

By Telegraph.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 27.

Official returns made to the Bureau of Statistics show that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, there arrived in the United States, 22,572 Chinese immigrants, of whom only 259 were females. During the corresponding period of 1875, the total immigration to the United States from China was 16,437, of whom eighty-two were females.

Bluford Wilson, late Solicitor of the Treasury, appeared to-day before the House committee on whiskey trials in St. Louis, and gave in detail his knowledge in regard to the late whiskey prosecutions in the West, and particularly in regard to the connection of General Babcock with them. He related, with great minuteness, various conversations which he had with General Horace Porter, Bristow, Pierpont, and finally with the President himself, on the subject. It seems that a letter of his to the prosecuting officer in St. Louis, in citing him to the greatest activity in bringing to justice everybody, from the lowest to the highest, engaged in the conspiracy, was obtained by Babcock, and falsified by interpolating the letters "W.H.S.," so as to make it intimate his belief in the participation of the White House in the conspiracy. This letter, thus falsified, was exhibited to Bristow, Pierpont, and also to the President, and although the press copy of it, in Wilson's letter-book, was produced to prove the forgery, he seems to have been unable to shield himself from the charge of having employed spies even against the President. Wilson said that there was no lack of co-operation on the part of the President in the whiskey cases generally, until Babcock became involved, when a coolness between the White House and the Treasury Department arose. He also testified that in conversation with General Horace Porter, soon after the discovery that the Sylph telegram was in Babcock's hand writing, Porter gave an explanation of the dispatch to the effect that it related to the movements of certain parties going to St. Louis on bridge business, and said the signature arose in this way: There was a certain woman who had given the President much trouble. Babcock and McDonald being together in Washington one day, saw her, and McDonald recognizing her, exclaimed, "There is Sylph!"

Babcock said, "Do you know that woman?"

McDonald replied, "I know her very well."

Then, said Babcock, "I wish you would get her away from here. She is annoying the President."

"Certainly," said McDonald, "that is easy. I can manage her," and he did so. The term "Sylph" became a sort of standing joke between Babcock and McDonald, and they then addressed each other and signed their communications in that way. When charged with having set spies on the President, Wilson, in self-defence, told the President of his suspicions of Babcock, and related the explanation of the "Sylph" given by Porter. The President indignantly denied the story, brushed away with a contemptuous gesture, and proceeded with his remarks on the subject of the fraud, saying that he believed that Babcock was innocent, but that if guilty he was the most guilty wretch in the country, and that no punishment could be too severe for him. When he first heard this story from Porter he believed it to be false, and he still believed so. He will be further examined to-morrow.

NEW YORK, 28.

The past week 407 deaths occurred in Brooklyn, being 126 less than during the previous week. The births during the same period were 414.

PHILADELPHIA, 28.—There has been some apprehension here regarding the action of Congress in deciding that the articles on exhibition at the Centennial Exposition might be sold and removed from the ground at any time. It was felt that it might and probably would result in the serious deterioration of the Exhibition. To-day however the customs authorities of the Exhibition gave an explanation that it is only duplicates of exhibited articles that are permitted to be taken away.

CHICAGO, 28.

The *Evening Telegraph's* Washington special says, it is believed at army headquarters, that the forces of Crook and Gibbon are not over eighty miles apart, and can readily be brought within supporting distance. Crook feels that he is going to have hard fighting, but intends to make it decisive. It is said that there are at least 6,000 warriors in the field under Sitting Bull. It is feared that the Sioux may have received accessions from the Sioux in the British Provinces, which might swell the hostile forces to 10,000. The Sioux, if driven to the wall by the troops, will go north and take refuge in the British Possessions.

WASHINGTON, 28.—The civil service committee, to whom was referred the charges against representative Purman, report that no bribes were received by Purman for appointments, and that the evidence wholly fails to establish the sale of federal offices.

William H. Corbusier, of California, has been appointed assistant surgeon in the army.

SAN FRANCISCO, 28.—Among the passengers by the *City of San Francisco* are the New South Wales rifle team, consisting of Capt. J. McGarvie Smith and Lieut. J. H. Maddock, of the first regiment of rifles, and D. Gee, A. Lynch and J. J. Slade.

Queensland.—During the passage of the immigrant ship *Windsor Castle* from London the starboard watch showed signs of mutinous conduct by forcibly rescuing a sailor from irons. The captain obtained the assistance of fifty immigrants, and arming some, headed by the mates, demanded possession of the prisoner, which was granted. During the melee two of the mates and the carpenter were wounded.

PHILADELPHIA, 28.—Wool, Colorado washed 18 @ 25, unwashed 14 @ 16; extra and merino pulled 25 @ 30; No. 1 and super pulled 25 @ 30; California and medium 18 @ 22, coarse 14 @ 18.

This afternoon a prize fight came off at Pennsville, N. J., twenty-eight miles from this city. Principals John Keenan and James Collins, both of this city. Ninety-four rounds were fought, occupying one hour and thirty-eight minutes. Both men were very badly cut over. Keenan was declared the victor, Collins failing to put in an appearance on the ninety-fifth round. About a hundred people, mostly from this city, witnessed the fight.

NEW YORK, 28.

A terrible panic occurred on the steamer *Sunshine*, one of the many excursion boats running to Rockaway Beach and Coney Island, late this afternoon. The engineer left his post for a few minutes, when a small hole was blown in her boiler. Several persons were slightly scalded by the escaping steam, which enveloped the boat so that objects two feet away were invisible. The wildest scene of confusion followed, women fainting, men crying "Fire," and the boat nearly sank by the passengers collecting aft. The steamer at last was towed to Coney Island, where the engineer narrowly escaped lynching for deserting his post.

The *Tribune's* Washington special says the testimony given by Wilson to-day before the committee would have caused a marked sensation in the capitol had it not been given in a comparatively private meeting of the committee, so that its character was not generally known at the capitol before the adjournment of Congress. This evening it is almost the exclusive subject of discussion about the hotels and other public places. Criticisms on the President for the indefensible course which he has pursued, not only during the progress of the Babcock trial, but subsequently after the conclusion of evidence of the connection of Babcock and Porter with the notorious Black Friday conspiracy was placed in his possession, have not been indulged in by political opponents alone. This story, told in detail in the regular dispatches, has rarely been equalled in the annals of official crime and disgrace. While Major Wilson imputed to the President no dishonest nor dishonorable motive, his testimony, and the documentary evidence by which it was supported, proved conclusively, what had been more than suspected, that the President was directly and personally engaged in throwing obstacles in the way of the prosecution and in his zeal to save Gen. Babcock had

made the condition of others more difficult and doubtful. The President himself is responsible for the famous circular letter to the District Attorney, notwithstanding Pierpont's assumption of it, the effect of which letter was to discourage witness. Before it was the President who complained to Solicitor Wilson of accomplices and witnesses against their co-conspirators, although at this time only one man had been allowed to turn States evidence, and this was not in a case in which Babcock was involved. The testimony also showed that the President sent for Solicitor Wilson, and obtained from him important information of the character of the evidence against Babcock, which he communicated to Babcock on the same day; that Babcock afterwards said to Wilson in effect that whatever was communicated to the President in regard to him was the same as though communicated to him. But the most startling disclosure was that concerning Babcock's connection with the Black Friday conspiracy, only a vague hint of which had previously found its way to the public. On this branch of the subject Wilson testified, as he had throughout the whole investigation, only to his personal knowledge. Should Bristow feel at liberty to go upon the stand and to tell what took place between him and the President when this disclosure was made, much more that is interesting and sensational would be added to the disgraceful story. The President was fully apprised of Babcock's betrayal, by his confidence of his connection with the Black Friday conspiracy, of the means which Babcock resorted to shield himself from criminal proceedings in civil courts, by securing the appointment of a military court of inquiry, and the detail of Asa Bird Gardner, whom he had made his trustee and who was therefore bound to shield him, as Judge Advocate of the court. After he knew all this, and after he became convinced that he could not retain Babcock as his private secretary, without bringing scandal and disgrace upon himself, he not only allowed him to retain the office of commissioner of public buildings and grounds, but also to retain his position in the army. While the President had implicit confidence in Babcock's innocence of the crime of which he was accused, and believed him to be an upright and honorable man, his defence of him, though illadvised, was, to say the least, excusable. But when he learned Babcock's true character, Grant not only became personally responsible to a certain degree for the rascality of his private secretary, by allowing him to remain in places of honor and trust under the Government, but he actually insulted the Senate of the U. S. by sending Babcock with a message to that body.

WASHINGTON, 28.—Before the committee on the whiskey frauds, to-day, the examination of Bluford Wilson was continued. In connection with the statement in his previous testimony of Gen. Porter's explanations of the term "Sylph," Wilson, having refreshed his memory by reference to a letter from a friend in New York, testified to the annoyance which it was said the woman "Sylph" gave the President by her efforts to blackmail him in St. Louis.

Q.—By Cochran, chairman of the sub-committee—You said, in your examination yesterday, that from the time of the discovery of the "Sylph" dispatch implicating Gen. Babcock in the whiskey frauds, or tending so to implicate him, the President did not show the same sympathy for the Secretary of the Treasury or yourself that he had previously shown. Please state any act or acts of the President from that time forward indicating to you that he was not in sympathy with these whiskey prosecutions.

A.—Before I proceed to answer that question, I wish to make an addition to my testimony of yesterday in reference to the contents of the Barnard letter, on which the President made the well-known endorsement, "Let no guilty man escape, if it can be avoided." Either in the body of that letter or in an accompanying document, there was a statement from Emory S. Foster, of St. Louis, to the effect that the President was himself charged with being a party to the unlawful combination in that city to defraud the Government of its revenues. I want that fact to be noted, because I have no doubt that

the President made his endorsement as much with reference to that fact and that allegation, as with reference to the allegations that Babcock was a party, and that Jim Casey, the President's brother-in-law, was openly asserting that the Secretary of the Treasury would not hold his office for thirty days. Another point was asked yesterday whether the president consented willingly to the publication of the endorsement on the Barnard letter, which has been often referred to. By reference to a letter addressed to me by Gen. Bristow, under date of August 7th, written in the Treasury department, I find that the Secretary of the Treasury had addressed an official communication to the President asking him for permission to publish that endorsement, and on that date, August 7th, he had received no reply. For the purpose of fixing the date when the "Sylph" telegram was discovered, I refer to a letter of Gen. Bristow to me, written from New York, August 9, 1875, and which I have no objection to make part of the record. It is as follows:

"New York, Aug. 8, 1875.

"My Dear Wilson: Your letter of yesterday, with the enclosure, is received. The time is very near at hand when I must make a square issue with the thieves and scoundrels who have combined to destroy me. I must be supported cordially and earnestly, or I must break. I fear the complications are such that the former can't be done, and the latter must. You can't be too careful about talking to anybody. I have heard here that the matter about the "Sylph" dispatch, and our having seen it in connection with Pierpont, is fully known to P and B (meaning Porter and Babcock) and they are greatly disturbed. Do not suffer yourself to talk with anybody about it. Of course this is not meant for censure, but caution. I suppose I must make up my mind to bear the abuse of the ring papers, hard as it is to do. They are fighting to keep their friends out of prison and to save themselves from exposure, and of course they will seek to destroy anybody who stands in their way. Well, as for myself, I cannot turn back, nor will I stop to parley with thieves. I have no ambition to serve and no purpose to accomplish but the enforcement of the law, and an honest collection of the revenue. I will compromise on nothing short of this, but on this issue I am ready to be sacrificed any day.

"P.S.—Ask Webster to write the President fully his views about the Chicago Custom House and the whiskey ring. He has great confidence in Webster, and it is going to require the utmost watchfulness of his real friends to prevent his being misled by men who profess friendship for him, but who are acting treacherously. Tell Webster to write strongly and give him the plain truth, and mark his letter confidential. "B. H. B."

Now, in response to the question of the chairman, I may say that the Secretary of the Treasury and myself having been ordered by the President to see that no guilty man should escape, if it could be avoided, on consideration, we mutually concluded that the President could not go back on that injunction without stultifying himself and placing his officers in a false position, and we, therefore, resolved to leave the whole matter of Gen. Babcock's alleged connection with the whiskey ring at St. Louis to be dealt with by the local officers there. Until about the 1st of December, and indeed, until it was known absolutely that Gen. Babcock had been indicted, the relations of Bristow and myself with the President were passable, but as soon as it was seen that Babcock was to be indicted, the idea of a military court of inquiry was brought to the front, to my knowledge, by Gen. Babcock and his friends. The idea of a military court was broached before the indictment was found against Babcock, and the fact that the President of the United States took the ground that that military court should supersede the proceedings before the civil tribunals at St. Louis, was taken by myself and by the Secretary to be a marked indication of his purpose to defeat the prosecution in that city. On the 3rd or 4th of December I wrote a letter to Gen. Henderson, advising him fully of my views, and indicating to him the settled purpose of the Secretary of the Treasury to see, by all honorable means, that

the proceedings before the civil tribunal should not be postponed or delayed or embarrassed if he could prevent it by any proceedings to be instituted or had before the military tribunal. Of that letter I have not a copy, but General Henderson, I believe, has the original. In the next place it is a fact that I heard nothing from the President of the charge that I had put spies upon him or forged a letter which was adduced against me as stated in my testimony yesterday, until it was seen and known that General Babcock was indicted. A conference between the President and myself took place, I find, by reference, on December 8th, 1875. It will be remembered in that conference the President expressed himself to me with regard to Gen. Henderson and Dyer with great bitterness, and immediately thereafter Henderson was dismissed from the prosecution. He was dismissed in opposition to my written protest addressed to the Secretary of the treasury, in which I called the attention of the Secretary to the fact that I was advised officially by Eaton, of counsel for government, that Judge Treat, presiding justice at the trial in which the alleged objectionable remarks of Henderson were made, was said to have declared to Eaton, and to have requested Eaton to notify the authorities here, that in his judgment Henderson's remarks contained no reflection whatever on the President. I also called attention to the fact that Eaton, Dyer and Henderson had all, in writing, informed me that no such purpose existed on Henderson's part, and that on the contrary, it appeared from the official records in my possession at that time, and now in the Treasury Department, that Gen. Henderson went out of his way in an argument in that case to state that, in his judgment, the President of the United States was altogether above reproach as far as he knew, and to pay the President a compliment I said, therefore, to the Secretary of the Treasury, that I accepted the judgment of Gen. Henderson's colleagues and of the court as conclusive on that question, and that in my judgment the President of the United States ought to rise above personal considerations, since interests imperatively required Henderson's retention in the prosecution. The dismissal of Henderson was, in my judgment, a fatal blow to the prospect of the successful prosecution in the Babcock case.

Q.—Have you the protest to which you have referred?

A.—It is now on file in the Treasury Department, and I will make it an exhibit before I get through. By reference to my private letter book I find, under date of Dec. 4th, the following letter written by me—

"Dear Eaton—I wrote General Henderson a confidential letter last night, giving you the situation of affairs at this end in the 'Sylph' matter. We don't know here what you are doing, but presume, of course, you are doing your duty."

That is the letter in which I have made reference to the controversy in regard to the military and civil tribunal. Another ground was the President's refusal to remove Jasper D. Ward, United States district attorney at Chicago, until he was confronted by evidence of the 3rd of December, which showed that Ward was a partner in the Powell distillery, and had improper relations with Jacob Rehm, which statement was made to the President by Hon. Burton C. Cooke, of Chicago. On that point I said to Secretary Bristow, Dec. 3rd—

"Dear General:—Mr. Cooke was just in to see me with some startling news. He saw the President after he saw you, and was assured by the President that he would remove Ward promptly, and to that end he would ask Webster to name his successor at once; but what was especially noteworthy was a letter to Cooke from a reliable friend in Chicago attributing Logan's illness to sheer fright. It charges that he is in that atmosphere, and the air was full of rumor about Ward's connection with the ring, his relations with the distiller Powell, &c. The enclosed from Brook's may interest you. May the Lord give you wisdom. Faithfully,

"WILSON."

That note I sent to Gen. Bristow in the cabinet. The ejaculation at the end of it was because I knew the proposal to have a military