

MORNING TELEGRAPH.

BY GEORGE BERGNER.

HARRISBURG, PA., SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 1862.

PRICE ONE CENT.

FROM WINCHESTER, VA.

Action with the Rebel Black Horse Cavalry.

Winchester, Va., March 13. While the rebels were engaged in the destruction of the bridge, they came upon a large barn containing a quantity of hay, which was cut up into small pieces and thrown out to the rebels. Our men covered the hay with their rifles and prepared to resist. The rebels, who were about two hundred in number, advanced upon us. At the first volley, they killed two of our men and wounded several others. The rebels then advanced upon us and killed two of our men and wounded several others. The rebels then advanced upon us and killed two of our men and wounded several others.

IMPORTANT MOVEMENT OF THE ARMY.

THE REBEL GENERAL JACKSON AT MIDDLETOWN, VA.

Winchester, Va., March 13.

While twenty-six of our cavalry were engaged in the destruction of the bridge, they came upon a large barn containing a quantity of hay, which was cut up into small pieces and thrown out to the rebels. Our men covered the hay with their rifles and prepared to resist. The rebels, who were about two hundred in number, advanced upon us. At the first volley, they killed two of our men and wounded several others. The rebels then advanced upon us and killed two of our men and wounded several others. The rebels then advanced upon us and killed two of our men and wounded several others.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE SENATE'S ACTION ON IRON CLAD STEAMERS REVERSED.

The Remains of Colonel James Cameron.

PORTER'S BOMB SQUADRON.

WASHINGTON, March 14.

The Senate's action on iron clad steamers has been reversed. The Remains of Colonel James Cameron. Porter's Bomb Squadron. The Senate's action on iron clad steamers has been reversed. The Remains of Colonel James Cameron. Porter's Bomb Squadron. The Senate's action on iron clad steamers has been reversed. The Remains of Colonel James Cameron. Porter's Bomb Squadron.

SUSPENSION OF THE REBEL GENERALS PILLOW AND FLOYD.

MESSAGE OF JEFF. DAVIS.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, March 11, 1862.

Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, has issued a message to Congress regarding the suspension of the rebel generals Pillow and Floyd. The message states that the rebels have committed heinous crimes and that the suspension of these generals is necessary for the safety of the Confederate States.

XXXVIIth Congress--First Session.

WASHINGTON, March 14. SENATE.

Mr. HARRIS (N. Y.) introduced a bill to confiscate the property of rebels, which was referred.

On motion of Mr. HARRIS (Iowa), the bill to authorize the settlement of certain lands sold by the United States in the State of Louisiana was taken up and passed. The case of Senator Powell was taken up. Mr. POWELL said he hoped to treat the subject dispassionately and moderately. He thought his colleague had been rather personal and ungracious. Courtesy might have led his colleague to notify him that he was going to make such a complaint. His colleague had said that he, (Mr. Powell), attended a treasonable meeting in the city of Owens and that he, (Mr. Powell), had been organizing troops to attack Frankfort. The fact was, that he had not been in the county of Owens since 1856, and had no knowledge of Marshall doing any such thing. In fact, he had a letter from Marshall, in which he denied any such thing. If he was as popular in Kentucky as his colleague had said, it was because he had always acted with strict integrity. He denied that he had advocated neutrality with any intention to deceive the people, but had acted honestly. He simply meant to keep Kentucky as a peace-maker for the sake of preserving the Union. He referred to the resolutions adopted at a meeting which Mr. Davis was one of the committee on resolutions. They advocated the adoption of a compromise as an amendment to the Constitution, or else those States that did not adopt it should form a separate confederation, and yet his colleague says he has always been an unconditional Union man. He (Powell) was then in the Senate urging the compromise as a means of peace, but he never hinted at a confederation which would separate the Union. He referred to several other meetings where resolutions were passed to show that the Union men in Kentucky favored neutrality, and the Governor's refusal to raise troops and opposition to coercion, as there was certainly nothing worse than this in anything that his colleague had charged against him. He then read several resolutions of the Legislature of Kentucky in favor of neutrality, and opposing coercion. From all these facts he contended that he, (Powell), had faithfully followed the wishes of the people of Kentucky, and of the very Union party which his colleague enlisted and yet he was to be driven from the Senate by one of his colleagues.

Mr. DAVIS replied to Mr. Powell, defending the Union men of Kentucky, and his own course, and contending that the course of Mr. Powell, especially since the battle of Bull Run, had been in a state of passive hostility to the Government.

Mr. WILKINSON said, as he had presented the resolution, he would say a few words what the resolutions were presented to him. He looked them over and concluded that no loyal man could preside over such a meeting that passed resolutions like these in charge against Powell. But the question had taken a curious turn, and he had listened with attention to the remarks of Senator Powell, from which it appears that the whole people at one time advocated the doctrine of neutrality, and perhaps the Senator might have been actuated by the same feelings as actuated many who now are Union men, and he, Wilkinson, had now little feeling about it one way or the other. Mr. TRUMBULL (Ill.) said the committee had reported against the expulsion not because they believed in the doctrine of neutrality, for they thought it mischievous and wholly unnecessary. But the whole people of Kentucky seemed to take that position, and the United States government at least paid some respect to it, but at the time came when the people of Kentucky had to go one side or the other, and traitors went on the side of the Provisional government, but the Senator came to the Government of the United States, and has discharged his duties here; and although opinions differ from the majority, yet that did not cause expulsion, and there was no evidence before the committee to show that since the battle of Bull Run, the Senator had taken that position, the Senator had committed any overt act of favoring the rebellion. These considerations governed the committee in their report. Mr. THE YUK could not see how a Senator of the United States, as late as the tenth of September, could counsel the State to resist the United States in an attempt to come into that State to crush out the rebellion. A vote was then taken on the resolution to expel.

The yeas and nays were as follow:

YEAS--Messrs. Davis, Dixon, Harlan, Howard, Howe, Lane, (Ind.), Fomero, Sumner, Tappan, Wade and Williams. NAYS--Messrs. Anthony, Browning, Carlisle, Clark, Cowan, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Hale, Harris, Henderson, Kennedy, King, Lane, (Kansas), Latham, McDougal, Nesmith, Pearce, Rice, Sausbury, Stark, Thompson, Trumbull, Wiley, Wilson, (Mass.), Wilson, (Mo.) and Wright--28.

The Senate then went into executive session, and adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. Sedgwick, the House took up the Senate joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress and the American people to Com. Foote, and the officers and men of his flotilla, for the gallantry exhibited by them in the recent naval victories. Mr. SEDGWICK briefly urged its passage. He said Com. Foote was employed in a dangerous service and if he should fall his heirs may remember with grateful recollections the thanks voted to him to-day. The resolution was unanimously passed. The Senate's resolution tendering thanks to Capt. Worden, was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs. Mr. CAMPBELL, from a special committee, reported the Pacific railroad bill and it was made this special order one week from Tuesday next.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

New York, March 14. Cotton steady, sales of 600 bales at 27 1/2 @ 28. Flour heavy, sales of 15,000 bbls. Wheat firm, sales of 22,000 bu. at 40 for red. Corn firm, sales of 42,000 bu. at 59 @ 61. Pork quiet at 18 50. Bacon firm. Hogs quiet. Lard unchanged. Whisky steady, at 25 1/2 @ 26. Government securities active.

STATEMENT OF ALEXANDER CUMMINGS.

In reply to the charges contained in the Report of the "Van Wyck Investigating Committee."

HON. WILLIAM D. KELLEY.

Member of Congress, Fourth District, Pa. A severe and protracted illness, from which I have as yet only partially recovered, has prevented me, until now, from responding to, or in any way noticing, the extraordinary assault upon my character, contained in the report of the "Van Wyck Committee," made to the House of Representatives on the 17th of December last. I embrace the earliest moments of returning health to meet and refute the unfounded allegations contained in that Report.

I address you because I am your constituent--long and well known to you--and need no further commendation. I ask you, therefore, upon the first fitting occasion, when this subject may be before the House, to introduce this letter, that it may have the same publicity with the slanders that have been uttered against me. Towards the middle of December, not long after Congress had convened, hearing, greatly to my surprise, through a friend, that the Report of the Committee about to be made, contained statements injuriously affecting my reputation, I came to Washington from a sick bed, against the earnest protest of my physician, with the view of seeing the members of the Committee, to ascertain, if possible, what was the question, if any, in my mind, in relation to my transactions. I waited in person upon a majority of the members of the Committee, although scarcely able to leave the hotel; and, while I obtained no information, yet I inferred, from certain circumstances, that they were about to allege some discrepancies in relation to my accounts. I knew, if the accounts were all before them, that there could be no complaint alleged against me, and earnestly requested the delay of the Report for a short time, stating to them that I would dispatch a messenger to New York, to send a special messenger to New York, Mr. Blatchford, who had in his possession facts and vouchers which would relieve me from the slightest suspicion in relation to the transactions which have received the animadversion of the Committee, and which I understood they were about to criticize. Though refusing, by a vote of the majority of those present, to grant my request on these urgent, specific, and manifestly just grounds, and instructing their chairman to make the Report forthwith, it happened, to some accident, that the Report was delayed for the length of time I desired, during which interval Mr. Blatchford arrived in Washington, for the express purpose of appearing before the Committee. I immediately and personally communicated the fact of Mr. Blatchford's presence to the Committee.

I was advised by a physician in Washington, who was in constant attendance upon me, and warned by my own knowledge of my condition, that I would speedily return home. I left Washington, not entertaining a doubt that Mr. Blatchford, who remained there, would be called upon by the Committee to furnish the important information I had assured them was in his possession, and which would have saved me from the least suspicion of wrong. The public will be surprised, as I have been, to learn that Mr. Blatchford was not allowed to appear before the Committee, until after the Report, with all its reckless errors and glaring misstatements, was launched upon the House and the country. I submit to you whether there ever was conducted more unjustifiable.

My illness--a severe attack of gastric fever--proved of long continuance, and for a considerable portion of the period of doubtful result, with utter inability and entire prohibition to even think of business of any kind whatever. During all this time, unconsciously to myself, the misrepresentations of the Committee have been poisoning the public mind. I have but quite recently been able to leave my room, and I have written the last three days, for the first time, even since a copy of the Report. It is only since my arrival in Washington that I have learned of the extent of its injurious character. You may judge, if you can, how I have been astounded at its contents. The extraordinary and unprecedented course of the Committee seemed to flow from a desire which, wronged as I have been, I will not impute to them, to produce an immense sensation with partial and unproven facts; and that course has given rise to an impression which the Committee owe it to themselves and the country promptly to remove, that they did not, and of purpose excluded the testimony of one of the most prominent citizens of New York, lest it should in any way conflict with the supposed developments with which they appeared to be eager to startle Congress and the people.

For myself, the best reply, and the most comprehensive and conclusive defence will be contained in a simple, brief and impartial recital of all the transactions referred to by the Committee. So rapid has been the current of events, and so fleeting is memory, that it is necessary by way of reminder, to recall the exact condition of the country at the period referred to. Rebellion had not only engulfed all south of the Potomac, but the insurrectionary spirit had spread over Maryland, seized its metropolis and cut off all communication between the capital of the nation and the loyal portion of the people. The terror and the panic throughout the land for the fortnight succeeding the tragedy in Baltimore, on the 19th of April, were appalling, and well nigh paralyzing to the national authorities at Washington. The national authorities at Washington were astonished and perplexed, and scarcely knew which way to turn for relief. They had found the officers of the regular army and navy deserting them by scores, and enlisting under a traitor ensign; and they knew not whom to trust, even among those that retained an outward allegiance to the "old flag"--many of whom, by subsequent desertion, have justified the suspicions then entertained of their loyalty. In this perilous emergency, the corporation of the city of New York, prompted by the impulse of the popular mind, came forward with an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the national defense; and the authorities at Washington--so soon as they could in any way convey a communication to New York--called to their aid persons intimately known to them, in whose judgment and integrity they had confidence, and of whose patriotic loyalty there was not a tinge of doubt. In pursuance of this design, measures were adopted by the Treasury and War Departments, (and the Navy, also), as set forth in the following communications:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, April 24, 1861.

RELYING upon your well-known integrity and devotion to the best interests of the country, the President has this day authorized an advance to be made to you of \$2,000,000 as a fund from which legal and proper demands upon the Treasury may be met without the delay consequent upon the present interruption of all regular communication with this Department. Two drafts for \$1,000,000 each have this day gone forward, which will place such sum to your credit with the Assistant Treasurer at New York. The purpose of this fund is to meet only such regulations as may be directly consequent upon the military and naval measures necessary for the defense and support of the Government. You are therefore authorized and requested to pay such demands upon you, within the above limit, as are presented to you by the duly constituted agents of the Government. The Department doubts not your willingness to render every assistance in your power in the unprecedented state of affairs. Wherever you may be, you will all unite in each other's efforts to support the Government, such united action cannot be a majority may exercise the full authority given to the whole; and if an extraordinary emergency shall create a necessity for it, any one may do so.

Very respectfully,
(Signed,) S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Messrs. JOHN A. DIX,
GEORGE OGDYKE,
R. M. BLATCHFORD, New York.

APRIL 21, 1861.

DEAR SIR: You will receive another letter from me with this.

We shall need supplies to a very large amount sent here from New York, since the interruption to purchases in Baltimore. They will, I think, much of them, have to come via Easton, Reading, Harrisburg, and the rest by sea, via Annapolis. I have called on Thomas A. Scott to take charge of the railroads, and I want you to be the agent of the quartermasters in pushing forward their supplies, as well as in holding them in making purchases at or from New York.

We need men here without delay, and supplies should accompany them if possible.

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, April 23, 1861.

In consideration of the extraordinary emergencies which demand immediate and decisive measures for the preservation of the national credit and the defense of the Government, I hereby authorize Edwin D. Morgan, Governor of the State of New York, and Alexander Cummings, now in the city of New York, to make all necessary arrangements for the transportation of troops and provisions of war in aid and assistance of the officers of the army of the United States until communication by mail and telegraph is completely re-established between the cities of Washington and New York. Either of them, in case of inability to consult with the other, may exercise the authority hereby given.

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Under the authority thus conferred, purchases of clothing, arms, and other supplies were made by me, and ships were chartered to carry troops, &c., to the gross amount of \$221,784,40, for which I have filed in the Treasury Department vouchers in detail--a full statement of all which was furnished to the Committee in New York in September last. And I told them at the same time that the remainder of the vouchers were in the hands of Mr. Blatchford, for other purchases made by my authority, which would complete the whole account. The balance in my hands, \$38,182, was subsequently deposited with Mr. Chase, the Assistant Treasurer at New York, for which I have his certificate; a copy of which is filed in the Treasury Department. The vouchers and certificates together amount to \$259,928 01. The vouchers in the hands of Mr. Blatchford, which he had with him when here in December, and ready to exhibit to the Committee, as I assured them, with a balance in his hands of about \$8,000--since deposited with the U. S. Treasurer in New York--amount to the sum of \$165,071 99--making all together, three hundred and ninety thousand dollars--which was the total amount drawn from that portion of the two millions placed in the hands of Messrs. Dix, Blatchford and Odyke, subject to the draft of Gov. Morgan and myself, for the purposes indicated in the above letters.

The vouchers in the hands of Mr. Blatchford, which I have before stated, the Committee so unreasonably and ruthlessly refused even to look at, contained not only the authority of the name of Mr. Blatchford himself, but most of them are endorsed by the signatures of Moses H. Grinnell, Captain Charles H. Marshall, and Samuel Sloan, all alike eminent for their integrity and intelligent devotion to the interests of the country. Many of the articles whose purchase is thus endorsed by these vouchers, were bought under the direction of General Wool and General Dix; and not a small portion were directly purchased by General Wadsworth in person, for the purpose of freighting the steamer Kill-von-Kull, which he sent forward with these stores for the relief of the Government; all of which the Committee would have seen if they had yielded to my importunity and called Mr. Blatchford, and thus the whole question of the rightful expenditure of all the money would have been disposed of.

It is thus made evident, by authentic and well-attested vouchers, that the money drawn from the two-million fund was honorably expended for what was thought to be, and really was, the necessity of the Government. It is made equally evident that the statement of the report--still more plainly and offensively repeated in Congressional speeches by members of the Committee--that a large balance of \$140,000 was retained in my possession, is destitute of the slightest semblance or shadow of truth--the only ground for which at any time, seems to have been a singular misapprehension on an ingenious and willful alteration of the language of my note to the Committee, and appended to my testimony the note, as written to the Committee, and which is now in my possession, is literally and legibly as follows. Mark the words:

"There retained--under authority of the Secretary of the Treasury--by Messrs. Dix, Blatchford, and Odyke, one hundred and forty thousand dollars, besides what I have stated in my testimony, which is accounted for by the vouchers."

The original draft of the note, still in my possession, is as follows: "There was retained--under authority of the Secretary of the Treasury--by Messrs. Dix, Blatchford, and Odyke, one hundred and forty thousand dollars, besides what I have stated in my testimony, which is accounted for by the vouchers."

In obviating my very hastily for the Committee I seem to have omitted the word "was"; but the least intelligent reader would in an instant have supplied it, and indeed without it the meaning is entirely plain.

The Committee, in their report, printed it as follows, and founded upon their version an argument that I had possession of \$140,000. Their whole line of argument and injurious deductions is thus based upon an alteration of my language:

"I have retained, under authority of the Secretary of the Treasury, by Messrs. Dix, Blatchford and Odyke, one hundred and forty thousand dollars, besides what I have stated in my testimony, which is accounted for by the vouchers."

It will thus be seen that in changing the word "there," to the words "I have," the Report not only reduced the language of the note to an absurdity, but, so far as it left any meaning in it at all, it changed the depository of the \$140,000 from Messrs. Dix, Blatchford and Odyke, (by whom it was held by proper authority, to myself, who, according to their insinuations, retained it without vouchers of any character whatever.

It is thus made evident, and independently of this, a critical exposition of the alteration of my language by the author of the Report, from which I have been suffering, I have happily at command official papers sustaining, in whole and in detail, my statement on this point--all of which Mr. Blatchford would have exhibited to the Committee if he had been allowed to appear before them.

The original deposit of the \$2,000,000 in New York, by Secretary Chase, (made upon the official requisition of the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy, for \$1,000,000 each), and the authorization, by Secretary Cameron, to use that portion appropriated to the War Department, were procedures growing out of the imperative necessity of the hour, and justified by this necessity, as at least partially conceded by the Committee in their Report. When the exigency was removed, by the re-establishment of communication between the loyal States and the capital, the deposit of the money was very properly withdrawn by Secretary Chase, as will be seen by the following letter:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, 6th May, 1861.

GENTLEMEN: Regular communications with New York having been established, although not as frequent nor as rapid as heretofore, thus removing the absolute necessity which existed on the 24th April last for special disbursing officers in the city of New York, and referring to my letter of instructions of that date, I request that such sum as may be remaining in your hands of the amount of \$2,000,000 advanced to you on that date, to meet legal and proper demands upon the Treasury, may be deposited with the Assistant Treasurer at New York to the credit of the Treasury of the United States; and that you will, as early as practicable, render your account with the vouchers to the Department, that the same may be promptly settled.

There is no doubt that your report, when received, will be entirely satisfactory, and that your proceedings will be found to have been in accordance with the high estimation entertained of you by this Department.

You will please consider this as a revocation of the authority given in my letter of the 24th ult., and accept the thanks of this Department for your patriotic services.

I am, very respectfully,
S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Messrs. DIX,
BLATCHFORD and
ODYKE, New York.

To which Messrs. Dix, Blatchford, and Odyke replied, stating that there were outstanding vouchers amounting to about \$140,000, which amount they had retained, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

In rejoinder, these gentlemen received the following telegraphic communication:

"WASHINGTON, May 11th.

Your reservation of fund to meet requisition of War Department, through Mr. Cummings, approved.

"S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury."

It was to this sum, and to the action in relation to it, that I referred in my note, so strangely garbled and misused. I referred to it because it was in addition to what had been at first expended, as I discovered on examining my papers, having endeavored in vain to induce the committee to allow me to furnish them the vouchers and papers, instead of relying on my recollection; and I wrote the note that there might be an appearance of an omission. But the whole is in relation to it, that this sum "is accounted for by the vouchers," which seemed to render it impossible for any misapprehension; and I think now that no fair mind could have misapprehended it, and certainly no honest mind would have altered it.

All these facts, so perspicuous, so undeniable, and so conclusive, as to the rightful retention and appropriation of the \$140,000--with the knowledge and sanction of the authorities of the Government--could have been had by the committee had they been willing even to hear the testimony of Mr. Blatchford, who had all the papers necessary to a full understanding of the case, as previously stated.

It should be remembered that during all my interviews with the members of the Committee I had not the remotest idea of what they were about to complain of. I was never once asked to explain a syllable about the \$140,000, nor was it hinted to me that that was a question in their minds; and, indeed, I had been assured that they had no serious complaint to make against me.

The simple statement of these facts convicts the Committee of such gross and reckless injustice, that I do not feel called upon to stamp it or characterize it with the deserved and appropriate epithets.

If it be alleged that this alteration of which I complain was a mistake, unwittingly and not wilfully made, then, I ask, why did not the Committee recall me, to ascertain the meaning of the note which their alteration had reduced to nonsense; or, worse still, why did they refuse so pertinaciously to hear Mr. Blatchford, whose statement I assured them would make everything perfectly plain?

to adopt extraordinary means for that purpose; and having full confidence in your intelligence, experience, and integrity, you were authorized to make all necessary arrangements for the transportation of troops, &c., in aid and assistance of the officers of the army of the United States, until the re-establishment of communication, by mail and telegraph, between the cities of New York and Washington.

Uninterrupted communication between the two cities being now as in established, and it being desirable that the duties heretofore attended to by you should be hereafter performed by the officers of the army, to whom they properly belong, I beg to tender you the thanks of this Department for the very prompt and efficient manner in which you have discharged the duties assigned you, and to request you to cease making purchases, procure transports, or attending to other duties under authority given, which could be justified only by the emergency, and now happily no longer existing.

Respectfully yours,
SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

Gov. E. D. MORGAN, and
ALEXANDER CUMMINGS, Esq.,
New York City.

I have thus, by a plain statement of facts, accompanied by official documents from the Treasury and War Departments, disposed of the principal calumny of the Report. In looking back over the history of the last few months, it seems really marvellous that any portion of the public could have believed so preposterous a story--which has been so industriously related through the agency of this Report--as that the large sum of \$140,000 of the public money would have been allowed by the vigilant and honest head of the Treasury Department, to remain in any hands unaccounted for.

I have this satisfactory reflection: that, notwithstanding the criticisms of the Committee about the looseness of these transactions, and the account pertaining to them, they never could have been taken up for settlement without a perfect vindication of my character in relation to the whole affair. My note, as altered might have remained unexplained, but nothing else. The facts and figures are in proper order, and would speak for themselves in all time, with or without my presence, and I so assured my friend, to whom I have alluded in the first part of this letter, who was alarmed for my sake, by the rumor that seemed to have leaked out of the Committee.

I might also here, but for the labored attempt to give relief and comfort, in language, the integrity of my purpose, by attempting by insinuation to fix a stigma upon me or some of the minor acts connected with the execution of my trust. Of these, the one most harped upon is the purchase of linen pantaloons and straw hats for the troops. It is not alleged that a high price was paid for these articles; on the contrary, it is well known that they were purchased at a very low rate--being about ninety cents a pair for the pantaloons, and sixteen cents a pair for the hats. The most, therefore, that can be charged in this affair, and others of similar character, is an error of judgment. On that point I am not sensitive; but I may be excused for still believing that large bodies of men, suddenly transferred from the northern climes of Maine and Michigan where the chill of winter was still upon them, to a latitude where the heat was ranging from seventy-five to eighty degrees, would find great relief and comfort in the purchase of such articles. It is not to be supposed that the men were not sensible to the danger of sudden overheating and sun stroke--many cases of which actually occurred--by the reasonable clothing thus provided. These men were not soldiers, in the technical sense of that term, long sojourned to woolen uniforms, but they were volunteers from all the walks of life; and in New York, and in Washington, also, at that time, it was thought sensible to provide for them such clothing as in similar climate they would provide for themselves. They were of the best living in like manner with the members of this Committee, adapting their clothing to the change of the seasons--a fact which seems to have been utterly forgotten by the Committee. The eagerness with which the articles in question were sought by the troops--who would have been glad to purchase them at the price they were procured by the Government--may be quoted as some proof of the wisdom of the purchase. They were no more outside of the army regulation than the purchase of winter clothes for the soldiers on picket duty. The Committee, it is fair to presume, from their action on this question, would let the soldier's fingers freeze fast to their musket-locks rather than have a sound discretion exercised in such an emergency. So much for that large point which occupies a considerable portion of the Report, and whose vast importance has called forth speeches in both Houses of Congress!

With regard to the purchase of ale, about which so much is said, the same character of reply, to some extent, may be made. No one will deny that it might have been made useful both in the hospitals and out of them; and I doubt not it was used advantageously. But if it were not, it is surely no fault of mine.

The accusations of the Report do not stop with these matters with which I was connected, but there seems to be a desire to drag me into others with which I had no connection whatever. Of these the most unjustifiable is the insinuation that I had some connection with the chartering of the steamer Cataline--an insinuation made indirectly, but significantly, after I had on oath sworn that I had no connection whatever, in any way, direct or indirect, with that steamer, nor even knowledge of its ownership or charter. I repeat that avowment in the most emphatic and unqualified manner. This avowment is in no way affected by the note which the Committee publish, showing that I had ordered freight on board of the Cataline. She had been chartered by Colonel Tompkins, U. S. Quartermaster at New York, as the Committee ascertained, and I told them that it was very likely some of the articles I had purchased were forwarded by her, because they were sent by any vessel that was in the service and ready to go. In the note which the Committee parade, in connection with this subject, two other vessels are named as well as the Cataline--the Roanoke and the Chesapeake, as having freight on board from me; and I have not, to this hour, the remotest idea of who made them then or now, nor who chartered them for the Government; and I knew no more of the Cataline than I knew of them. It was not at all necessary, nor hardly even within my province, to inquire who owned or chartered them.

Without going farther into detail upon the various matters embraced in the report of the Committee, I content myself with the declaration that the money expended by myself and those with whom I was associated, was disbursed economically and wisely; and that in the whole vast outlay that has attended this war, it is no instance less than the Government more fully of more fully got its money's worth, or the disbursing agents more strictly and conscientiously discharged their duty.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 7, 1861.

GENTLEMEN: The extraordinary emergency which demanded immediate and decisive measures for the preservation of the national credit, and the defense of the national government, rendered it necessary for this Department