

St. Louis, 23.—District Attorney Dyer, at the commencement of his closing argument in the Babcock case this morning, referred to his conduct in office, since he assumed it nine months ago and entered upon the discharge of his duties as the prosecutor of the whiskey ring. He disclaimed the idea that he had been led into the prosecution of any innocent men, and told the jury that he appeared without malicious or other intent, than as a representative of the people to prosecute great wrongs. The case he characterized as a most remarkable one, and the course of the defense as still more remarkable. He accused Judge Porter of trying to drag the President into the case needlessly and groundlessly, and said the President's deposition is before this jury; he has been examined, and I shall comment on his testimony as I would on that of any other witness. But when the gentleman, for a purpose of his own, represents the President as on trial, I don't intend that the red flag which he has thus flaunted in my face shall be followed to the battle. As well might he have said that the President was on trial when John McDonald was being tried, or as well when any other of these conspirators were before the Court.

At some length Col. Dyer attempted to show that this point was used by the defense to influence Republicans on the jury, and he then continued—"I do not intend that the adroitness of the gentleman shall put me in the attitude of assailing the administration. I intend to bring this defendant from behind the back of the President, where they have tried to place him, and I intend that he shall stand on his own merits in this case, and that they shall not wring a verdict from this jury by pretending that the President is on trial. When, or by whom of the prosecution has the President been assailed? Col. Broadhead has not done it in his argument; I did not in my opening, and yet, for an hour yesterday, Judge Porter stood here and defended the President. Sensible and wise as they say General Grant is, he will not thank the gentleman for dragging him into this case in this manner. What motive should actuate me in attacking the President? There is not a man on that jury, or within the sound of my voice, who does not know that I am a Republican. Why should I insult General Grant? I voted in both the national conventions for his nomination for the Presidency, and the polls will show that I voted for his election. Nine months ago he signed the commission which entitles me to speak here to-day, but I don't intend that General Babcock, the private secretary to the President, shall escape because he is the private secretary. I would try him as I would try Bassett or McFall, McDonald or Joyce. The gentleman knows there is no malice in me towards the defendant. I never spoke to him before last October, but when I saw what the evidence against him was I resolved not to smother it because I was a republican and the President's private secretary was a republican."

Dyer then drew a comparison between the manner in which the defense seemed to assail the servants and underlings and the manner in which those in whose hands lay the removing power were protected. Noticing Porter's remarks on the press and public opinion, he said, "They are terribly afraid of public clamor, but what have you to do with that? They abuse the newspapers from one end of the land to the other, but what is that to you who are here to try this case on the evidence which has been presented to you?" Proceeding to his next point, the district attorney said—"It is an amusing defense Judge Porter makes. He starts out and applauds the President for an hour and then eulogizes Andy Johnson, who is dead and gone. He applauds Grant, thinking to strike some of you who are republicans, and then turns round and praises Andrew Johnson, thinking to please some of you who did not believe that Johnson should be impeached. Now I do not know from the speech of the gentleman from N. Y., whether he was for Grant or for Johnson. It reminds me of the old rhyme I have heard all my life—'He wired in and wired out, leaving the jury still in doubt whether the law, who made the track, was going north or coming back.' Now I do not know what the gentleman thinks, but when the President reads what Col. Broadhead has said, and when he reads what I said in

my opening, and finally what the gentleman for the defendant has said, he will not thank the gentleman for bringing him to the front in this prosecution, and pulling Gen. Babcock behind, unable to meet the evidence. He starts out defend General Grant when no word has been said against him. Premising that I intend no disrespect to the President, for some of his friends seem to think he must be taken care of, while I think he is able to take care of himself, I will say this defense reminds me of an eminent doctor who, having been called to attend a lady in confinement, met a neighbor next day, and was asked how the patient was doing. 'The child is dead,' the doctor replied, 'and the mother will die, but with the aid of the Lord I think I can save the old man.' The whole effort of the defense has been to impress you with the idea that the President was on trial."

Col. Dyer then dwelt on other matters which he claimed had been dragged into the case in the argument for the defense, but which were wholly foreign to it. The jury had nothing to do with the opinions of counsel as to the cases of Joyce, McDonald, Avery or McKee. He asserted that he was acting with the republican party in attempting to crush out wrongs and frauds, and he quoted the President's language—"Let no guilty man escape"—to show that he was acting in harmony with the administration.

Col. Dyer then passed to an examination of the evidence. In reply to Mr. Storrs' argument he said that Storrs had congratulated the jury that a new era of justice was dawning, and the speaker took occasion to repeat the congratulation. He was proud that a new era had dawned through the sufferings of the public, when men of position, high or low, could be brought before 12 good and honorable men, and made to answer to an indictment for their wrong doings. The gentleman had pleaded most touchingly the home associations of the defendant in his behalf, but the gentleman had forgotten that Fitz Roy and the rest had associations just as near to them, that around their hearthstones clustered their children, praying the Great Being to save their father from the inexorable law. The gentleman had gone to great lengths to declare they had not been technical in their defense, but that it was the prosecution which was technical, and in support of the assertion, they instanced two objections made by the latter. One of these was to the introduction of the home letters; that objection was not intended to exclude the letters, but to compel them, as they well knew, to put on the stand the man who got those letters from Bingham, and who was at that very time sitting in the room. The objection to the introduction of the letters from Babcock to Joyce was not to exclude them, it was to compel them to place on the stand Gov. Fletcher, counsel for Joyce, that his testimony might show that the intimacy which existed between Babcock and Joyce in 71-2-3 and 4 was not sundered by the latter's conviction, and that Joyce still took the interest of a friend in him and that he sent to his counsel these letters as a means of defense. It was desired to know that these conspirators were disposed to save their friend in order that he might extend, in return, a helping hand in their misfortune. But where were the letters that passed between these men after 1873, at the time when the defendant was proved to have been a member of the conspiracy? Joyce was as genial and as pleasant a friend then as before, and was it nonsense to say there was no further correspondence? The gentleman asked why the prosecution had not produced that correspondence? Because the prosecution had not those intimate relations with Joyce that the defendant had, and consequently could not secure those letters as the defense could if they chose. It was necessary to the safety of the conspiracy that some one be secured to manage the thing from above, or at Washington. The President was only a man, with a man's likes and dislikes. No fault could be found with him for the faith which he expressed in Babcock; it would be a shame if he were to declare that he had kept, as his private Secretary, a man in whom he did not have faith. But so had he faith in McDonald, yet that did not prove him innocent. Why then should it prove that Bab-

cock was not a party to the frauds? It had been said Babcock did not exert an influence with the President and in support of this the President's deposition was quoted. Possibly he never did speak to the President about it, but does not every sensible man know that the stronger influence could be brought to bear upon the President indirectly, and in just such a manner as it is proved that Babcock did adept? The effect of Babcock's efforts was manifest in that dispatch to McDonald declaring that the order transferring the supervisors was only temporary. Joyce's keen Irish eye recognized this as a weakness, and he telegraphed to Babcock—"We have official information that he weakens; push things." Does any sensible man believe that that dispatch was the first communication on this subject between these two? Does not this dispatch show on its very face that there was a mutual understanding that the enemy were the officers who were trying to protect the revenues of the government? This was no occasion to discuss whether or not the President was influenced solely by the arguments of Tutton, but it was the right of an American citizen to consider whether, if such arguments had under like circumstances been presented to him, he would have been convinced and taken the course of the President. The President admits that Babcock had protested against the raids here on the grounds that they should be made, if at all, by men of unquestioned honesty. It was not apparent that this protest was insincere. McDonald, in opposition to the transfer, had used the argument that it would hurt the party. This is the cry of every public thief that was ever caught, and the speaker was glad that at last it had become unavailing. Joyce and McDonald had appealed to the party to protect them, and Babcock now tries to find protection behind the President. The party could not save Joyce and McDonald, and the refuge which Babcock had taken would not save him.

Dyer then went into a close analysis of all the telegrams and letters offered in evidence, placing them in proper relations with each other, explaining under what circumstances they were sent, the objects obtained in sending them, and drawing the conclusion therefrom that Babcock was not only clearly guilty of connection with the conspiracy, but that he was in frequent correspondence by mail with Joyce and McDonald during the years '73-4 and 5. Although no letters had been brought out to prove the nature of some of the dispatches, the peculiar circumstances under which they were sent made it clear to him that letters had passed between these parties. In the light which the blind expressions and allusions in them were understood, if ever there was a case that justified conviction this one does, for the evidence against the defendant is written in his own hand. I know the influence that undertakes to hold him up, but I don't object to it. If a man is able to gather round him such influence to back him up in the day of trouble I could not say aught against it. I stand here with the conviction that no man, high or low, will escape the punishment his crime merits, and it encourages me to feel that I am supported by an intelligent jury. I know it would be an easy thing to track down a rectifier, but I knew there would be a current to stem when the government laid its hand on one so high; and, gentlemen, I ask your enlightened judgment to bear me out in my duty. I can say, truthfully, that no animosity wrangles in my bosom against the defendant, and he and his friends should rather speak well of a public officer sworn to do his duty who faithfully endeavors to perform it, than to say he is convicted by malice and ill will. Gentlemen, you are relied upon for a verdict that will send joy to every honest man and woman in this country. Let it go abroad that here, in Missouri, is found a jury which has the nerve to do its duty, and I say it will do more to build up this government than anything else. It rests upon the juries of this country to vindicate the laws, and if you fail in your duty and are not faithful to the trust you have assumed this republican government will fail, because its revenues will be appropriated by thieves and its name will fall into disgrace.

"They have spoken to you of the defendant's children, but the gen-

tlemen there should see a million tiny hands held up in this country crying 'Give us our daily bread;' and will the verdict of a Missouri jury say to them 'You must cry on for bread, but the men who have plundered the treasury may enjoy all the luxuries of life.' Do your duty and your honest neighbor will grasp your hands, glad to know that you have not only done it in this case, but that you have done much to relieve your country of the distress that has been inflicted upon it by public plunderers."

This ended the argument, and the court adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow, when it is expected that Judge Dillon will charge the jury and give the case into their hands.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., 24.—A sleeping car on the Harlem railway extension was burned last night, and Mr. Bissel, proprietor of the Sherman House, Chicago, and his son perished in the flames; ten others are reported as having been badly burned. The accident was caused by a car running off a broken rail and the upsetting of cars which then took fire.

NEW YORK, 24.—One of the German banking houses has received a cable despatch from Europe, announcing that the police at Brussels had discovered counterfeit bonds of the New York Central and California and Oregon railroad companies; it is presumed that these bonds were issued by one of the noted forgers now in the Tombs, and were sent over to the other side either for sale or to borrow money on.

A very exciting and unlooked for denouement of the meeting between Henry C. Bowen and the Plymouth Church examining committee took place to-night, at Assistant Pastor Halliday's house. The meeting took place on receipt of the following letter—

"Brooklyn, Feb. 17.
"Mr. Henry C. Bowen—Sir—The examining committee have directed me to say that they are acting under express instructions from the church, embraced in a resolution, a copy of which has been transmitted to you. In the judgment of the committee there is no ground for your assertion that you are on trial. They are making a preliminary investigation into the insinuations or charges which you have made against fellow-members of the church, concerning which you have repeatedly expressed yourself ready to give the essential facts. These facts they demand. The committee, therefore, renew their request that you appear at the time and place specified in my letter of the 12th inst., for the purpose therein named.

"Respectfully,
"S. B. HALLIDAY."
About 8 o'clock Mr. Bowen and his sons Edward and Henry E. Bowen, and Dr. Ward entered Mr. Halliday's house, and in about an hour the door was flung open, lights flashed and loud and angry voices were heard, the cause of which is herewith set down, in the words of Mr. Henry Bowen—

"On entering the room in Halliday's house to-night, Bowen found to his astonishment a company of forty or fifty persons assembled, embracing the members of the committee, the chairman of the council in session, and others, and amongst those present were Henry Ward Beecher, who sat in a corner of the room behind the door, not in view of Bowen. Bowen being called upon for his statement presented it. Previous to presenting his statement Bowen expressed his surprise at such a large audience and asked for the reason of their presence. He was told that the committee never objected to his bringing his friends there. The idea was that Bowen had a right to bring in any friends he cared to, the only objection was to reporters; that the company came with the committee's invitation, not Mr. Beecher's. "But," said Mr. Bowen, "Beecher is chairman of the committee." To this Bowen replied that he had no objection, but the responsibility of publicity must rest with them; that he came there to present his statement to the examining committee and nobody else; that he should decline to give it to the press, and if published it should be by the examining committee and not by him.

After Bowen had read his statement, continued the narrator, Mr. Tierney inquired if he had any other facts to give; to which Bowen replied—"That is all this evening."

As Bowen was about leaving, Mr. Blair, a member of the committee, said—"I protest against Bowen leaving."

Mr. Sherman said—"Mr. Bowen, you will not be permitted to leave the room."

Bowen stepped toward the door, when Mr. T. V. White jumped up and locked the door, took the key and put it in his pocket, and as he saw Bowen looking toward the door of the other room, Mr. White called out—"Lock that other door," and several men jumped toward it. Every one jumped to his feet, but Bowen was too quick, and got to the back parlor door just before several of the crowd got to it. His son Henry E. followed and rushed to the door, and called for the press, thinking they were there.

Mr. Bowen expressed himself very strongly in regard to the treatment he received.

Mr. S. V. White was visited, and his version is substantially this—Bowen read a statement of 52 pages, which failed to give names or dates. It referred to scandals of ten or eleven years ago. After reading a few pages he handed the paper to Dr. Ward, then Bowen stepped toward the door, and Mr. White, desiring to prolong the interview as much as possible, and being located near the door, turned the key and withdrew it from the lock and put it in his pocket. Bowen stepped back several feet, and surveying the situation, saw a means of exit by the back door, and he darted in that direction, upsetting chairs and other articles of household furniture in his flight, and escaped from the house. Mr. Edward Bowen then pointed at Mr. White, and said "I will fix you, you will pay for this." Henry E. Bowen then ran to the door with dishevelled hair, flying wildly about, and shouted—"Gentlemen of the press." In response to his cries the reporters of the Associated Press and Times came up, and in response to their inquiries Mr. Henry E. Bowen besought his brother not to make a fool of himself, saying—"White has made an ass of himself," and that Mr. E. Bowen could not better the matter by shouting for members of the press.

Specie shipment to-day \$450,000 gold coin.

Henry C. Bowen characterizes, as an outrage, the conduct of the Plymouth Church people last evening, and expresses surprise and indignation that any body of Christians would attempt to lock a free-born citizen in a room against his will; he is deliberating what action he should take, if any, in order to bring the perpetrators of the attempt on his personal liberty to justice.

CHICAGO, 24.—The jury in the Babcock case, at St. Louis, returned a verdict of "not guilty."

FISHKILL, N. Y., 24.—Interviews with passengers show that the terrible railroad calamity happened at midnight near Wallingford, on the Harlem extension. The train was composed of an engine, baggage car, one passenger car, and a Wagner sleeping car. There were ten passengers in the sleeping car, which was thrown from the track by a broken rail, and upset, rolled down an embankment and caught fire. Mr. Bissell's son, age 17, was in the centre of the sleeper; the father got out, but hearing the cries of his son, he went back to save him, and both were burned to death. Their charred remains were found. No other passengers in the sleeper were burned, but all were more or less injured in other ways. Mr. Francis Tierney and wife, of Chicago, were hurt. Mrs. Tierney on the face and her husband in the head. The Rev. H. Cunningham, of Troy, is not hurt and Mr. Pithon, of Hartford, is injured. Only one lady, Mrs. Tierney, who was in the parlor of the sleeper, was slightly injured. Both the conductors in the case were uninjured. The engine went five miles after physicians, and all the injured are doing well. A gentleman from Montreal, name unknown, is slightly injured. Madam Prout, of Philadelphia, is slightly hurt, but has gone on her way. An unknown man from Chicago was somewhat hurt. Mr. and Mrs. Tierney are at the station, south of the scene. There were about fifty persons in the passenger car behind the sleeping car, none of whom were hurt. Mr. Bissell was found dead, with his feet out of a window, and his body inside burned to a crisp.

IN THIS CITY, Feb. 25th, 1876, of pneumonia, WINNI GEORGINA ZACHARIA-SENE, daughter of Mark and Juliette Coxall, aged 1 year, 4 months and 19 days.