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AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 24.—Secretary Manning continues to improve slowly. It is thought he will not resume his official duties in the Treasury Department until next autumn. Assistant Secretary Fairchild has accordingly arranged to continue the performance of his duties as Acting Secretary of the Treasury during the entire summer.

Chairman Boyle of the Telephonic Investigating Committee to-day received a communication from Professor Bell for submission to the committee, relative to the affidavit submitted to the committee by Zenas Fisk Wilber declaring that Bell had given the affidavit to obtain knowledge about the Gray caveat. Professor Bell cites the former affidavits made by Wilber, in which he swears to a different state of facts. Professor Bell then makes an explicit denial of all the charges contained in the Wilber affidavit and a request that it be submitted to the committee.

The telephone investigating committee met to-day in open session for the purpose of completing the record of documentary evidence.

Mr. Brieson had written a personal letter to the chairman stating that the article published in the New York Times on October 19th, had been written by him to exculpate the Attorney General, and two hours were consumed in disposing of sundry motions to put the letter and the newspaper article in evidence. Finally they were admitted.

The chairman then submitted and read a letter and affidavit from Prof. Bell in answer to a recently published affidavit of Mr. Wilber, but as the latter had not been accepted as evidence, Professor Bell's affidavit was also rejected.

The House Committee on Territories to-day voted as foreshadowed by its informal understanding, reached at the last meeting, to report adversely all bills relating to the admission of Dakota as a State except that introduced by Mr. Springer, providing an enabling act for the admission of the whole Territory. This bill will be reported favorably. All the republicans, with Chairman (Dem.) voted against the Springer bill, and all the Democrats, except the chairman, voted in favor of it.

The President to-day nominated Henry Gilmore, of Michigan, to be consul of the United States at Jerusalem, vice N. J. Arbecy, of Tennessee, withdrawn.

The President has vetoed four private pension bills granting pensions to Dudley B. Branch, Louis Melcher, Edward Ayles and James C. Chandler. The President gives his reasons at length in each case. In the case of Branch he says: "I am convinced that the rejection of this claim by the Pension Bureau was correct, and think its action should not be reversed. In the committee's report of the statement is found that the beneficiary named in the bill was in two different hospitals during the year 1864, and yet it is not claimed that the history of the hospital treatment furnishes any proof of the injury upon which his claim is now based."

The President withholds his approval in the Melcher's case upon the ground that he finds nothing in his examinations of the facts connected with it which impeaches the value of the surgeon's certificate upon which the adverse action of the Pension Bureau was based.

Of the Ayres bill, the President says: "It appears that the claimant served in his regiment two years and nearly eight months after the alleged injury, and until he was mustered out. It is represented to me by a report from the Pension Bureau that after his alleged wound, and in May or June, 1863, the claimant deserted, and in July of that year was arrested in the State of Indiana and returned to duty without trial. If this report is correct, the party now seeking a pension at the hands of the government for disability incurred in the service, seems to have been capable of considerable physical exertion, though not very creditable, within a few weeks after he claims to have received the injury upon which his application is based."

In the last case—that of Chandler—the President, after reviewing various applications made for pensions and their rejection, says: "There still remained an appeal to Congress, and probably there was not wanting those who found their interest in advancing such an appeal, and who had at hand Congressional precedents which promised a favorable result. That the parties interested did not miscalculate the chances of success, is demonstrated in the bill before me, in which, in direct opposition to the action of the Pension Bureau to the man, who, though discharged from enlistment for certain alleged disabilities, made two applications for pensions based upon two distinct claims, both claimed to have existed within two months prior to the discharge and both different from the conditions upon which he accepted the same. And notwithstanding that all these disabilities had occurred, he passed an examination for his fitness for enlistment and served until finally mustered out at the close of the war. If any money is to be given this man from the public treasury it should not be done under the guise of a pension."

THAT AMENDMENT.

The report of the House committee

on judiciary to accompany the joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment on the subject of polygamy, is a long document dealing in detail with all the branches of the subject. A considerable portion of the report is devoted to the discussion showing that Congress has power to deal with this question in the Territories. As to the remedy proposed, the report says: "Your committee deeply deplore with all good citizens, the existence of the evil, and deem it to be of the first importance that while the remedy shall be radical, it shall be in entire consistency with the constitutional principles of our system of government, and shall commend itself to the judgment of the country and mankind as in harmony with the sacred rights of conscience and the doctrines of our free institutions, and tempered by the spirit of clemency, moderation and magnanimous charity. The evils of the Mormon system are deeper than can be cured by ordinary legislation. To punish the offender may be accomplished by the law, but to extirpate the system, to eradicate it from this Union of a free and civilized commonwealth, will require a change in the Constitution."

The religious aspect of the matter is discussed as follows: "It has been the settled opinion of the best defenders of religious conscience that when religious faith permits crime its sincerity should not shield it from the penalty of the law. As long as it is a question of faith between man and his God the civil law cannot interfere, but when faith breaks out into acts against the laws of society it cannot give immunity to it. It is this which is so guilty would be quick to put on the cloak of religion to screen itself from justice. Your committee feel satisfied that nothing proposed by them to the House will, in the slightest degree trench upon the sacred canons of religious liberty. It seems to the committee that these provisions secure to the courts and Congress of the Union complete authority to extirpate the system of polygamy and its kindred offenses—the polygamous association of cohabitation between the sexes. The crimes are fixed by constitutional definition, the punishment is prescribed by Congress and the judicial power of the United States will enforce the Constitution against all offenders."

In the interview with Judge Tucker, chairman of the judiciary committee, sent out on Friday night, he defined what the proposed amendment is intended to effect.

Miss Lida Miller, daughter of Justice Miller of the United States Supreme Court, was married at noon to-day at her father's residence in this city, to Mr. A. E. Touzal, formerly vice-president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

CLEVELAND, 24.—The officers of the General Assembly of the Knights of Labor were up early this morning and at work. During the afternoon and evening the Grand Master Workman perfected his method of procedure and order of business for the convention and attended to other duties. A number of delegates feel keenly the fact that Grand Master Workman Powderly is overworked, and think he should be assisted in some manner. Two plans have been proposed and will probably be presented at the convention. One is that State Assemblies be organized in each State to look after the affairs of the district that would come under their supervision, they in turn being auxiliary to and under the supervision of the General Assembly. Each State Assembly would receive instructions and supplies from the General Assembly and distribute the supplies as needed by the district and local assemblies. The organization of new assemblies would also be a part of the work looked after and guided by State organizations. The other plan is to have an Executive Board in each State subject to the direction of the general board. The subject of most importance before the Cleveland convention is the relation of the Knights of Labor to the Trades Unions.

PORTLAND, 24.—There is great excitement here this morning. The British schooner *Sister*, from Yarmouth, N. S., with a cargo of 20,000 mackerel, was seized by the Collector of Customs. The captain of the schooner did not have a manifest and the usual fine of \$500 was imposed upon him, and as he could not pay it the vessel with its cargo was seized.

Secretary Bayard and the Maine Congressmen have been informed of the seizure. O. B. Whittier, Secretary of the Portland Fishing Exchange says: "Coming at this time, the seizure of the *Sister* will do good. She comes here from a port so near Digby that the people will hear of it. The matter having been referred to Secretary Bayard, he will be obliged to take notice of it."

Captain Ellis this afternoon placed his case into the hands of Vice-Counsel Starr, Her Majesty's representative here. He says if the troubles at Digby had not occurred he would not have been molested.

BLACKFOOT, Idaho, 24.—In the Third District Court at Blackfoot to-day, Chief Justice Hays sentenced 27 prisoners convicted at this term, all Mormons except two. The sentences ranged from three months and \$100 fine to twelve months and \$300 fine. All one year prisoners are to be sent to the House of Correction at Detroit, Michigan; those for a lesser period to the United States Penitentiary at Boise City. U. S. Marshal Fred T. Dubois and his deputies in a special car will leave for Detroit May 26th with the 13 prisoners, the first batch of polygamists sent out of the Territory. One

hundred and forty-five indictments were drawn for unlawful cohabitation at this term of court. All refused to obey the laws in the future except one.

MILWAUKEE, 24.—Late this afternoon a fire broke out in the town of Wausau, Wis. Telegraphic communication was soon cut off and nothing whatever is now to be learned. The Western Union, the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway and the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern wires to Wausau cannot be made to work, and the belief is that the greater part of the town has been destroyed. Before telegraphic communication had been stopped, assistance had been asked from adjacent towns and several fire engines had been started, but the last word received announced that the railway bridge was burned, so it is probably that little or no assistance can be given by the engines from outside towns.

ST. LOUIS, 24.—There was nothing new or sensational developed in the trial of Maxwell for the murder of Peller, at the forenoon session.

The sensational testimony of the afternoon was given by J. F. McCullough, a detective who, under the direction of Detective Furlong and District Attorney Clover and his assistant McDonald, forged a check on an eastern house and presented it at one of the city banks. He was arrested and placed in jail and assigned to a cell adjoining that of Maxwell. He testified that immediately after his incarceration he introduced himself to Maxwell and worked himself into his confidence. About ten days afterward he became engaged in a conversation with Maxwell about the latter's case. During this conversation the defendant told witness that the only point in his case about which he felt uncertain and uneasy was that concerning the money. He said that if he could only prove he had plenty of money when Peller came to St. Louis he would have no anxiety about a speedy acquittal. Witness offered to fix this all right, but told the defendant he must know all about the case or he would do nothing. Maxwell then made a full confession of all the particulars of the case, beginning with how on shipboard he noticed that Peller had in his possession a large amount of money; how they separated in Boston, Peller going to Philadelphia and Maxwell coming to St. Louis. Defendant in this confession, said Friday night after Peller joined him in this city, he told him (Maxwell) it would be impossible for him to pay the defendant's way to Auckland, whither he had arranged to go together. This, said the defendant to the witness, angered him greatly, and he determined then to "fix" him for his meanness. On the following night he and Peller were sitting in the former's room when the latter complained of severe pains in his side. Maxwell said, "I can fix that all right. I have treated such cases before." He then injected hypodermically into his friend's arm a sufficient quantity of morphine to render him unconscious. After he had been in that condition some time he placed a cloth completely saturated with chloroform about his victim's head, and this he confessed to witness "ended the business." He secured all of Peller's money, about \$800, besides most of his valuable personal effects, and planned his escape, the details of which are well known.

C. A. Bishop, one of the attorneys for the prosecution in the Maxwell case, testified that shortly after Peller's body had been discovered he had examined the personal effects found in the trunk left at the hotel by Maxwell, and found among other things a copy of *Clovers Physician's Vade Mecum*. The book was marked on page 12, which described Clover's methods for the administration of chloroform. Witness also found a bottle containing chloroform among Maxwell's abandoned effects.

John F. McCullough, detective, was the next witness. After telling of his employment as a detective for Plover and others in New York and elsewhere, in answer to further questions he said he had been on this case since February 27th, under the direction of Prosecutor Furlong. With the knowledge of the latter he had caused himself to be committed to jail on the charge of forgery, under the name of Frank Dingfelder. Witness then went on to tell of the meeting with Maxwell in jail, how Maxwell introduced himself as the one charged with the murder of Peller, and of their gradual approach to mutual confidences, McCullough giving Maxwell to understand that he (McCullough) was one of a gang of forgers.

Mr. Fauntleroy, of the counsel for the defense, objected to the witness's testimony. He said he was a liar and an impostor by his own testimony in open court. The man had put himself in the position of a criminal, and had himself gone before the grand jury under the charge of forgery and had gone to jail. The objection was overruled. The judge said the argument was good for the jury, but not for the court.

Mr. Fauntleroy scored the prosecution for using the courts of justice for such a nefarious and infamous scheme and said the witness should be thrown out as a disgrace to the court. The witness was also scored numerically but took it coolly. Mr. Fauntleroy asked a score of questions intended to lead to discreditable disclosures in regard to witness's past life, but the court ruled them out. Continuing the witness said: "The statements were made voluntarily. About ten days after I went into the jail he talked to me about these people here and said they were not by and tried to break him

down; that the chief of police had taken him (Maxwell) into his office and had given him whisky and when he thought he was drunk showed him a picture of Peller taken after he was dead, and asked if he knew it. Maxwell said no, and said he would be a fool to tell him he did know him. He told me that he did recognize it. This was the beginning. We had other conversations. He thought I belonged to a notorious gang of forgers and was in a bad fix. I told him if I had a chance at an alibi, I would prove it. He asked how. I said by my people.

He said if he had a witness who could testify right, he could fool the State. I asked him how. He said if I could get a witness who could testify that he had so much money in Boston, he could get free. I asked him how much money he had, and he said \$700 or \$800. I told him I would try and get some of my people (the gang of forgers) to do him this favor—to testify for him—and I asked him to tell me about his case.

Witness then detailed Maxwell's story of how he and Peller met in Liverpool; how they came on the same vessel to this country; how they stopped for a time in Boston; how Peller went to Canada and Maxwell came to St. Louis, whence he was followed by Peller, both stopping at the Southern Hotel, and continued: "They had talked about going to Auckland. Maxwell was anxious that Peller should go to Auckland. Maxwell said that Peller told him he had only enough money to see himself through on the trip. He said he had made up his mind on account of his meanness to fix him. On Sunday, he said, Peller was in his (Maxwell's) room and complained of pains. Maxwell told him that he could remedy it by using a hypodermic syringe, and they agreed he should try it. Peller, he said, took off his coat and vest, and he said he gave him a good dose in the arm, which put him to sleep. When he was asleep he used some chloroform that he had there, and when he found that was not enough he went out and got some more chloroform, and then he found he was dead, he took off his clothes, took his money and cut off his undershirt and shirt and took off his drawers. He threw the things out, put him in the trunk and left the things in the room. This was four or five o'clock in the afternoon. He said he then stayed around till Monday morning, when he went out and bought several things, trunks among them. He then packed his own trunk and put the things he had taken from Peller's body in his trunk. He bought a ticket for San Francisco, for which he paid \$116. McCullough continued, saying Maxwell told him he had about \$700 before he started for San Francisco. He spent \$36 here, \$20 on the journey, and loaned a confidence man in San Francisco \$80 on a watch. In a house of ill-repute to which he went the girl went out of the room and he did not like the looks of it. He met her with a cocked revolver when she returned and said: 'It's a good thing you are not a man.' She asked why and he said that he had just killed a man and he did not propose to be arrested. He went to the hotel in the morning. He said that he wrote a letter and left it at the hotel."

"Did he say anything about the letter?"

"He said he had lots of fun out of it. That it was the greatest spider leg chase he ever saw, and that he had written it because in looking for an Englishman they would not pick up a Frenchman."

McCullough testified to the further effect that Maxwell told him he bought steamer at San Francisco for \$100 and had a pleasant trip and \$160 left when he reached Auckland; that the clothing taken from Peller's body was in a trunk in the steamer and he could not get it or he would have made away with it. He asked Maxwell what he wanted and Maxwell explained that he wanted a witness to prove that he had a large sum of money before he left Boston. Maxwell said that he could say that he had met him in the club-room at Young's Hotel and had called at his room. He could state that he was with him and that on the day he (Maxwell) left Boston they dropped into Murphy's to take a drink and Maxwell treated; that he had a large roll of bills, and one of them suggested that he was careless in carrying his bills so loosely in his pocket. They could swear that they saw \$500 or \$600 in bills. He did not care much what they then agreed on as to the manner of making up the story or of posting the witnesses or alleged friends, how to testify. It was first suggested that the two friends be introduced to Maxwell's attorney and be brought into jail to see him, but this was dropped. Maxwell said he might get a bond and get out. It was agreed that they should arrange for a meeting by fixing certain means of identifying each other on a card. Maxwell wrote Frank Dingfelder with "2 W." under each end of the name. The witness explained that "2 W." meant "two witnesses." The card was torn in two pieces, Maxwell taking one and putting it in his drawer in his cell, and the witness taking the other. Witness had the card, on one side of which was Hon. John F. Martin, Attorney-at-Law, St. Louis, Missouri, and on the other "108 Washington Street," and "Young's Hotel." The cards were shown by the witness. He said that he wanted the witness to testify that they met Peller in Boston some time in June 1885 and spoke to him, but Peller asked them not to say anything about seeing him as it might prevent him and Maxwell getting the money they wanted.

ed, but afterward he said he did not want the testimony as the defense would probably be accidental killing. "I said something about the money that my friends were to swear to and Maxwell said there would be no trouble about perjury as there was a bar-keeper at the Southern Hotel who would swear that he had \$700 with him. He said he wanted this sworn to as was the missing link. A few days after I got in the jail a man was shot—D. Coates, I believe. The prisoner said that if he had a man to kill he would not do it that way, that chloroform was so much easier."

McCullough then testified that he was released from jail on bond and went to New York and Indianapolis under Mr. Furlong's instructions. According to agreement he wrote to Maxwell under the cover of an envelope addressed to John I. Martin. Adjourning.

NEW YORK, 25.—Respecting the reported denial by Jas. G. Blaine of the interview on the Canadian fisheries seizure, the *Herald* says: "If the averment is intended to impugn in the slightest degree our special dispatch printed last Saturday, and Blaine will accept the responsibility of such impugning, we engage to prove to the satisfaction of the public the genuineness and accuracy of our correspondent's report."

The Western Union Telegraph Company announce the following reductions in State rates to take effect on June 1st:

From offices in Colorado to offices in Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, and Nevada, 75 cts.

To offices in Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming 60 cts.

From offices in Arizona, Idaho, Illinois and Nevada to offices in Colorado, 75 cts.

From offices in Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming to offices in Colorado 60 cents.

A general lockout is threatened by the Contractor Tailors Association, unless about 300 journeymen, who had struck in 25 shops against the task system should return to work by Sunday was carried into effect yesterday, and in consequence about 8,000 men and women are now idle.

ST. LOUIS, 25.—In the Peller murder trial this morning all of the clothing marked "C. A. P." found in Maxwell's trunk at Auckland, New Zealand, valises, hat boxes, trunks, medicine bottles, letters from Maxwell to Peller and from detective McCullough to Maxwell and the latter's attorney articles bought by defendant while in St. Louis after the murder and those purchased in San Francisco were admitted in evidence and shown to the jury. The prosecution then stated to the court that they desired to rest their side of the case. The defense ask that the coroner who witnessed the post mortem examination of Peller's body be placed on the stand by the prosecution and be made to testify as to the result of his examination. The prosecution refused and the defense appealed to the court, who decided that he could not interfere in the matter. The defense accepted to the ruling and asked that adjournment be taken till 10 o'clock to-morrow. Court then adjourned.

BUFFALO, 25.—The *Commercial Advertiser*, in an editorial to-day, says: "Letters received in this city from Buffalo women now in Paris, and who have personally seen the young lady whose name has been mentioned as that of the intended wife of President Cleveland, report that the mortified girl positively declares that she is not going to marry Cleveland."

TORONTO, Ont., 25.—While the train which had the Oddfellows' excursion on board was going into Brampton, on a steep down grade last night, the rear car became detached. The engineer not knowing what had happened stopped the train, and the detached car ran into the train with great force. The car contained forty persons, and every one was injured more or less seriously.

WAUSAU, Wis., 25.—The loss by yesterday's fire is \$200,000. The Plummer and Stewart lumber yards were completely swept away by the destroying element. B. G. Plummer lost 4,000 feet of lumber and other property, all valued at \$30,000; no insurance. The Alex. Stewart Lumber Company lost 8,000,000 feet of lumber, tracks and bridges, valued at \$150,000; insurance \$84,000.

Forest fires are raging at several points on the line of the Milwaukee Lake Shore & Western Railway. The village of Coleman was partially destroyed, and Westboro had a narrow escape. Unless rains ensue, great loss will result.

NASHVILLE, 25.—Details of a terrible explosion of 100 kegs of powder at the Shoddy coal mines, near Chattanooga yesterday, have been received to-day. One of the locomotives of the company was going from the railroad station to the mines, with the powder in charge of William Lloyd and David Harper. The locomotive was running rapidly when a keg of powder was overturned and the contents scattered in the air. The next moment a spark from the engine ignited the powder and the explosion instantly followed. Three seconds later and every keg had exploded and three mangled bodies lay fifty feet away down the embankment. The effect of the explosion was frightful. The locomotive and two flat cars were torn to atoms and some portions of them hurled for a hundred yards. When the explosion occurred a mine named Ike Ramsey was standing near the track waiting for the train to pass. He, together with Lloyd and Harper were thrown down the embankment and when found were dying. They presented