doctrine laid down on the other side, he could. and can now, sell any reservation anywhere that he deems useless, no matter what might be the opinion of the most competent military judges as to their importance for national protection or defense. Even if the Secreta-ry of War is made the judge of whether any reservation could be dispensed with, he is responsible for the exercise of a sound judgment, and if he sells to the prejudice of the public service, it is a plain and palpable violation of the spirit of the law. But the same censure-would not, of course, be visited on an error of judgment as for a willful neglect

Now, was the reserve at Fort Snelling neretary had no right to sell it. On the 15th country; because, perchance, he may have to them in salary, and for his services, all oness transaction.

The gentleman from Connecticut complains to the Secretary of War, by Mr. Rice, of of War, or his past history. His conduct for any services. Well, what was done?—

"If this policy is to be adopted, and it is certainly the true policy, not a foot of the site of Fort Snelling can be spared without weakening the defense of the frontier."

Here is an officer who has served the country almost the allotted period of man's life, in high military positions, the officer who had this department of our military service under his inspection, reports officially to the Secreof April, 1857; and yet, immediately following this, the Secretary of War sends Maior

vey, as Major Estman supposed at the time, to ascertain the quality of the land, its value, &c., in order to fix the price at which it should be sold. But before any report on this sub-ject is made, and before the Secretary of War hears from the surveyor, he dispatches another agent, named Heiskell, who meets Eastman in Minnesota. They meet together, and the last agent says he has authority to make the sale—and how? They agree to

it which he was sustained by Colonel Thomas, by General Churchill, and by other officers-concurred in by General Scott, the first military name of the age.

Colonel Thomas, senior officer of General Scott's staff, and acting as inspector general, when he visited Fort Snelling says, in his testimony, page 135:

" Question 460. You say you see no reason to change your views as expressed to the General-in-chief as to the propriety of retaining Fort Snelling as a place of military sup-

itself of Fort Snelling?"

"Answer. I think so." " Question 461. How much do you think

for troops to send out upon an emergency, and as a supply for posts at a distance. It is proceeded to the place, and went to work the sale made to him, when no other citizen important, as you have there all the supplies and the means of transportation."

Question 462. Would it be of more value to the Government than the Government received for it?" "Answer. I think so."

" Question 464. Do you think the Government could, with propriety, and as a mathad consulted on the matter, we came to the ter of economy, purchase back such portions conclusion that it would be better for the ter of economy, purchase back such portions of the property as you have specified as being necessary, for the amount paid for all, if "We determined to seil it at private sale," * * the course of the Secretary of War, and his they could not buy it for less?"

Answer. Yes; I think so." General Churchill, in his testimony, page 282. says:

nity knows that a piece of property is to be sold, and it is sold, that is not a private but the officers connected with your department; a secret sale; and that was this sale. It is consulted as to the propriety of selling that

"Answer. I was not." Question 176. Had you been consulted, would you have advised a disposal of it?" " Answer. I would not."

Major J. G. Martin, assistant quartermaster general in the Army, and who had been The law of March, 1819, thus revived, is in stationed at Fort Snelling for two years, in his testimony, page 355, says:

" Question 2358, (by Mr. Burnett, resumhereby, authorized, under the direction of the ing.) Would you give it as your opion that President of the United States, to cause to Fort Snelling ought to have been retained as

"Answer. Yes, sir." Perhaps the gentleman from Connecticut. [Mr. Bishop] would say that these men thus connected with the Army did not know what make, execute, and deliver all needful instru- point of view. The Secretary of War ascerments, conveying and transferring the same tained from no human being that this was a in fee; and the jurisdiction, which had been useless reservation before he had ordered it to specially ceded for military purposes to the be sold; but on the contrary, he sold it in di-United States by a State over such site or rect opposition to the opinion of some of the eign correspondent of the Boston Post says: sites, shall thereafter cease."—Statutes at most experienced officers in the Army. That is our first complaint. It was his duty to ascertain from the commandant of the position,

parties, could get no answer till after the sale was completed. That is the evidence as tes- ly? tified to by Mr. Smith and Mr. Dillingham.

Now, I ask my friend from Connecticut, [Mr. Bishop,] and his side of the House, if there is not good reason for scrutiny by the Representatives of the people into such acts and highest duty incumbent on the Representatives of the people to watch, with jealous care, the conduct of the executive officers of the Government. It was one of the maxims of the sage of Monticello, that " the price of liberty is eternal vigilance;" and it is not

commission, sent by the Secretary of War, reports that this reserve is not needed— When was that commission organized? After the committee had made its investigation, and reported. The Secretary of War, it seems, unwilling to risk his case on the evidence taken by the committee, at his own it Fort Snelling, and report as to its utility as a military post. A superior officer commands his subalterns to make a report in a case affecting his own reputation, and the character of the service; and they go and perform his bidding, and there I leave their report. They were sent after this evidence ry M. Rice was his agent.

was taken, and the report made. If the Sec. Mr. Grow. Do you say he had not an was taken, and the report made. If the Secretary of War doemed it necessary to have sinterest there? the opinion of military men as to whether the facts as to whether this reserve was useless in order to govern his action in ordering the sale? or was it for his defense against the sale took place, Mr. Steele had acquired the

would send an agent out there to sell it. 1

estimate of what we thought to be a fair any one else except his confederates.

\$90,000. After we had gone that far, the my attention to a portion of the testimony, question arose as to whom we should first of which I will read. This is a part of an agree-Mr. Steele, for these reasons: he had lived Graham, and John C. Mather, on page 456 of there for about twenty years, he had built him a house, and, I believe, had possession of all the private property there." * *

on the 10th of July, I think, \$30,000 on the 000." This was after the sale.

and had desired to sell it, would you have mentioned it to but one individual, and have sold it to him upon your first interview with

own private property I should have managed it entirely differently."

What are the reasons given for selling at private sale, or rather at secret sale? For of there is any significance in words between should probably then have gone to the next that time? "secret" and "private," the former applies man who owned property on the reserve, to this case. Now, what is the reason given who was a Mr. McKenzic. He owned a hoby these agents why they sold at secret sule, 'tel there, &c." They say there would have been a combination to prevent the land from selling for as from Connecticut [Mr. Bishop] wished that

There is no positive evidence that shows that he did know it. But the evidence shows mony. Each member can draw them for that they make this arrangement for its pur. himself. The citizens of the country, pursuthat they make this arrangement for its purchase here in Washington, and Mather gets ing a lawful business, have been wronged by appointed a commissioner to go to Fort Rip the mode and manner of this sale. It is of of the executive officers of the Government? ley, and draws the contract for the agents to that we complain, and for that that blame Inder our form of government, it is the first | sell to Steele, and then returns to Washington to see that the sale is confirmed. Dr. Graham says he was going to Minnesota to quence except as to the amount of reprobamake investments, and that is the reason he tion which the act deserves. He violated asked the Secretary of War the question he the law of Congress in selling public properdid. The evidence shows that he had no ty needed for public use. He trampled money to put into this company, or, at least, down the rights of the citizens of the counfor the representatives of popular liberty to that he did not put in any, but that Mather try, and that, too, under the sanction of the defend or vindicate an executive officer in the and Schell advanced all the money, and that President of the United States, by depriving cessary for the Government? If so, the Sec |clear and flagrant violation of the laws of the | Dr. Graham's interest in it was to be repaid | them of equal opportunities in a fair busi-

Minnesota, for the purchase of Fort Snelling. in this transaction, and that alone, is on trial; As soon as it is determined by the agents to ring this session, arraigned the President and That was three months before the sale. The and, if wrong it is not to be screened by any sell at secret sale, or private sale, as they executive officers. Sir, when the time comes Secretary of War, on this proposition, page 153 of the committee's report, he says:

Andrew Jackson.

Now, I need not take up the time of the committee's report, he says:

Andrew Jackson.

Now, I need not take up the time of the committee's report, he says: Now, I need not take up the time of the House, or weary their patience by any further references to this testimony as to the imon it. He had no legal rights there, of course, when the Executive demands of the Republic.—

When the Executive demands of the Republic.—

When the Executive demands of the Republic.—

When the Executive demands of the Representation in the Republic demands of the Republic.—

The same is not the only reason given for the constitution, we shall be at the verge of the downfall of the Republic.—

When the Executive demands of the Representation is not approximately a state of the research of portance of this post as a military reservation. All the military men examined by the
committee sustain the one idea that Fort
Snelling is important to the country, and
could not be abandoned as a military post at
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could not be abandoned as a military post at
could not be abandoned as a mi present without detriment to the defense of tyethousand dollars, while Steele's was not a warning voice was heard from the tribunal he frontier. Yet the gentleman from Vir. worth more than ten thousand dollars, at the of the people. It is the duty of the Repreinia [Mr. Faulkner] told us that a military highest estimate, and part of the witnesses sentative who is true and loyal to those who put it at six or eight thousand dollars.

Mr. Prelps, of Missouri. McKenzie was heart, to arraign any Executive who deliving in St. Louis. He lived there then, and mands of the Representative, as has been

Mr. Grow. I speak from the 'testimony. I cannot take the word of any member, how- to represent. ever good it may be. The evidence is that instance orders a military commission to vis- McKenzie was living on the reserve, and had to which I desire to refer, and that is as to

to do injustice; and I will say to him that transaction was an underhanded and frauduthe proof shows that McKenzie lived in St. lent one or not. If the property sold for Louis, was not on the ground, and that Hen. much less than its value, the sale being thus

Mr. Phelps of Missouri. Justice to mythis reservation was important to the milital self requires that I should make a statement, It is in that view alone, that the amount re-Why did ne whit this an investigating come relate resuces by the readist and the distribution of the transaction, whether the was interested in property to fix the character of the transaction, whether the character of the transaction of the tr erty on that reserve.

Mr. Phelps, of Missouri. But before this

Mr. Grow. Exactly.

But, sir, how was the sale made? Major terest in the reserve than any one else, and of topographical engineers, in the United Eastman, one of the men who sold it, says, it will not do for the gentleman to raise the States Army, and had been in charge of the in his testimony before the committee, page technicality that McKenzie was not there in Government roads, in Minnesota, from 1851 "Question 1. Please to state all the facts statement of the gentleman from Missouri miles from the fort. I read a part of his tesand circumstances within your knowledge [Mr. Phelps] and from Kentucky, [Mr. Bur- timony, as to the value of this reservation: ply. Do you mean by that that it would be desirable for the Government to repossess touching the recent sale of the military research, as to the whereabouts of his person, is ervation at Fort Snelling, correct. I do not care where he was in per-ervation at Fort Snelling, correct. I do not care where he was in per-ing the fort Snelling with extraction and the fort of the purpose of selling where sent there for the purpose of selling where sent there for the purpose of selling that reservation?

correct. I do not care where he was in perinstructions from the Secretary of War to this reserve. The evidence is, that Steele that reservation? the Government could afford to pay for it to repossess itself of the property?"

"Answer. It is only valuable as a station of the property to the property of the place."

"Answer. It is only valuable as a station of the property to the place."

"Answer. It is only valuable as a station of the place."

"Answer. It is only valuable as a station of the place."

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"Answer. It is only valuable as a station of the place."

"Answer. It is only valuable as a station of the place."

"Answer. It is only valuable as a station of the place."

"Answer. It is only valuable as a station of the place." Now, why was this one man selected, and

immediately. After I had the survey nearly knew that the property was for sale, or could completed, an agent arrived and reported to find out anything about it from the Secretary me, and, at the same time, I received the appointment as agent myself to act with him."

of War, even on formal application, until the pointment as agent myself to act with him."

sale was completed? It is for this conduct him he could not talk in that way to me, a pointment as agent myself to act with mim.

* * * "The instructions were that we arraign the Secretary of War. It is person who had lived five years in Minnesota, as the for the mode and manner of the sale. So ta, and who knew more about the value of agents thought best for the public interest, as the little mode and manner of the sale. So lat, and who allow hold agents thought best for the public interest, far as this point is concerned, we care not land there than he did.

"Question 2602. When that being the best for the Government, and before doing it we determined to make an ting him to buy it, without the knowledge of price realized for any of it would have been,

price or a good price. We fixed the price at As to McKenzie's interest, a friend calls r it to, and we determined to offer it to ment signed by Franklin Steele, Archibald

of all the private property there. - to arrange with Kenneth Alchenzie for his this reservation, the character of a We thought it no more than justice that claim; and, if he requires one hundred and number of acres it contains, &c.? we should give him the refusal of it. We sixty acres of land, (and in no case is it to did so; but he thought the price we had fixed exceed that amount,) he is to be confined to think. I do not think the exact number of was too high, and offered a less sum? We what is known as the Baker claim; and sho'd told him that we could not take less than the said Steele deem it advisable, he is authat amount. He then accepted it, and made thorized, instead of deeding him the land an agreement with us, which was to give aforesaid, to pay him, for the relinquishment \$90,000, \$30,000 of which was to be paid of his entire claim, a sum not exceeding \$15;

on the 10th of July following, and \$30,000 on the 10th of the July next succeeding." * * Steele, stipulated with firm to pay McKen "Question 37, (by Mr. Morris;) If you zie; and it was understood by them that had been the private owner of that property Steele was to purchase McKenzie's interest. Here is further testimony on the subject,

which I read from page 91:

"Question 10, (by Mr. Faulkner.) Did
you afford any opportunity for competition of Fort Snelling as an eligible point for the

"Answer. No, sir; if it had been my at private sale?" at private sale?" "Answer. No, sir. After we had determined to sell it at private sale, we thought it mined to sell it at private sale, we thought it best, for the reasons I have given, to offer it that tract of land was worth, taking into con-

That is the testimony of Major Eastman, much as they could get at a secret sale.

When asked who told them there would

I call his attention to this point, and let us

Robert Smith, a member of this House, who be a combination, Heiskell says Major East | see what he considers cominon sense. Would | speaks from personal acquaintance of the val-

knowledge of the military wants of the country, although they may not be as competent, perhaps, to judge of the usclessness of the honorable member from Illinois [Mr. Smith] a purchaser, rather than a commissioner for poses. That is all the authority which the had written to the Secretary of War two the selling of the reserve. Before he leaves law gives him. Without taking the opinion months before this sale, inquiring if this rest the city he forms a company with Mather to of military men as to whether the reserve drivation was to be sold; and an ex-member of Congress from Vermont (Mr. Dillingham) but formed, composed of Graham, Mather, but also written to make a similar inquiry.

The city is this company, is needed or not, he orders its sale; and he orders its sale; and he orders its sale in such a manner that but one manner that seemed or not, he orders its sale; and he o But the Secretary of War was so busy that they take in Frank Steele, that makes the of it, and he purchases the property, at the they, like every one else, save these favored purchase. How did Dr. Graham know that first offer. The House can draw its own dethis reservation was to be sold thus private- ductions from these facts. It is not my purpose to draw the inferences legitimately de-ducible from the facts disclosed in this testi-

rests upon the Secretary of War. Whether he did it corruptly or not, is of no conse-

sent him here, and to the convictions of his

himself, instead of the people whom he ought There is but one other point, Mr. Speaker, the value of the land; though, in my view a store, a hotel, and other property there.

Mr. Burnett. I am satisfied that the gentleman from Pennsylvania does not intend except so far as it goes to show whether this secret, it would be still more open to the suspicion that there was improper collusion between the power which ordered the sale and the men who purchased the property.-

done by the present Executive, allegiance to

r it was fair and manly, or whether there was collusion for improper purposes. Now, as to the value of the property, I shall cite but few witnesses, and those from both military and civil life, in order that we the sate? or was it for his defense against the testimony impeaching his conduct? Why have a commission to determine whether the reservation was useless after the same was sold?

Sale took place, all Steele had acquired to both military and civil life, in order that we hold interest of McKenzie.

Mr. Grow. I am not arguing on technical may have the opinions of each. I read first from the testimony of Capt. James H. Simple sold? person. I believe that is true, and that the to 1856, and was stationed at St. Paul, a few

"Question 2597. Had you any interview with either of the commissioners who

"Answer. Not previous to the sale, for I was not up at the fort; but subsequent to the sale I saw Major Eastman and had some

conversation about it.
"Question 2598. What was it? Answer. He admitted that the sale had taken place, and he thought the Government

" Question 2602. What, in your opinion, was the value of that tract of land by the acre, taking it as a whole, in June, 1857.? "Answer. If it had been put up in small parcels, I think some portions of it would

To this same point I read from the testimony of Mr. M. C. Smith, who has resided at Minneapolis, a few miles up the river from the fort, for the past three years, and whose business is dealing in land; page 238, is the following testimony: " Question 1341. Are you acquainted with

this reservation, the character of its soil, the "Answer. Yes, sir; pretty definitely, I acres is known. I have heard it more gen-erally estimated at eight thousand acres. Many think it will overrun ten thousand.

" Question 1342. Taking into consideration the character of the soil, its location, and everything, what was the reservation worth per acre for agricultural purposes at the time of the sale? " Answer. Considered exclusively for ag-

ricultural purposes, I should think it would average about twenty five dollars per acre." Page 239:

location of a city or town? " Answer. I do. What would you say

to this gentleman. It he had refused, we sideration its advantages as a town site at "Answer. I should not put it under four hundred thousand dollars, I think it was

worth not far from that." This witness seems to be an intelligent