

court of inquiry was under consideration. The following is a letter to me from Gen. Webster, under date 26th of Dec., 1875:

"CHICAGO, Dec. 26.

"My Dear Sir—Do you not begin to rub your eyes and inquire whether you are awake, or whether we are any of us awake, and not all involved in some bad dream? Was there ever such scandalous lying and pleading? Is it not the most remarkable fight of the century? Is there any key to it all, except that banded corruptionists of all classes and kinds are desperate, and are summoning all their forces, placing their reliance on an unparalleled audacity of vituperation and cunningly contrived accusation? Is it possible that Babcock has lent any countenance to a proposition for an attack on Bristow? Will he confess his own infamy and try to drag down the Secretary with himself? What other explanation is there for the *Inter-Ocean's* attack? I suspect that the ring have got entire control of the *Inter-Ocean*. They are desperate, and will furnish all the money necessary to get an English organ, as they have a German one in the *Staats Zeitung*. What are we coming to when such things can even be attempted in open day? But I took my pen to ask you a question. I have been just told that the man Russell is there in Washington, and had the impudence to try to blackmail both the Secretaries of War and Treasury—is that so? I can hardly believe it, and yet I see that he has lived so long in an atmosphere almost peculiar to the political whiskey ring of Chicago, that perhaps he has no conception of honesty left, and no idea of decency or incorruptibility in any one. Yesterday I warned Dexter and Ayer to have no further conference with him, and to have it only with Sweet and Smith. Please let me know whether R. is such a graceless scamp as to have really blackmailed the Secretary? I hope this outburst of malice in the *Inter-Ocean* will overshoot its mark, and instead of making a breach between the President and Bristow, have the opposite effect, and unite them more firmly in the fight against corruption. It looks as if the time is coming when all good men of all parties must band together against the rascals, as the only way in which the country can be saved. But we shall soon see. Write me a few words of truth and soberness.

"Truly yours,

"J. D. WEBSTER."

On the 15th of December, while in St. Louis, I wrote the President of the United States this letter:

"My Dear Mr. President—Pardon me for troubling you to read the enclosed clipping from yesterday morning's *Chicago Tribune*. I might, under ordinary circumstances, be quite content to let the matter rest where Ward's explanation leaves it, and to permit the General and Hon. C. B. Farwell to settle their own differences in their own way. In view, however, of many misstatements in relation to myself that have reached you, and the fact that I didn't care to go into the matter with the reporter, I wish to say to you that the whole story of Mr. Farwell, as it relates to me, is unqualifiedly false. Even as a joke—a poor one at best—it is wholly without foundation or warrant in any word or act of mine in reference to any case either inside or out of the whiskey ring suits. If it comes in your way I will be obliged if you will show this to Mr. Farwell. If he has been at you with his complaint against me, I will take it as a favor if you will call his attention to my answer. The situation here and at Chicago seems to be satisfactory. I return to Washington to-night.

"With great respect,

"Your friend,

"BLUFORD WILSON."

I wrote that letter in reply to a charge which Farwell caused to be telegraphed to the *Chicago Tribune* that I had, on the occasion of a certain visit to Chicago, said to J. D. Ward, while he was District Attorney, that he must indict Farwell and Lyon, and when Ward asked me for evidence, I said to him, "Dam the evidence. Indict them first and find the evidence afterwards." I will state that the *Chicago Tribune* article referred to stated that the telegram was submitted to Ward under Farwell's consideration, upon Farwell's state-

ment that Ward would confirm it, and upon Ward's confirming and corroborating it, should be published. Upon its being submitted to Ward, however, he repudiated it in toto, and denied ever having any conference or conversation with me upon which any such interpretation could be placed. To a reporter of the *Tribune*, who came to me for a denial, I simply said, "I have none to make to so utterly absurd a charge." I make this statement because I see that the reporters of the *New York Graphic* and the correspondent of the *Inter-Ocean* in this city have, in substance, repeated this charge a new shape, yesterday to the *Graphic*, and I presume also to the *Inter-Ocean*. This was my answer then, made to the chief magistrate of the land, and it is my answer to the charge to-day. In a further response to the question of the committee, both the secretary and myself were very early led to entertain grave apprehensions as to what the issue would be in the Babcock matter, for the reason that I learned from the President and from C. S. Bell himself that the President had recommended him to go to St. Louis; and I learned from the President, from C. S. Bell, and from the attorney general that it was in contemplation to employ Bell to go to St. Louis, and to report, not to Dyer, but directly to the attorney general and that the reason for his intention was that the President understood Dyer and Henderson intended to implicate him in the frauds if possible. On Dec. 18th, 1875, I wrote Dyer as follows:

"And now a word of caution. You have made a mistake in trusting to Bell. He has been pretending to know that you have been endeavoring to implicate the President, and it is possible that he may return to St. Louis. If he does, put your best man on at once, and you will soon see where he trains. If he calls upon you don't let on that you suspect, but don't trust him, and have him watched. Mind what I say; I know what I am writing about, and you must burn this, on your honor."

I will state further, that I made such representations to the Attorney General and to the President, when I learned that it was in contemplation to send this man to St. Louis, as induced them to reconsider their proposed action, and he was not employed. It is a fact the President was intensely carried away in the Babcock matter in opposition to the views of the secretary and myself. On the 25th of Dec. he sent for me and confronted me with the charge, that it was reported to him that I was trying to have his brother Orville Grant and his son Col. Fred. Grant indicted for complicity in the frauds, and in course of conversation he again asserted to me his earnest belief in Babcock's innocence, and his sense of the great outrage that had been perpetrated on him by Henderson and Dyer in refusing to send to the military court at Chicago the original evidence contained in the civil tribunal at St. Louis. As illustrating the personal attitude of the President to myself, I may mention that Col. Grant told a reporter of the *New York Herald* in December that Babcock's indictment was the result of a conspiracy between prominent treasury officials, myself and Carl Schurz.

Coming down to the circular letter, the solicitor said Luckey addressed him a note on behalf of the President, whom he, of late, had only visited on invitation, asking his presence at the White House. It transpired in the interview that the President was dissatisfied with Bristow and himself concerning the whisky prosecutions in Milwaukee, Chicago and St. Louis, and especially that persons were allowed immunity by pleading guilty. He instanced Raddis, of Milwaukee, and Everst, of St. Louis. The solicitor denied that immunity had been promised the latter, though he had promised to testify. He saw Joyce mail Babcock two letters containing \$50,000 each. The President asked about the whereabouts of Everst, and said to me, "Major, when I said, Let no guilty man escape, I meant it, and not that nine men should escape and one be convicted." I said to him, "Pardon me, Mr. President, in this battle we are trying to break up the unlawful conspiracies and combinations we all know exist, and if possible to reach those who have inspired and organized them, and I know of no other way of doing and obtaining

proof of the conspiracy than by going inside the ranks of the conspirators, and I give to you, as my judgment, that the policy which has been adopted by the local counsel, upon their independent judgment, and not under the instructions of the Secretary or myself, will result in accomplishing that purpose, and that no other will." Secretary Chandler sat just at the back and further end of the cabinet room, and I said to the President, "Mr. President, I notice the presence of a member of the cabinet. If you give me time to go into this letter, I think I could satisfy you that you are laboring under a misapprehension." "Oh," said he, "it is not worth while; I simply wanted to call your attention to the fact that, in my judgment, there is too much of this going on." I said to him, "That being so, I have nothing to do, Mr. President, but to bid you good morning," and I did so.

He went to Bristow and talked the matter over with him, and persuaded him to accompany him with the documents to the President, and to disabuse his mind of the ideas he had, which he believed had been given him by Supervisor Tutton. They went and talked with the President, who expressed himself fully satisfied, and a friendly conversation ensued; during which Everst's testimony was again mentioned. That evening the solicitor wrote Bristow as follows:

"Dear General—I called to bid you *bon voyage*, and to say that, within less than an hour after our return from the White House, Babcock came in for a little while, and was a good deal nervous, and asked me if I had any news. I replied that I had none, except what I had given the President. To which he said, 'Yes. It's that about which I desire to ask you. What does Everst claim about the \$50,000, etc.?' showing that his excellency had conveyed at once to Babcock every item of evidence he got from me. Babcock stayed quite a while. He had a very prompt and emphatic denial to every story and theory to fit it. He asked me, on going away, to tell him if anything new turned up. This I positively refused; but I added, that I could not deny when the President asked. He laughed and said, 'that would do just as well,' and we see that it does. The point of all this is that if the President questions me in Babcock's interest, what am I to do? Again, I have no objection, on general principles, to give Babcock a fair show, if the testimony is really false. But how if it should turn out to be true? and what right has he now, more than any other accused party, to hear the details of the case against him? B. W."

About the 29th of January, the Attorney General called on the witness about Babcock, and he said one request of the President had troubled him a good deal, namely, that of writing the circular letters cautioning the U. S. district attorneys against taking accomplices' testimony. The President was very earnest, though the Attorney General said he told him he saw no other way of getting at the bottom. Finally he wrote a letter, known as the first circular letter. This the Attorney General said did not please the President, who wanted the explicit statement that no evidence of accomplices should be received in evidence. The Attorney General said this would be like saying, "You must not plead guilty, for thus you make your own condemnation certain." He feared the letter would be misunderstood, but the President said he hoped not. That was on the 29th of January. On the 2nd or 3rd of February, witness read in the *Chicago Times* the letter. Then the solicitor went to see Bristow, and said it was clearly evident that he meant to bring about a conflict and a change of policy, and I told the Secretary that he must take immediate steps to have an understanding with the Attorney General and the President. He agreed with me. The steps that he took were for himself and the Attorney General, and an interview took place the day after. The *Chicago Times* correspondent next day acknowledged that he got a letter from Storrs, Babcock's counsel. On the 15th of February the Secretary of the Treasury resolved that there was nothing left him but to leave the Cabinet, owing to the almost total breaking off of the personal relations with the President, and it was learned from many sources that the Presi-

dent had determined to dismiss the secretary and solicitor. After the Babcock trial the solicitor introduced the letter written from Chicago by Webster, giving the assertions of Logan and others to the effect that the President intended to take such action immediately. On February 10th the solicitor wrote the President a letter relative to an article in the *Inter-Ocean*, which charged him with suborning and perjury in conspiring against the President and his relatives, and pursuing Logan and Farwell similarly. He made a general denial of these charges and expressed the hope that if any of the parties alluded to were guilty, they would be punished. He inclosed a letter by himself to Colonel Matthews, of Chicago, and asked the President before believing the statements reflecting on him, to hear him. The letter mentions the visit of Bell and his extraordinary story. The Solicitor and Secretary of the Treasury both prepared resignations to be delivered the day after the close of Babcock's trial. Mr. Wilson introduced all the letters to which he refers in his testimony, which tended to make the history most interesting. In the letter to Gen. Webster about this time, he says he has every confidence in the purpose of the President to do right, and is neither anxious nor disturbed as to the President's future action about himself. On the 24th of February Babcock was acquitted. On Sunday night, 27th, statements were submitted to the President, showing that O. E. Babcock, private Secretary of the President, had been engaged in Black Friday gold transactions. He and others had lost fifty thousand dollars, and that transaction was covered by a trust deed of property for Jay Cooke & Co. This was subsequently verified by the competent evidence. As a result neither the Secretary nor the Solicitor were dismissed, and the President became reconciled with the Secretary in a highly creditable manner. This occurred because the President then first was aware that Gen. Babcock had betrayed him in one case and might have done so in another.

NEW YORK, 28.

The *Herald* has a special from the west to the effect that there has been a terrible slaughter of Crook's command by the Sioux, in which 300 are reported killed. The same paper in an editorial says we think we may well doubt the story of the disaster to Crook's command, which comes to us this morning by a roundabout way, and from uncertain sources. Lame Deer, who reports the story, may be a myth. His story is in itself too circumstantial to be trustworthy, when it is considered how short was the time after the battle which he allowed himself to get to the point whence it was brought to Sidney. We are told so much about the disaster and its consequences that it is net easy to believe that there was any disaster at all.

ST. PAUL, Minn., 28.—The grasshoppers have overrun the western portion of this State, and many farmers have lost everything in the shape of crops. The damage done by them is, however, so far, not widespread, and the crops outside the section alluded to have not suffered much.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 26.—Sir John William Keyes, the statesman and author, is dead.

The *Standard's* Vienna special says the Servians intend withdrawing from all their positions to within the frontier. The prevailing opinion in military circles is that the Turks will not follow them thither. The condition of affairs is favorable to an armistice.

The *Daily Telegraph* announced this morning that letters from Henry M. Stanley, the famous explorer, have been received, dated April 24, fifteen days' march from Ukiki.

Consols 96½; United States bonds 104-40's 108½; Erie 12½.

Silver 59½d, the nearest quotable price.

The bullion gone into the Bank of England to-day is £267,000.

The Goodwood stakes was won by Hampton, Admiral Byng second, Finis third; nine ran, including the American horse Mate.

The *Telegraph* publishes dispatches from Stanley, from whom five letters have been received. One letter bears date of July 29, 1875, and was written at Mayhya Island, Lake Victoria Nyanza, and

describes the voyage from King Mtesa's Territory, at the northern end of Lake Victoria Nyanza. In this voyage Stanley and party narrowly escaped massacre by the savages and treacherous natives of Bumbych. The natives were beaten off after a severe fight and the party arrived safely at camp after encountering heavy storms.

The second letter was written from Doumou Ruganda, dated Aug. 15, 1875. Here the explorer established a camp on the main land, within access of the lake from Mayhya. Stanley made an expedition across the lake to Uk Kereme Island, at its southern extremity, from whence he recrossed the lake again toward the region of Uganda, while the expedition was being transported in canoes. During the return voyage Stanley inflicted severe punishment on the treacherous savages in Bumbych for the attack made upon his expedition, mentioned in the first letter. The letters contain particulars of the highest geographical and ethnological value in regard to the heretofore unknown regions lying between Lakes Victoria and Albert Nyanza, and a remarkable gambargara, which Stanley thoroughly explored, and discovered among its high uplands a pale-faced tribe forming a different race of people to the black skinned denizens of the plains. Stanley is amply supplied with men and means, sufficient to enable him to solve the problem still left open by his undaunted courage and splendid gifts as a traveller.

PARIS, 26.—President McMahon has granted 127 additional pardons to Communists.

LONDON, 27.—A meeting of representatives of twenty-seven firms was held at New Church, Lancashire, to-day, and resolved that it was desirable in the present depressed state of the cotton trade to work their mills only four days in the week.

The *Standard's* Paris special says that the Government powder magazine, at Toulouse, has blown up, and there was great loss of life.

A Berlin special says the inquiry concerning the loss of the *Deutschland* last winter, held at Berlin, has reversed the results of the English investigation. Capt. Brickenstein has been fully acquitted, the errors in the course of the steamship were attributed to the defection in the compass.

A *Neus* Belgrade dispatch says a disguised Turk had been arrested at Gladova. He had several packages on his person, and it is supposed that he intended to poison the wells in Servia.

The *Times's* Ragusa dispatch says the whereabouts of the Prince of Montenegro is unknown either at Mostar or here. It is believed that the battle a few days since at Banzava, where 5,000 Montenegrins attacked a Turkish post and were repulsed with heavy loss, was fought to cover the withdrawal of the main Montenegrin army.

The Turkish commander at Klek has asked for three days armistice, which has been granted. He offered to surrender if he was granted the honors of war, but the offer was refused.

Colonel Valentine Baker, just released from prison, has accepted a commission in the Turkish army, and leaves immediately for his post.

A dispatch from Vienna says the majority of the Ulemas and Softas at Constantinople have determined to urge the Sultan to resign. The reason for this extreme measure is the prolonged illness of the Sultan, who has lived in the closest seclusion ever since his accession to the throne, and has done nothing.

The Flying Dutchman, a fast train running at full speed between Taunton and Bristol, left the track near Long Ashton. The engineer and fireman were killed, and it is feared a number of passengers were also killed.

The race for the Goodwood Cup, to-day, was won by New Holland, Temp'e Bar second, Preakness third. Six horses ran.

SEMLIN, 27.—Servia has authorized the formation of a legion of foreign volunteers.

Signors Corrazzini and Cereti, the latter aid-de-camp to Garibaldi, are forming an Italian legion.

The strength of the Servian army is 115,000 men and 250 guns, including one battery of Krupp's guns and 150 bronze pieces.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 27.—It is stated that government has decided to issue paper currency to the amount of £3,000,000.