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The Patriot & Union.

MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 13 1863.

THE CAMERON BRIBERY CASE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE TRUTH OF CHARGES MADE BY T. JEFFERSON BOYER, MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE FROM CLEARFIELD COUNTY, OF ATTEMPTS MADE BY GEN. SIMON CAMERON, DIRECTLY, AND THROUGH THE AGENCY OF COL. JOHN J. PATTERSON AND WILLIAM BROBST, TO BRIBE BOYER BY THE OFFER OF MONEY AND PROMISES OF A LUCRATIVE APPOINTMENT, TO VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SAID SIMON CAMERON TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

TESTIMONY OF JONATHAN H. HANCOCK.

JONATHAN H. HANCOCK being duly sworn, testified as follows:

By Mr. Kaine. Where do you reside?

Witness. In Luzerne county, and was formerly a merchant at Keipton; I am engaged in no business now.

By Mr. Kaine. How long have you been in this city?

Witness. About three months.

By Mr. Kaine. Were you in this city at the time and before and after an election for an United States Senator, on the 13th day of January ultimo?

Witness. I was.

By Mr. Kaine. Will you now state, sir, what you know, if any thing, of what efforts were made or influences used to procure the election of any particular man or men for the position of United States Senator?

Witness. I heard something through this man Mr. Brobst. He said to me that Mr. Cameron had been seen by him at Lewisburg, his place of residence; I am not positive whether he said they met at Williamsport or Lewisburg; that there was an arrangement made with a Democratic member to vote for him (Simon Cameron) for United States Senator; some days afterwards he (Brobst) told me it was a member from Clearfield; I told him the last conversation I had with him he said this member from Clearfield would stand up and vote for him (Cameron) at all hazards; I think there was also something said about the price to be paid that was to secure another member or so—two or two members, I am not certain; I asked him what the amount would be, he said that he had the thing certain, and would not be willing to give more than five thousand apiece for the other men.

By Mr. Barger. When did this first conversation occur?

Witness. It was before the meeting of the Legislature.

By Mr. Kaine. When did those other conversations occur?

Witness. After the meeting of the Legislature, some five or six days before the election of the United States Senator.

By Mr. Kaine. How long was the time of the meeting of the Legislature until the election of the United States Senator, how often did you see Mr. Brobst?

Witness. I think I saw him every day when he was in town; he roomed with me for some two or three weeks; some days he was away; once he went to Berks county, or at least he said he went there.

By Mr. Kaine. At any of the conversations with Mr. Brobst, did he tell you the name of the member who was to vote for Mr. Cameron?

Witness. He did not; I never asked him; he told me it was a member from Clearfield county.

By Mr. Kaine. Did he tell you anything that occurred between him and the member from Clearfield at any of his meetings, and if so, what?

Witness. He told me that he and Mr. Cameron had met the member from Clearfield, and had made the arrangement.

By Mr. Barger. Did he tell you what that arrangement was?

Witness. Nothing more than that they had secured his vote for Mr. Cameron for United States Senator; he did not give me details.

By Mr. Kaine. How often had you conversations with Mr. Brobst on this subject?

Witness. I had a great many.

By Mr. Kaine. Had you any conversation with Mr. Brobst on this subject since the election?

Witness. No, sir; the last conversation I had with him was on the morning of the election or the evening previous thereto.

By Mr. Barger. How long have you known Brobst?

Witness. I never met him until I came here; I have known him three months.

By Mr. Barger. How was it that Brobst came to disclose to you his arrangements?

Witness. I don't know; we roomed together and became very intimate, and talked over his affairs.

By Mr. Barger. Did Mr. Brobst disclose to you how he was to be benefited by this affair?

Witness. I think he said that he could make a good thing out of it; he said if his friends would go in and assist and succeed in electing Mr. Cameron they would all be served; they would be remunerated in some shape or card for.

By Mr. Barger. Did he say to you what his immediate reward or benefit would be?

Witness. He did not; he simply said to me that he had authority to use money to accomplish this purpose, if necessary; he did not tell me from whom he had authority, but he handed me two blank checks on the Cameron Bank, (State Bank), and told me to fill one for five thousand dollars and the other for one thousand dollars; I did so; this was in the evening, four or five days before the election.

By Mr. Barger. Were those checks signed by any person?

Witness. No, sir; I asked him what he intended doing with them; he said that if he met the person who had engaged to meet him he would use them to advantage.

By Mr. Barger. Did you see any other checks in his possession, or fill up any others for him?

Witness. I saw him have other blank checks, but did not fill up any others.

By Mr. Barger. How does it happen that you and Mr. Brobst have had no conversations on this subject since the election?

Witness. I really don't know; he seems to have avoided me since the election; we had no difficulty; we were on the most friendly terms before; he has passed me several times on the street without recognizing me.

By Mr. Barger. Did Mr. Brobst ever tell you what arrangement he had with Simon Cameron in relation to this matter?

Witness. I think he told me on one occasion on his return from a visit to Simon at his house, or in town, that if Mr. Cameron was elected United States Senator, he (Brobst) would be comfortable for life.

By Mr. Barger. Be good enough to tell us if he said, at any time, that he had the authority of Simon Cameron to use money to secure his (Cameron's) election to the United States Senate?

Witness. He has told me, repeatedly, that any arrangement he might make, within reasonable amount, to secure a vote for Simon Cameron for United States Senator, would immediately be complied with by Cameron.

By Mr. Barger. Be good enough to tell us if he said, at any time, that he had the authority of Simon Cameron to use money to secure his (Cameron's) election to the United States Senate? Please answer directly, yes or no.

Witness. He has told me that he had authority of Mr. Cameron to use money?

By Mr. Barger. Did he ever tell you how much money Simon Cameron had authorized him to use?

Witness. He did not; he has frequently told me that he could not expect any great sum; that five thousand dollars was enough for any one man; that was all that they could afford to pay for one vote, as they had it secure any way.

By Mr. Kaine. Did Brobst tell you at any time what was his business at Reading?

Witness. I think he told me, on his return, that he met a member or a couple of members there, and that that the thing was all right.

By Mr. Kaine. Had you any meeting yourself with Simon Cameron on this subject?

Witness. No, sir, I have not spoken with him for ten years, but was invited several times by Mr. Brobst to meet him, but could not make it suit; I would have met him if convenient.

By Mr. Beebe. Did Mr. Brobst say to you at any time that he had or could have the votes of any other members than the member from Clearfield, for Mr. Cameron, for a money consideration?

Witness. He did; I think there were two; he said they were poor, wanted money, and could be reached, and that he had unbounded influence over them.

By Mr. Beebe. Give their names.

Witness. I cannot remember their names or localities.

By Mr. Brown. During the three months which you have been in the city of Harrisburg have you been in any business here?

Witness. I have not, but came here to find business.

By Mr. Brown. Have you any family?

Witness. I have none.

By Mr. Brown. Where have you boarded since you have been in the city, and how has your time been occupied in the meantime?

Witness. I boarded at Herr's hotel, and spent my time traveling about the city, taking a little exercise, as anybody would.

By Mr. Brown. How did you obtain the confidence of Mr. Brobst?

Witness. I met him; he was a free and easy kind of a fellow, and unusually communicative when he had whiskey aboard; I sometimes indulged myself, and we mutually came together.

By Mr. Brown. Did you make any propositions to Brobst or did he make any propositions to you, by which you were to be benefited?

Witness. I did not make any propositions to him, as I had none to make; he said that if Simon Cameron was elected United States Senator we would all be rich, and I was included in the number.

By Mr. Brown. Can you state why Mr. Brobst included you with those who were to be made rich?

Witness. I can't tell; he was in one of his liberal moods into which he gets sometimes.

By Mr. Brown. Did you give Mr. Brobst to understand that you would act with him in the matter of bringing about the election of Mr. Cameron?

Witness. I presume I did favor the project; he represented that there was a vast amount of money in it.

By Mr. Brown. State whether you did entertain any expectation of receiving any profit or advantage from the election of Mr. Cameron?

Witness. That is a difficult question to answer; I cannot say that I did; I could not see it.

By Mr. Brown. Do you mean to be understood as saying that you had no hopes of receiving any benefit or advantage, directly or indirectly, from the success of Brobst's efforts to secure the election of Cameron?

Witness. I have answered this question once in a different way, but I have always had the assurance of Mr. Brobst that if Mr. Cameron was elected that I should share the spoils; that is, in taking care of his friends.

By Mr. Brown. In your conversations with Brobst was the necessity of secrecy talked about, and did you have a mutual understanding that whatever occurred should be kept secret?

Witness. Mr. Brobst always impressed upon me, in every conversation, that it was important to keep it secret.

By Mr. Brown. Did you concur in his opinion?

Witness. Yes, sir, as far as I could consistently.

By Mr. Brown. When and to whom did you first communicate what had taken place between you and Mr. Brobst?

Witness. I decline answering this question.

By Mr. Brown. State your reasons for declining to answer the question.

Witness. I might as well answer the question as to give you the reason for declining to answer, and consequently I decline answering.

By Mr. Brown. Did you tell any person or persons, before coming before the committee, of the conversations which you had with Mr. Brobst relative to the election of United States Senator?

Witness. I decline answering.

JONATHAN HANCOCK.

TESTIMONY OF SMITH FULLER.

SMITH FULLER being duly sworn according to law, testified as follows:

By Mr. Beebe. Where do you reside and what is your present business here?

Witness. I reside in Fayette county, and am at present a member of the State Senate.

By Mr. Beebe. What interviews had you, if any, with General Simon Cameron in reference to the election of United States Senator, and with others on the same subject, and please state what occurred?

Witness. The Republican caucus had a meeting on the evening prior to the election of the United States Senator, preparatory to the nomination of a candidate for United States Senator, at which meeting a committee of five members of the Legislature, (members of the caucus), viz: Messrs. Laporte, Smith, of Philadelphia, and M'Murtrie, of Blair, of the House, and Hiestand and myself of the Senate, were appointed, I being chairman of the committee; the duties with which that committee was charged were to ascertain whether any Republican nominee of that caucus would be available for success on the next day, and if not, whether any Democrat could be nominated, whether any Democrat could be secured, in disregard of these duties, the committee, immediately after the adjournment of the caucus, divided, two of them, Col. M'Murtrie and myself, visiting General Cameron that evening at the residence of his son; the balance of the committee visited Mr. Wilcox at his hotel, the Jones House, that evening; Col. M'Murtrie and myself found General Cameron in bed; we introduced the subject of our mission; Gen. Cameron replied that he did not suppose that he could be elected, and that he had very little ambition for the place, that he had supposed a short time before that he could be elected, but

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Witness. He never stated any specific amount.

By Mr. Kaine. Had you any other meeting or interview with Simon Cameron than the one at Mr. Thomas's?

Witness. No, sir.

By Mr. Brown. With the exception of the conversation between yourself and Mr. Thomas, were the other gentlemen of the party present during the conversation having reference to the election of United States Senator?

Witness. They were about, but I do not know whether they heard the conversation between me and the military man before referred to.

By Mr. Brown. Did Gen. Cameron say anything to you about voting for him?

Witness. Not a word, sir.

By Mr. Brown. For what reason did you suppose you knew who Mr. Hammer wanted you to go with him to Thomas's for?

Witness. Because he, in a previous conversation at the Brady House, had told me I could make \$5,000 by voting for Simon Cameron.

By Mr. Brown. What was the inducement for you to go with Mr. Hammer to Mr. Thomas's house?

Witness. I had no other reason but because he insisted on my going down there.

By Mr. Brown. Did you go there with the expectation that offers would be there made to you to vote for General Cameron?

Witness. I expected offers would be made. By Mr. Brown. Did you not know or believe that that was the very purpose for taking you there?

Witness. I had reason to believe so from what my colleagues had told me—Mr. Graber and Mr. Kerns.

By Mr. Brown. Prior to your going to Mr. Thomas's, had you any conversation or consultation with any one in regard to the propriety of going there and throwing yourself in the way of General Cameron or his friends?

Witness. No, sir; it was no preconceived plan for my going there; I went there of my own accord with an old friend from Schuylkill county, or formerly from there.

By Mr. Brown. Prior to the election, did you know anything in regard to the course Mr. Boyer was pursuing?

Witness. To the best of my knowledge the first that I knew was when this exposition of his came out in the paper.

By Mr. Brown. Do you know of any candidate for United States Senator using money or making promises of place or advantage to secure a vote?

Witness. Not any but what I have stated previously; I don't—I did not understand your question.

By Mr. Brown. Who is Mr. Hammer, where does he live, and what is his business?

Witness. From a letter which I have, I see he is a member of the House of Representatives, and he is in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and resides in this city.

ADAM WOLF.

ADAM WOLF being duly sworn, testified as follows:

By Mr. Wakefield. Where do you reside and what is your business at Harrisburg?

Witness. I reside at home in Schuylkill county, and am here acting as a member of the House of Representatives.

By Mr. Wakefield. Will you please state what you know, if anything, in regard to improper or unlawful means being used to secure the election of an United States Senator? State fully all you know on that subject.

Witness. I do not know that there was any unlawful means employed; about three or four days previous to the election of the United States Senator (one evening) I was called out of the bar room of the Brady House by a young man of the name of John Hammer; he spoke to me in regard to this Senator's business, and to the best of my knowledge he asked me whether I would go for Simon Cameron providing F. W. Hughes, of Schuylkill county, was defeated for nomination in the Democratic caucus; we then had a good deal of conversation on that subject, and what was spoken by us both that I cannot recollect; in his remarks John Hammer stated to me that I could make five thousand dollars by voting for General Simon Cameron, and that he could make a nice thing out of it; I told John that I had understood Simon to be worth five millions, and that I would not vote for him for the whole of it; John then insisted upon seeing me at another time, as I was going away and had a friend waiting on me; the next intimation in regard to that subject, there was a man from Schuylkill county (Benj. Gouldie) I think his name) relating to me about a very large lumber speculation down South; he told me there was a good many thousand dollars in it which could be cleared there, provided he could find some person here with a capital who would purchase the land; he asked me whether I knew a man by the name of Harry Thomas, and I replied that I knew him; he then said to call on John then; I went to his house and met him; he was acquainted with the gentleman, but from hearsay; he then asked me if my colleague, Mr. Graber, knew him; I told him that Mr. Graber had told me he had seen him quite recently and had had conversation with him, and from what Graber told me he knew him quite well; very soon after this conversation Mr. Graber came into our room; Mr. Gouldie was there; we then had a good deal of conversation there on the war and different subjects; what all was said I cannot tell; about the time that the gentleman (Mr. Gouldie) was about to leave, he invited Mr. Graber and myself to call the evening at Mr. Graber's house and meet him there; we started to go there that evening and went as far as the Park House in company with another man; when Mr. Graber started from there to go I made an excuse and did not go along; the next morning, or a short time after that, I got a letter endorsed from Mr. Hammer, that he wanted to see me, I think, at his house; I did not go; the next morning after that, before or about 7 o'clock, this man Hammer came to the Pennsylvania House, where I board, and rapped at my door about the time I was getting up; he told me he wanted me to go along with him; I refused going in the first place; my reason for that was, I thought I knew what he wanted; he insisted on my going along; I told him I would first take breakfast; he replied I could get it where we were going, as it was ready; we then went down to Harry Thomas's; I was invited to take breakfast, and did so; Gen. Cameron came in, and I was introduced to him; he took a chair along side of me and took breakfast with me; before I left the table the General got up and left; there were several men there, to the best of my knowledge, from Schuylkill county; one or two of them were military men; one of them spoke about this matter of voting for Cameron; he said there could be a nice thing made out of it; he was speaking to me; I refused voting for Cameron on any condition; the party then retired to the parlor, and Harry Thomas came to me; he in the conversation said to me that I should go for General Cameron and I should be well paid; he told me to say how much I would take to vote for Cameron, and said I should put down the figures; I declined taking anything at all; we then went out into his parlor, and had some conversation, and I left; in the parlor we talked on other subjects; Mr. Gouldie was there.

By Mr. Kaine. Were you at Mr. Henry Thomas's house more than once?

Witness. No, sir.

By Mr. Kaine. Did Mr. Hammer go into the house and remain with you there?

Witness. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Kaine. Who introduced you to Simon Cameron there?

Witness. I do not recollect which of the party did so.

By Mr. Kaine. Can you tell whether it was Mr. Hammer or Mr. Thomas?

Witness. It was one of the two but I cannot tell which.

By Mr. Kaine. Had you any other interview or conversation with Mr. Thomas on this subject than the one you have related?

Witness. None to my knowledge.

By Mr. Kaine. How much did Mr. Thomas say you could get for voting for Gen. Cameron?

Witness. He never stated any specific amount.

By Mr. Kaine. Had you any other meeting or interview with Simon Cameron than the one at Mr. Thomas's?

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