

REPORT

OF THE

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New Jersey. Legislature, Assembly,
Special Committee of Investigation.

Under Resolution Adopted January 20, 1875,

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NEWARK, N. J.:

EVENING JOURNAL—W. B. GUILD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

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RESOLUTION.

Mr. Morrow offered the following:

WHEREAS, It is alleged in the public prints that certain subordinate clerkships of this House have been made to subject of barter and sale, and that at least one of them has been bestowed for a pecuniary consideration; and whereas, sound policy requires, in the language of the inaugural of Governor Bedle, that "there should be solid punishment against any officer being directly or indirectly interested in any contract connected with his office, or in the range of his official duty;" therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Speaker to inquire into the charges aforesaid, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report upon the same in this House within six days.

Which was read and adopted.

I certify that the above has been truly taken from the minutes of the House of Assembly, for January 20th, 1875.

J. HERBERT POTTS.

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
TRENTON, N. J., January 20th, 1875.

HON. GEO. O. VANDERBILT,

Speaker House of Assembly.

My attention has been called to a publication, which was this morning in one or more New York papers, by certain persons reflecting discreditably upon myself as clerk of this House, as having made appointment from dishonorable considerations, and I would respectfully ask that the House will immediately order a committee to examine and promptly report upon the matter.

Respectfully yours,

JNO. CARPENTER, JR.,
Clerk.

I certify that the above has been truly taken from the minutes of the House of Assembly for Wednesday, January 20th, 1875.

J. HERBERT POTTS.

TESTIMONY.

Mr. Sayre and Mr. Bamford, admitting that they brought charges against Mr. Carpenter, were allowed to be present during the sessions, together with Mr. Carpenter.

The committee decided to oblige the complainants and defendant to secrecy until the report be made to the House.

Messrs. Bamford, Sayre, and Carpenter were sworn.

On motion of Mr. McGill, *Mr. Stephen H. Sayre* was called and sworn—
testified—

Publisher of a paper at Deckertown, New Jersey; candidate before the House for Journal Clerk; the appointment was left with the Clerk of the House.

First met Mr. Carpenter on Saturday before the House assembled; met him on a train going from Rahway to New York; he took a seat beside me, and I asked him how he thought his chances were; he said he expected to be successful; I had previously written several letters, and the last one which I wrote to him I asked him the question, whether if he was elected Clerk, and the appointment was left to him, he would appoint me Journal Clerk; I received a reply, but it did not definitely answer my question, and when I met him on the cars on this occasion, I concluded before I parted with him that I would know definitely what he intended to do; we arrived in New York with a party of gentlemen, but were separated from them perhaps two or three rods; I told him I wanted a definite reply, and he said, "If I am elected you may consider the Journal Clerkship yours;" we went from there into Robinson's saloon, 64 Courtlandt street, New York; had some refreshments; went from there to the Merchant's Hotel; and there some gentlemen introduced me to Mr. Charles Y. Bamford; I do not recollect who it was; and then Bamford said that he had a proposition to make; he says, now let us work this thing together for Carpenter, and one of us can have the position of Journal Clerk, and the other the Assistant; we will arrange that matter with Carpenter on Monday; I told him I would think about the matter; I felt favorably disposed, but I wanted time for consideration; before I left the hotel that day I agreed to Mr. Bamford's proposition; then I went home; on Monday, 11th, about 2 o'clock or somewhere near there, I arrived in Trenton, and some time during the afternoon or evening, I don't recollect which, I was so excited over the contest; Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Bamford and myself were all present, at Room No. 4, National Hotel; Mr. Bamford asked Mr. Car-

penter that if he was successful would he appoint he and I Journal Clerk and Assistant, and Mr. Carpenter said "Yes," the understanding was that Mr. Bamford and I were to use our influence to secure Mr. Carpenter's election; to instruct our friends in the caucus that if Mr. Carpenter secured the election not to have the question of the appointment of Journal Clerk voted on in the caucus, but to leave it to Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Bamford and I were to draw lots from the hat to decide which should be Journal Clerk and which Assistant.

In answer to Mr. McGill—That Mr. Carpenter was a party to the arrangement—agreed to it fully.

Mr. Hendrickson—

Who made the proposition as to the drawing out of the hat?

Ans.—Mr. Bamford; Mr. Carpenter, he agreed to it.

Mr. McGill—

How?

Ans.—We asked him the question if he was fully agreed to the proposition, and he said yes.

Mr. McGill—

What proposition?

Ans.—The one above recited; the entire proposition was made by Mr. Bamford; Mr. Bamford and I carried our part of the agreement to the letter; we told our friends that a vote for Mr. Carpenter was a vote for us; we left no honorable means undone to secure Mr. Carpenter's election; we did not offer to bribe anybody; what we done was by "chin music"—Mr. Carpenter secured the election; we went to him immediately after the election, and wanted the thing settled—wanted him to announce the appointment; we saw him in the House of Assembly on the day he was installed; I found him in the House, next to the Engrossing Clerk's room, I don't know where Mr. Bamford was at the time; when I told him I wanted the thing settled, he said "there are ten or a dozen applicants for the office, and I will have to have each one come around to my rooms and hear their claims," I was astonished, and expressed myself so; he said, "things have turned out so differently, I don't know what to do;" he did not say anything as to his promise; I said, "I shall expect you to carry out the agreement;" "well," he says, "come around to my rooms and present your claims;" he did not make any mention of the agreement—he knew what agreement I referred to; Mr. Bamford and I then had a consultation at the Trenton House, and we went around and waited on Mr. Carpenter; we told him that we expected him to live up to the contract, presented our claims as best we could, and he told us to come around the next day for a final decision.

Mr. McGill—

What claims did you present?

We advised him of the contract he had made.

Quest.—What did he say to that?

Ans.—He admitted he had made the contract, but said things had turned

out so differently; he did not say how they were different—we pressed him, but he refused to answer; one excuse was that there was so much outside pressure, and so many candidates, that he did not know what to do; the second claim was the presentation of a document from the Democratic Executive Committee of Sussex county, asking the appointment and recommending me.

My suspicions as to his reason for not giving me the position were caused by his words; I was suspicious that he did not mean to live up to his contracts, and had used improper means to secure his election; I mean money: from what I had seen after I got here, I supposed money had something to do with it; I did not hear or see, or know of his using any money; I supposed so only because he said things had turned out so differently.

The next day Mr. Bamford and I—on Wednesday—went to Mr. Carpenter's room for a final decision; he then told us that we could have only one position between us, and that was the Journal Clerkship; we were both surprised and taken back, and we told Carpenter that that was not carrying out his contract according to agreement; he said that things had turned out so differently; that he was in such a position that he could not do any better, and he said that we must settle that between ourselves; we wanted to know how, and he made this proposition; he says: "Draw cuts from a hat for the position, the one who gets the position to give the other a note for \$500, (that proposition came from Mr. Carpenter) and I, Carpenter, will endorse it and get a friend to discount it; Bamford and I seen that we could not do any better, and we agreed to Mr. Carpenter's proposition; in the course of an hour or so, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Bamford and myself repaired to Mr. Freese's bank; Mr. Bamford drew up a note for \$500, payable to my order. I endorsed that note; Mr. Carpenter endorsed it.

Mr. McGill—

Who was present?

Ans.—Mr. Shuler, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Bamford and myself.

Quest.—Did you speak again of your transaction there?

Ans.—Yes; I told Mr. Shuler the particulars why the note was given (I am not certain about that); I think Mr. Carpenter told him, (I ain't certain about that); Mr. Shuler acted as if it was the first he knew of it.

Col. Freese was absent, and couldn't get the note cashed; Mr. Carpenter left word with Mr. Shuler to get the note cashed—to explain the matter to Col. Freese—and I could get the money on it the next day; Mr. Shuler told me to come around at ten o'clock.

I was to receive the face of the note less legal discount, seven per cent. for three months; to be paid in lawful money of the United States; I was to pay the discount.

Then we all parted, and the next morning I went to the bank, and here is a copy of the telegram which preceded me; Mr. Bamford informed me of the telegram when I was at the bank; I had not met him before I saw him there; I may have seen him the evening before.

Copy of the telegram:

(A.)

ALLANDALE, N. J., January 14th, 1875, 8.55 A. M.

Please delay compliance with my endorsement for young friend until further examination. If convenient let that be reason.

JOHN CARPENTER, Jr.

18, paid. M. D.

Then Mr. Bamford showed me this telegram:

(B.)

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY,

ALLANDALE, N. J., January 14, 1875, 9.15 A. M.

To CHARLES Y. BAMFORD, Esq.:

Find S. immediately; make new paper, with Youman or other friend indorsing, destroying old, and greatly oblige,

J. CARPENTER, Jr.

17, paid. M. D.

I resolved that I would make no new note; to hold the old note; and I went back to my room at the hotel. After a while Mr. Bamford came around and said that he wanted me to go with him to Woodruff's law office, where we were to meet Mr. George O. Vanderbilt and Mr. Woodruff, the member from Mercer. (I don't recollect whether there was any other gentleman included.) The party expressed themselves as astonished (I mean Mr. Vanderbilt and Mr. Woodruff), and tried to quiet us down. I was quite excited. I don't remember whether Mr. Youmans was present. Mr. Vanderbilt seemed very much excited, and kept telling me: "Keep quiet, Sayre, keep quiet." Finally, Mr. Vanderbilt whispered to me: "Meet me at my room, at the National Hotel, at three o'clock." I told him I would do it. Then, from this office I went to the hotel and eat my dinner; then I repaired to my room and wrote a letter home; I did not finish my letter, and it was 3.10 when I left the room; and I went around to Mr. Vanderbilt's room and found Mr. Vanderbilt alone. He went at me in this way: "Now," he says, "Sayre, this is a bad thing." I told him: "I thought so." He says: "It will bring disgrace on the party." I told him: "I wasn't responsible for that." And, "Now," he says, "Sayre, keep still; it will all come out right; I had rather give a thousand dollars out of my own pocket rather than this thing should come out." I told him it would come out unless Mr. Carpenter did the square thing—I meant live up to his agreement about the note. "Now," he says, "Mr. Bamford should not have this position; Mercer county has got the Speaker and Reading Clerk, and," he says, "if I succeed in getting Mr. Bamford off the track, will you accept the position?" I said if he would make it perfectly satisfactory to Mr. Bamford I would, but I would not give one dollar out of

my own pocket to bring it about. Then Mr. Hall, the Governor's private secretary, knocked on the door, and he and another gentleman came in; then I told Mr. Vanderbilt that I would have to go back to the hotel, and he said he would be around there in the evening to see me. I went back to the hotel and got my supper, and got ready to go home, and while I was getting ready Mr. Vanderbilt came in and called me to one side, and says to me: "Now, Sayre, keep still; I'll make a satisfactory arrangement with Mr. Bamford; I'm going to Hunterdon county to see Mr. Carpenter; and," he says, "before you get back I will see Mr. Bamford and make a satisfactory arrangement with him." We parted, and I did not see Mr. Vanderbilt until twelve o'clock on Monday, in the depot at Jersey City. He came up to me and says: "I have seen Carpenter, and he's going to do the square thing." I said: "He's got to." On Monday night (the 18th) I sold that note.

Mr. McGill—

To whom?

Mr. Sayre objected.

Mr. Carpenter thought the question was important.

Ans.—William H. Noble, of Deckertown, my partner in business, was the purchaser of the note—I sold it to him at the Trenton House; Mr. Noble is in town now—I think he knew the circumstances under which the note was given; I got \$5.00 in money, and his individual note for \$500.00, payable in thirty days.

"\$500.00.

TRENTON, N. J., January 18, 1875.

Thirty days from date I promise to pay to Stephen H. Sayre, or order, the sum of five hundred dollars, at the Farmers' National Bank, of Deckertown, N. J. Value received.

WM. H. NOBLE."

The consideration of this note, was this note:

"TRENTON, N. J., January 13, 1875.

Three months after date I promise to pay to the order of Stephen H. Sayre, at the State Savings Bank, No. 6 West State street, Trenton, N. J., five hundred dollars, without defalcation or discount, for value received.

\$500.00.

CHARLES Y. BAMFORD.

Endorsed:

STEPHEN H. SAYRE,
JOHN CARPENTER, JR."

No. 6 West State street is Freese's place of business—I received \$5.00 and a thirty days' note for a three months' note; he bought it on speculation—he intended to sell it—I do not think he intended to hold it for blackmail; that Monday night before I sold the note, a young man in Freese's bank came to me very much excited and said he would give me \$500 for it right away; I told him he could not have it—no one else came to purchase it; I did not sell it

for the \$500 cash, because I did not know but it would get me in some muss; then Mr. Noble and I went to our room, and I sold the note to him—I had taken no advice; Mr. Noble suggested the purchase, he wanted to get it, because he said it would free me, so that when they came running after me, I could say I did not have it; Mr. Shuler was after the note the same evening, he wanted to find out who got it, but I would not tell him; the young man in Freese's bank was also after it—he said he did not know how Carpenter came to sign it; I was introduced to Mr. Carpenter about two years ago at a meeting of the Editorial Association; the proposition made to me in New York by Mr. Bamford was that if we could get—Mr. Carpenter prepare the ballots when we drew for the positions; he took two slips of paper, and wrote on one Journal Clerk, and on the other blank; he put them in Mr. Bamford's cap and held them up, and I drew a blank; it was on Wednesday, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, in Mr. Carpenter's room; I have never given, or offered to Mr. Carpenter, any money or anything in the nature of money, for the appointment; while the matter of the Journal Clerkship was in controversy after the organization of the House, I had a private interview with Mr. Carpenter, and I asked him the question, "If I will agree to give you one-third of the salary, will you appoint me Journal Clerk?" he hesitated some moments, looked me square in the face, and I looked him, and says "I darsent do it;" at the time the note was given, there was no understanding that Mr. Carpenter was to have any part of it; I was to be benefited the \$500, and Mr. Bamford by the position; when I sold the note I considered my withdrawal for the candidacy was the consideration for it; Mr. Noble understood that Mr. Bamford gave the note, and that I and Carpenter endorsed it; he did not know of the inside work; Mr. Carpenter endorsed it to make me certain in it, and I understood that as he had the payment of the clerks, he could withhold it out of Mr. Bamford's salary.

Cross-examined—By Mr. Carpenter—

I could not state the day on which I made the proposition to give one-third of the salary; I did so because some of my friends thought you might be holding back for it; your answer was, "I dars't do it;" I felt ill-used, because you broke the first contract, and tried to break the second, by making a new note, and I had lost confidence.

Quest. What besides a blackmail operation would render the note so valuable?

Ans. Mr. Noble saw that these parties were anxious to get it, and he thought he could sell it for more than its face; I thought that they wanted to gobble up the note and destroy it; the day on which I asked you if I would give you one-third of the salary, I can't remember, except that it was after Mr. Carpenter had been elected, and before we drew the lots; I don't recollect whether it was the same day; it was in Room No. 4, National Hotel; it was in the day time; some of my friends said that is all he is waiting for.

Quest. Who is the friend?

Ans. This friend is Mr. Frank Ward; he told me to go and ask the question of Mr. Carpenter, and if he said yes, to just let the matter rest; I think it was some time after this advice that I went to see Mr. Carpenter; I found him alone in his room; I made up my mind if I had to buy it to get it, I would go home; I offered no money to members to secure the election of Mr. Carpenter, nor the promise of any; I do not know of any person offering money to Mr. Carpenter to secure the Clerkship; the conduct of John M. Wyckoff, of Warren Co., looks strange to me; in November or December I went to Washington, Warren county, to see him and Senator Joseph B. Cornish; I saw Mr. Cornish, and he introduced me to Mr. Wyckoff; Mr. Wyckoff and I went over to the hotel, and Mr. Wyckoff promised me his co-operation in securing the Clerkship, and said he was willing to do all he could for me to get it; now, I understand that through Mr. Wyckoff's influence a young man by the name of Sweeney was appointed by Mr. Carpenter; I understood from Mr. Bennett that it was done through Mr. Wyckoff's influence; it looks so strange that after Mr. Wyckoff promised me he should turn around and put Mr. Sweeney in.

Here the examination was adjourned until Thursday morning.

SECOND DAY.

January 21st, 1875.

The committee met.—Present—Messrs. Moffet, Wilson, Hendrickson and Morrow.

Examination of Mr. Sayre resumed—

By Mr. Morrow—

You stated that you met George O. Vanderbilt at Jersey City, on Monday—at what time?

Ans. Between twelve and one; was in conversation with him about three minutes; was confined to one particular matter; he shook hands and said Mr. Carpenter would do the square thing; I said he had got to; he said it would be all right.

Witness produced a telegram as follows:

(C.)

JERSEY CITY, N. J., January 18th, 1875, received 12.31 P. M.

To Hon. JOHN H. CARPENTER, Jr., National Hotel:

Nothing definite was done in the matter. I leave immediately.

G. O. VANDERBILT.

10, paid. W.

At my interview on Thursday, at Mr. Woodruff's office—Mr. Woodruff is a member from this county—there was no other business transacted except relating to this clerkship; I have had no other business transactions with John Carpenter, Jr., except in relation to this clerkship; I never, in my business transactions, called on Mr. Carpenter for assistance by way of endorsement or otherwise. The note made by Mr. Bamford, and endorsed by Mr. Carpenter and myself, was made for no other purpose than that growing out of this clerkship;

In answer to a question by Mr. Carpenter—

In asking your endorsement on that note I spoke of my immediate needs in business.

By Mr. Moffet—

The endorsement by Mr. Carpenter was agreed to in the first proposition. He made the proposition.

By Mr. Carpenter—

Your offer to endorse was made after my statement as to pecuniary distress. I did not present my claims to secure the endorsement, but to secure the office; Mr. Shuler said after the thing transpired that he understood you to say that you were to have half of it.

Question by Mr. Moffet—

In this matter did Mr. Vanderbilt lead you to infer that he was acting as Speaker of the House or as a friend to the parties?

Ans. He seemed to want to hush the matter up as a friend to the parties.

STEPHEN H. SAYRE.

The committee met at 11 o'clock.

Charles Y. Bamford was sworn and testified as follows:

Am twenty-seven years of age; reside in Trenton, and have no occupation at present; know John Carpenter, Jr.; first met him at Clinton, in December, 1874, before Christmas; was introduced by letters; I solicited the introduction for the purpose of obtaining the position of Journal Clerk; on that day I went to Clinton and met Mr. Carpenter; I handed him my letters as an introduction; Mr. Carpenter looked over the letters and read them; said he had heard of me before; I spoke to him in regard to the position of Journal Clerk; asked him if he was pledged provided he should be elected; he said he was not; he asked me what seemed to be the feeling in the section of the State in regard to his getting the clerkship; I told him that his name seemed to be the most prominent; Mr. Carpenter said that my recommendation, coming from the source it did impressed him most favorably; I told him if he could give me any assurance for the position, I was authorized to say by the representatives of Mercer county, that he could have their votes for the position of Clerk of the House; he wanted to know if I had seen Mr. Swayze, member from Hunterdon, in regard to the position; I told him I had not; he said he would speak to Mr. Swayze in my behalf; he advised me to see the members

throughout the State, in case the matter was left to the caucus, and he would also with his friends, in a sort of indirect way, do all he could for me; and if it was left out of the caucus he would give me the position, providing the majority of the counties which elected him to the clerkship did not present a new man; he also gave me a strong letter to Capt. Bird, of Lambertville; I then left him.

Mr. Bamford referred to a book in which he had made memoranda of his interviews with Mr. Carpenter.

The next conference with Mr. Carpenter was on the morning of Monday, January 11th, at the National Hotel; I had met him in New York, at the Merchants' Hotel, on the previous Saturday; at that time, about twelve o'clock, I met him by chance; I asked him if everything was all right in regard to the transaction we had had before; he said it was—I mean the promise he made at Clinton, that, if I saw a majority of the members and the matter was left out of caucus, and the majority of members who voted for him did not present a man; when we were talking Mr. T. S. Henry, of Essex; Wyckoff, of Warren; Vanderbilt, of Mercer; Gill, of Union; they had nothing to do with my interview with Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Carpenter asked me whether I had seen all the members; I told him no; I asked him what his chances were, and he said "pretty good;" he introduced me to Mr. Sayre; I heard nothing that passed between Mr. Sayre and Mr. Carpenter; after that interview I met Mr. Carpenter first (before I met Mr. Sayre) at the National Hotel; that was on Monday, the 11th; I asked him if everything was all right yet; he stated it was; I then told him if the thing was brought up in caucus that I had spoken to the Mercer county members, in case of his election as clerk, to keep it out of caucus; he advised me to do all I could for him with my friends, and I promised him I would; I did not then see him again until the afternoon of the same day; I went to his room and found him in converse with Mr. Sayre; Mr. Carpenter said that Mr. Sayre's friends were urging his claims as strongly as mine; and, I won't be positive, but I think it was then I mentioned to him the proposition that, in case of his election and we fulfilled our agreement, that both positions should be given to us, and we would settle the matter as regard to choice; he promised to do so; I then left; on Tuesday morning, the 12th of January, I met Mr. Sayre in the morning, and we came to the State House together, after the members were in caucus; as soon as we heard of the election of Mr. Carpenter we went to look for him; we met Mr. Carpenter in Hanover street; we congratulated him on his success, and I asked him the question if everything was all right; he asked me whether caucus had done anything in regard to the Journal Clerk; I told him they had not got that far yet; I then left him and went back to the State House and staid until after caucus adjourned; after I heard the result Mr. Sayre and I went to find Mr. Carpenter, and I met him in the hall between the two chambers; I asked him if everything was all right; he said he would be unable to give his decision in regard to them until Monday night following;

he wanted me to see Mr. Sayre and with him meet him (Carpenter) in his room at seven o'clock that evening; we went around to the National Hotel and met Mr. Carpenter; he sent us up stairs, and afterwards met us and we went into Captain Bird's room, and he there informed us that there was such strong pressure brought to bear from the members in regard to the positions of Journal Clerk and Assistant that he could only give us one position between us, and he asked if Mr. Sayre and I could not settle that matter between us; one of us asked, "Were not both positions promised to us two?" and he said, "No, gentlemen, you misunderstood me;" he asked what the salary of the position amounted to; I told him that Potts got \$1,800 last year; he said the probabilities were, that the salary would be reduced; he then said Mr. Sayre and I must settle it between us, and I would suggest by way of settlement, that one give the other one-third of the salary, \$500; I think I asked him, if we did this, how could we arrange it? he said the party giving it could draw up their note for the amount, and he would endorse it and have it discounted, so that we could get the money on it right away; he then left us, and said that we could settle the matter between us, and report to him the next morning; I met him on Wednesday, January 13th, 4:15 o'clock P. M., at Room No. 4, National Hotel; we informed him that we had compromised the matter, and I asked him if he would abide by the decision, which Mr. Sayre and I might come to; he said yes; we then told him that we proposed to draw cuts for the position, and he should be the judge; he to write on one piece of paper, "Journal Clerk," and leave the other blank, put them in a cap, and one to draw; the one receiving the ticket "Journal Clerk" to give the other one his note for \$500, with Carpenter's endorsement; he prepared the ballots and Mr. Sayre drew first, and he drew the blank, leaving the Journal Clerk for me; then, one of us, (I think Mr. Sayre) spoke about having the note drawn right away; Mr. Carpenter advised us to go to Freese's office in one direction and he would go the other; we did so, and met Mr. Carpenter at Freese's office, and he was then in consultation with Quintus Shuler, in the back room; the note was given to me, (I forget by whom, either Shuler or Carpenter) blank, and I filled it up; I showed it to Mr. Carpenter and Shuler, who stood beside me, and they said it was correct; I did not pay much attention to the endorsing of the note; Mr. Carpenter requested me to keep the thing quiet, so that it would not get out; I told him I felt it my duty to tell the representatives from this county.

By Mr. Carpenter—

Did I not then inform you that the Mercer representatives were already aware that whatever was agreed on as satisfactory to yourself and Mr. Sayre, would be satisfactory to me?

Ans.—Don't think you did; you had not time to do so; I then left, and left the note in charge of Sayre; on Thursday morning I went home, about eleven o'clock, and found this telegram, marked *Exhibit B*.

By Mr. Hendrickson—

Are you always as careful in keeping memoranda as you have been in this case?

Ans.—I did it in this case because I had suspicions from the start.

By Mr. Hendrickson—

What excited your suspicion?

Ans.—My suspicion was excited first and greatest when I saw Mr. Carpenter in conference with Mr. Sayre, on the afternoon of the 21st; it was merely from seeing them together, and not from any other circumstances.

After I received the telegram (*Exhibit B*) I started for the office of G. D. W. Vroom; he was not there; I heard that Mr. Vanderbilt was seen going toward the State House, so I came here and met A. J. Smith and Mr. Vanderbilt, and showed them the telegram, and asked them what they thought about the matter; I made use of the expression—"things don't look altogether right;" they both said they could not understand what Mr. Carpenter meant, unless it was to get his name off the note; they thought everything would be all right, but for me to see Mr. Sayre, and get him to come to Robert S. Woodruff's office at twelve o'clock, and they would be there and talk the matter over; it was understood that I was to get Mr. Sayre, if I could find him; I asked if it would not be better to go to Freese's Bank, and see if the note had been discounted; Mr. Smith said yes; I then went to the bank and saw Mr. Shuler, and spoke to him and showed him the telegram, and asked him if the note had been discounted; he told me it was not, and that Mr. Sayre was in the room waiting for it; we went to the front of the room—the cashier's desk—and showed Harry Freese the telegram; Shuler said to Freese, "We might as well let him see the other, hadn't we?"—Freese said yes, and he showed me a telegram (*Exhibit A*); I asked Shuler to let me have the telegram to copy; he said he would not, it was confidential; I then informed him what we were going to do in regard to meeting Smith and Vanderbilt, and requested him to be there; he said he would; Mr. Vanderbilt passed by on the other side of the street, and we followed him, and Shuler requested that I should keep on one side, so that he might show Vanderbilt the telegram in confidence; so Shuler met Vanderbilt and took him in Dr. James' door; I do not know what transpired; Vanderbilt afterward came out and promised to meet me in twenty minutes at Woodruff's office; while we were talking, Sayre passed up Warren street; I followed him, and met him in the Trenton House; I showed him the telegram, and asked him to meet us at Woodruff's office, and we went there and waited for them; after some time Shuler, Vanderbilt, John A. Hall, and Robert S. Woodruff came in; Sayre and I explained the matter to Vanderbilt and Shuler; Vanderbilt advised us to let the matter drop until we saw Carpenter; he thought everything would be all right; he did not say that he would have an interview with Carpenter; Mr. Shuler did not advise me to see Mr. Carpenter; on Monday, the 18th, at about twelve o'clock, I saw Mr. Carpenter at the

National meeting; he promised a meeting, and I afterwards went with him to his room—No. 8; I told him what had been done about the note; that Sayre held on to it, and would not have it changed; we sat down, and I made the following proposition to Mr. Carpenter: that if I was sworn in as Journal Clerk that night at eight o'clock, Mr. Sayre on the next morning, at the opening of the bank, was to draw the money, and I would take up the note from the bank before Thursday night, myself; Mr. Carpenter said, "You can either do it, or I will do it;" I asked him if that be satisfactory; he said yes; I asked him if I had not better be up at the House at eight o'clock; he said yes, and that he was going to keep Herb. Potts on the balance of the week; I said to him, "Mr. Carpenter, then the thing is understood?" and he said, yes; I left Mr. Carpenter, and found Mr. Sayre at the Trenton House; I made the proposition to Mr. Sayre that I had made to Mr. Carpenter; he did not seem prepared to agree to it; I asked him whether he intended to stick by me in this thing; he said he would; I asked him, why not let the matter go, as I had explained to him, about the note; I said, "If I am sworn in Journal Clerk, I'll see that you get your money on the note;" he then said to me that he was offered \$1,000 for the note; he said, by George O. Vanderbilt; he did not say that he had been offered by any one else; I told him it was not worth that to me; I left him, and went back to Mr. Carpenter's room—I found him there—very much excited, he seemed to be; he accused me of showing this note around, and telling around about it; I told him I had not, only to the representatives; we sat down by the table, and he told me that, under the present circumstances, he would be obliged to give the position to outside parties altogether; I told him I didn't think that was hardly a square thing on his part; Mr. Carpenter then made the following proposition to me: that he would give me \$300 out of his own pocket, and give me the position of Journal Clerk, if the young man whom he was going to appoint proved incompetent, if that was satisfactory to me.

Quest. Why did he make the proposition?

Ans. I understood that, at the conference at Clinton, between Mr. Vanderbilt and Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Carpenter made the proposition to Mr. Vanderbilt, whether there was not some chance of getting me out of the way; Mr. Vanderbilt told me that Mr. Carpenter asked him if Mercer county did not have her share of the offices; Mr. Vanderbilt told him they had; then Carpenter said, "Is there not some way of getting Bamford out of the way?" Vanderbilt told Carpenter he would try to meet me on Saturday, and talk the matter over; he did not see me; Mr. Vanderbilt told me of this at the Trenton House, on the 19th inst.

By Mr. McGill—

Quest. Why did Vanderbilt state this conversation to you?

Ans. Because I showed him the telegram which I found under Mr. Carpenter's table—(Exhibit C)—I found the telegram, and thought perhaps George Vanderbilt was going back on it—so, that morning, on going to his room, I

showed him the telegram, and he seemed very much excited, and said he would go right to the State House, and see Carpenter; we came up to the State House, and Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Vanderbilt and I went into the Speaker's private room, and Mr. Vanderbilt spoke to Mr. Carpenter as to the intention of the telegram; Vanderbilt said to me, that it did have reference to the Journal Clerk, and the nature of it was this: that he heard Mr. Carpenter was going to appoint Sweeny and Kelly, and that he might not appoint both of them until he (Vanderbilt) should meet him.

The committee adjourned until 2 P. M.

At 2 o'clock P. M. the inquiry was resumed.

Mr. Charles Y. Bamford, resumed—

Then I left the room and did not see Mr. Vanderbilt again until night before last (the 19th); we went into the reception room at the Trenton House, Mr. Woodruff, Vanderbilt and myself, and Mr. Vanderbilt said that he heard I was showing that telegram; I informed them that I had not, except to Mr. Sayre, and that if the dispatch had gotten out, it was through Mr. Sayre; then he again explained how it was that he had sent the dispatch; in order to assure him that I did not intend to make capital against him by the dispatch, I gave it to him, after offering to burn it; Major A. J. Smith informed me on the 12th that I had better leave the matter rest until next morning, in regard to Sayre and I compromising, and he would meet me at 9 o'clock that morning at Vanderbilt's room, and try to have Youmans and Woodruff there, and talk the matter over; at the hour appointed I met Smith and Vanderbilt, and they decided to leave it until after the morning session; at 2 o'clock Major Smith, G. D. W. Vroom, John A. Hall, Robert S. Woodruff, came out of the Assembly chamber, and I called Major Smith one side and asked what decision they had come to; they said they couldn't do anything with Mr. Carpenter other than the agreement he had made with Sayre and I, and that Mr. Carpenter said that Sayre and I had agreed to settle the matter between us; I asked him what I had better do, and Smith said "take the \$500;" I told him I was satisfied with that, and I was going to draw lots and take the chance; and he said, "the probability is, if you do not settle it between you, neither one of you will get it."

By Mr. Morrow—

Were these parties acting for you in this matter?

Ans. Yes, sir.

Quest. Have you had any other business transactions with Mr. Carpenter or Mr. Sayre except this?

Ans. No, sir; it was by appointment with Mr. A. J. Smith that we met in

Mr. Woodruff's office; at the time I made the memoranda from which I have read; I had doubts as to further trouble.

By Mr. Morrow—

I did not send Mr. Vanderbilt to Clinton or Jersey City, nor did he, to my knowledge, go there in my behalf.

By Mr. McGill—

Mr. Sayre told me that Mr. Vanderbilt had offered him \$1,000 for the note; I understood he asked him in the cars between Jersey City and here.

By Mr. Hendrickson—

I think Mr. Vanderbilt asked how the telegram which I found under Mr. Carpenter's table came into my possession, and I think I explained it.

By Mr. McGill—

Mr. Sayre and I were working together for the two positions, and are doing so in this investigation.

By Mr. Moffatt—

I have never offered Mr. Carpenter any money or in the nature of money for his appointment for the office.

By Mr. Carpenter—

Did I ever, by any word, lead you to believe that any money consideration would influence my appointment?

Ans. No, sir.

By Mr. Sayre—

I do not think I saw Mr. Carpenter endorse that note.

CHAS. Y. BAMFORD.

Jacob H. Sweeny, sworn.

Reside in Phillipsburg, Warren county; I hold the position of Journal Clerk; I was appointed by John Carpenter, Jr.; I was notified of my appointment on Monday last; he notified me at the National Hotel at 5 o'clock in the afternoon; it was the first that I had the certainty of getting it; I was indirectly informed on the Wednesday before by John M. Wyckoff; at the National Hotel; could not say whether it was in the morning or evening; he said he supposed the thing was all right; Mr. Carpenter informed me directly on Monday; on Wednesday evening I rode up with him on the train, but he gave me no satisfaction, indeed, I did not ask him; Mr. Wyckoff was working for my appointment; I don't know that any other friend informed me of my probable appointment; Mr. Wyckoff was not to receive any compensation from me, directly or indirectly for my appointment; there was no arrangement whatever between me and Mr. Carpenter by which he was to receive any compensation for my appointment; there were, no doubt, other friends, but I do not know of any of them—I believe I had other friends; I believe Captain Gill and Mr. Swayze were friends of mine; the Senator from Warren was a friend of mine, but I do not know whether Mr. Anderson was or not; I have known Mr. Carpenter two or three years; I was friendly to him as a candi-

date for Clerk of the House—I do not think I had any conversation with Mr. Carpenter about it; I had spoken to Mr. Wyckoff, but I didn't know as there was any particular words between us; Mr. Wyckoff was very favorable to Mr. Carpenter; I have been very intimate with Wyckoff, but not with Captain Gill nor Mr. Swayze; I am not acquainted with Mr. A. J. Smith; I had no direct assurance from Mr. Carpenter that if he was successful I should be appointed; I understood from Mr. Wyckoff that it would probably be so.

By Mr. Carpenter—

I have been a member of the Board of Freeholders of Warren county; I was not acquainted with any person being a candidate for clerk from Warren county; the first conversation which I had with Mr. Anderson he intimated that he would be my friend; Mr. Wyckoff managed the affair for me. I had not talked privately with Captain Gill about it; I told Mr. Bird that I would be a candidate; Mr. Wyckoff first spoke to me about this matter at Phillipsburg; it was a few days after election; I told him I intended to be a candidate; we talked the matter over, off and on, whenever we met; I came to Trenton on Monday, and said nothing to any member about my appointment except Mr. Wyckoff and Mr. Bird; I had no recommendation to Mr. Carpenter, except through Mr. Wyckoff; he urged my claims; I see him associating with Mr. Vanderbilt, Mr. Swayze, Mr. Bird, and Captain Gill; I don't think he told me what the compensation was; I asked him once what it was, and he did not know; I never made him any promise in return for my appointment; I had been a warm friend to him in his election, and he knew he owed me a favor, and this was a favor that I asked; don't know that there was any reason why I sought the Journal Clerkship particularly; it was a few days after the election that I mentioned the matter to Mr. Wyckoff; I don't know that I ever asked Mr. Carpenter for the position; on Wednesday Mr. Wyckoff informed me that he thought things were working all right for me; I did not know that I was appointed until I was appointed; on Wednesday Mr. Carpenter asked if I was coming down to Trenton, and said he was going to make the appointment; he said he wanted me to come down, but I can't say whether it was before he asked me, if I was coming down on Monday; I think I rode as far as Milford in the smoking car, and after that I went back into the car where Mr. Carpenter was, and talked with him; if Mr. Carpenter had made other appointments on Monday, I should not have considered it as a breach of faith; when Mr. Carpenter said he was going to make the appointment, I thought I was standing a good chance for it; I did not feel certain about it, or else I would have told my friends about it.

By Mr. Sayre—

Quest. Did you not, on last Monday night, the 18th, in the Clerk's room, tell to certain parties, that this thing, relating to your appointment was all fixed last Tuesday, January 12th?

Ans. I have no recollection of using that language; I was teasing Bennett, and don't know what I may have said.

Quest. Were not your exact words, "John, I could have told you of this last Tuesday; it was all arranged at that time?"

Ans. No.

Quest. Do you know anything about the note given by Mr. Bamford and endorsed by Carpenter?

Ans. No, sir.

Quest. Did Mr. Wyckoff ever say anything to you about his being offered anything by any one to sign a petition?

Ans. There was something said about it in Wyckoff's room; Bennett wanted to get Mr. Wyckoff on a petition to recommend him; he said he would be all right if he could get the Warren members to head it; Bennett had offered Wyckoff some money, in the hundreds, to sign his recommendation; I did not hear much of it, because I did not pay any attention; it was on last Wednesday; I could not say at what time; I was leaving the room just as he was coming in.

By Mr. Sayre—

Did you ever hear Mr. Wyckoff say that Bennett had offered him half of the salary if he would sign his recommendation?

Ans. No, sir; I think I heard Mr. Bennett say so.

By Mr. Bamford—

Did you not tell Mr. Carpenter, on Monday afternoon, that if you received the position of Journal Clerk you would take care of that note?

Ans. No, sir; I did not know a thing concerning the note until I heard Mr. Shuler speak of it.

By Mr. Hendrickson—

Did you have any assurance, other than that given by Mr. Wyckoff, that you would likely receive the appointment until Mr. Carpenter informed you that you were appointed?

Ans. None, directly.

Quest. Did you receive any indirectly?

Ans. I don't know that I did.

J. H. SWEENEY.

Harry C. Freese, sworn.

I reside in Trenton; am a banker; know John Carpenter, Jr., Mr. Stephen Sayre, and Mr. Charles Y. Bamford; the three gentlemen were at my office one day last week, and they wanted to negotiate a note for \$500, made by Mr. Bamford; I refused that afternoon to purchase the note; Mr. Carpenter asked for Colonel Freese, and I told him that he was not there; I refused to negotiate the note; I received a telegram from Mr. Carpenter; I told Mr. Shuler the night before I received the telegram that I would not discount the note; I did not try to purchase the note, but I thought I could get the parties who made the note to deposit the money there; but I did not see them and did not make the arrangement; I thought may-be Mr. Carpenter or Mr. Bamford wanted that position, and that Mr. Sayre could not get the position

unless the note was discounted, and that it was not likely that that note would be cashed in this city; I thought if Mr. Bamford could get any order from the State Treasurer, and he would get it afterwards; I went to the hotel to see Mr. Sayre; I did not offer him \$500 in cash; I do not think any one from our office offered \$500 for the note; I think persons representing there were friends of Mr. Carpenter; I would like to have got hold of it; I think Mr. Baltus Pickel would like to have got it; Mr. Pickel came and wanted to know if I held the note, or if I knew where it was; I told him I did not hold it, but I knew where it was; he asked me if Mr. Sayre had it; I said no; he wanted to know if I could control that note: I told him I did not know, but I would try; he wanted to know how it could be arranged; I told him by Mr. Carpenter or Mr. Bamford depositing \$500, and when the note came due it would be paid; he said he would not make the offer, but he would like me to control it until the next day; he said he was not authorized to negotiate for it; he did not say how he learned that the note was at our place; Thursday, Friday or Saturday, of last week, I met Mr. Vanderbilt on the street and asked him if he had heard the news; he said yes; he said it was ugly news; I said yes; I did not show him the telegram, and don't know that I did not; Mr. Shuler had the telegram and may have shown it to Mr. Vanderbilt; I met Mr. Vanderbilt at my door; I do not know that he said anything about the note; I never saw the note, I only spoke to Mr. Vanderbilt once about the note, and only once to Mr. Carpenter; after I met Mr. Pickel I went to the hotel Monday afternoon to find Mr. Sayre; I met him and told him that some gentleman had been to see me, and if he would let me have the note I would try and get the money deposited so that he could get the proceeds; he said he did not want the money, would not give it up; said he expected to get more on it; that it was worth more than \$500 to him; I think he said he had not seen anybody in regard to it; he said he expected to realize something more than that by making the note public; I believe he proposed to sell it to some newspaper; I am confident that he spoke of disposing of it to some newspaper; I then asked him if he would not receive the money if I got it deposited; he said he would not, and with that I left him; I had not then arranged to have the money deposited; I knew Mr. Carpenter last winter as a member; our firm has never had any business with Mr. Carpenter; I knew nothing as to his financial standing, and therefore could not cash the note; Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Sayre and Mr. Bamford came into the office; they asked for a blank note; I gave them a blank note, and Mr. Shuler afterwards told me that the note was drawn by Mr. Bamford; they came then to discount the note; I declined to do it; I told Mr. Shuler so, but I did not say so to Mr. Carpenter.

H. C. FREESE.

Monday, January 25th, 1875.

The committee met at 3 P. M., and resumed the taking of testimony.

Quintus Shuler, sworn—

Reside at Titusville; am in real estate business in Trenton; am associated with Col. Freese, and have been a partner with him little over a year, and in his office a year and a quarter before that; know Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Bamford; have known Mr. Carpenter two or three years; met Mr. Sayre first on Wednesday, January 13th; I met him at our office, at about 3 or 4 o'clock, with Mr. Bamford and Mr. Carpenter; they all came in together; they came in, and wanted to know if I could cash a note for \$500—Mr. Carpenter asked me—Mr. Bamford's note, payable to Mr. Sayre, endorsed by Mr. Carpenter; that was the first time Mr. Carpenter or the others had spoken to me about the note, and the first time I saw Mr. Sayre; the nature of the transaction was stated; Mr. Bamford and Mr. Sayre said they both wanted to be Journal Clerk; Mr. Carpenter could not appoint but one; they said they had a hat, and drew lots; Mr. Bamford drew the paper marked Journal Clerk, and he said he was to give Mr. Sayre \$500, and for that reason Mr. Bamford was giving his note to Mr. Sayre, and they had got Mr. Carpenter to endorse it for them; Mr. Carpenter, or Mr. Bamford, asked for a blank note; I got it for them; Mr. Bamford sat down and wrote it, payable to Mr. Sayre, and Mr. Carpenter endorsed it; Mr. Carpenter asked if we could cash it for them, and I told them I would see the Colonel, who was not in, and I thought we would do it for them; I told Mr. Carpenter, by his endorsement, I thought we could do it; by not knowing Mr. Sayre, the Colonel would not be likely to do it for him without the endorsement; I asked Mr. Sayre how much money of this Mr. Carpenter was to have; Mr. Sayre said that it was a transaction between him and Mr. Bamford, and Mr. Carpenter was not to have a red cent of it; after that, they explained the transaction again, and went out; Mr. Carpenter did not state the transaction—Mr. Bamford and Mr. Sayre did; they were to come in in the morning, and I was to see Mr. Freese, and if we could cash the note for them, we would do it; I was going to the office, and met Mr. Sayre on the street, and he came to the office with me, and I told him he should wait a little while, until Mr. Freese came in; he took a chair, and I attended to the other business; while Mr. Sayre was waiting, Mr. Bamford came in with a dispatch which he said he had received from Mr. Carpenter, and said they were going to have a conference at the City Hall at 12, or half-past 12, and asked me to come down; the conference was to be with Mr. Woodruff, A. J. Smith, and himself; I think he said Mr. Vanderbilt was to be there, although I am not positive; I don't remember whether he mentioned any one else; when Mr. Bamford showed me that dispatch, I told him we did not want to cash the note, or have anything to do with it; the Bamford dispatch was not the first one I saw—it was the second one; the first dispatch was one sent by Mr. Carpenter to Col. Freese, stating that we should not cash that note with his endorse-

ment, until he made further examination; (Mr. Morrow read dispatch marked *Exhibit A*)—that is the dispatch, or something similar to it; it was not wholly on account of the Bamford dispatch that I refused to cash the note; I stated to Mr. Bamford that I had received this dispatch from Mr. Carpenter; he asked me to show it to him, but I think I told him it was private; I think Mr. Harry Freese showed it to him; that is about all that took place at the office; I went down to the City Hall, Mr. Woodruff's office; Mr. Bamford, Mr. Sayre was there; Mr. Smith did not come; Mr. Woodruff came then, and I think Mr. Vanderbilt came then; there were others out and in; there was nothing done there; they came there, and Mr. John P. Stockton came there and called Mr. Woodruff and Mr. Vanderbilt in another room; I waited awhile and then left; Mr. Bamford and Mr. Sayre talked to me about it; I told Mr. Bamford I thought it was all right, may-be Mr. Carpenter had some idea that when the note came due he would have to pay it, or he might have other reasons; I told him and Mr. Sayre it did not make any difference to Mr. Sayre who endorsed the note, so long as he got his money; I was at the office over an hour; Mr. Sayre and Mr. Bamford were there when I went there and I think we left together; I don't think Woodruff and Vanderbilt were there two minutes, they had just came in when Mr. Stockton called them; I did not see Mr. Carpenter until the next Monday at the hotel; I shook hands with him and said nothing to him about the matter; I have met him since, and nothing particular was said about the matter; I saw him to-day and he stated that they had agreed among themselves that they should draw cuts for the office; that he had nothing to do with the note except to endorse it so that they could get this money; he has not to me, or to any one else in my hearing, said anything about the dispatch; I have not since endeavored to purchase the note, nor sent any person to purchase it, nor do I know of any person doing so; I do not know of Harry Freese endeavoring to purchase it. Mr. Carpenter, at the time of endorsing the note, said that he did so, so that they might get the money on it; I don't recollect of his saying that he said that he did so in order to help Mr. Sayre's paper along; I don't think he could have said so, because I did not know Mr. Sayre was a publisher until afterwards; I understood the note was given in settlement of a transaction for the Journal Clerkship; that is all I know about the matter.

By Mr. McGill—

I met Mr. Carpenter before he was in the Legislature; how long before I could not say; have had no business transactions with him; I have not seen Mr. Carpenter to converse about this matter from the time the note was drawn until to-day.

By Mr. Carpenter—

I remember that there were a great many wanting this Journal Clerkship; I told Mr. Carpenter I knew a gentleman who I thought would give \$500 to get the position; Mr. Carpenter asked what his name was; he did not say anything about it—that the Journal Clerkship was already promised—that he

was not selling it; I said that his name was Cubberley, he is employed in Sharp's printing office; he never said so, but I thought a young man getting such a position would give a third; that is the reason I asked Mr. Sayre that question; I supposed that Mr. Carpenter was going to get some of that money, so I asked Mr. Sayre how much Mr. Carpenter was going to get; he said: "Not a red cent," and Mr. Bamford said "Not a red cent;" I asked Mr. Bamford in the office and he said nothing; I asked Mr. Sayre if Mr. Carpenter was not to get \$200 and he said "nothing."

By Mr. Bamford—

After you showed me my dispatch did you not say: "Harry, hadn't we better let him see the other?"

Ans. I think I told Harry to show it to you; I had told you that we had received a dispatch and that it was confidential.

By Mr. Morrow—

The dispatch was not marked confidential, but I supposed that it was—I so considered it; the receipt of the first dispatch was what caused me to decline cashing the note.

QUINTUS SHULER.

John E. Kelly, sworn.

Reside at Elizabeth, have been there eleven or twelve years; I believe I am assistant Journal Clerk of the Assembly, appointed by Mr. Carpenter a week ago to day, at about 5 o'clock in the evening; I was informally notified on the Wednesday before, by two or three members in a jocose manner on the cars; Mr. T. S. Henry said I would be calling the roll next time; Mr. Wyckoff, and I think Mr. Blancke, and perhaps Mr. Morrow spoke to me; the next Monday morning Captain Gill said he wanted me to come to Trenton; I never asked Mr. Carpenter for the appointment—don't know that anybody worked it up for me; I was very much surprised on hearing I was appointed; I met with Mr. Carpenter may-be ten or twelve times during the spring or fall; I am a contractor; I am an intimate friend of Captain Gill's; I worked hard for the success of the ticket; I did not think that I worked any harder for Captain Gill than any other; I don't know that he secured me the appointment; I don't know that he solicited it for me; I am not aware of any benefit that Mr. Carpenter is to derive from my appointment; neither Mr. Carpenter nor any other person spoke to me about compensation.

JOHN E. KELLY.

John M. Wyckoff, sworn—

Reside at Washington, Warren county; am acquainted with Mr. Carpenter; met Mr. Bamford and Mr. Sayre in New York; I hadn't any acquaintance with the transaction of the appointment of the Journal Clerk; I urged Mr. Jacob I. Sweeny; I spoke to Mr. Carpenter about the time the Legislature assembled; I mentioned to him at Phillipsburg or Elizabeth about a week before; if it was at Elizabeth it was at Captain Gill's hotel;

perhaps I mentioned it to him before that; I went to Captain Gill's on a visit; I was his friend for Speaker, and went there on that; I have known Carpenter for three or four years; the next time I met him was in Trenton; I had met him previously to the time at Captain Gill's, and may have mentioned it to him; the first time I met him I told him I had a candidate for the Journal Clerkship; I asked him if he had made any pledges; I told him I would not ask him for any, but would like him to remember me; I think he told me there were three or four parties seeking it, but he would not give me any pledge; I learned of Sweeny's appointment on last Monday; I went to his room and told him my candidate was here, and asked him if he needed his services; he said he was engaged and would see me soon; I strenuously urged Mr. Sweeny's appointment; I used all the persuasive power at my command; I was alone; Mr. Carpenter acknowledged that Warren county had given a large majority, and should be recognized; I made no promise of votes for Mr. Carpenter for this appointment; I had told him before that I was his friend under all circumstances; no other member from Warren county knew of my application to Mr. Carpenter; he was under no committal to me; I was at Captain Gill's at Elizabeth (when Mr. Carpenter was present) I think Thursday and Friday of the week before the meeting of the Legislature; I think I was in New York on Saturday before the meeting of the Legislature; I went to New York, but I can't say positively with whom; I met Mr. Bamford and Mr. Vanderbilt at New York; I don't think I spoke to Mr. Carpenter about Mr. Sweeny at New York; I won't say whether I spoke to him about it at Elizabeth; the evening that Mr. Carpenter was elected he did not tell me that he would appoint Mr. Sweeny; I saw Mr. Sweeny at the National Hotel, and told him that I was encouraged by what Mr. Carpenter had said, but that he would not make any positive promises; I never spoke to any member about the appointment of Mr. Sweeny; I do not think I promised Mr. Sayre to use my influence in his favor; don't think I gave him any encouragement; it was about 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon that Mr. Carpenter told Mr. Sweeny to come up to his room; Mr. Sweeny did not come down on the train with me; I don't know whether I spoke to Mr. Sweeny about the compensation of the Journal Clerk; I never knew what it was, nor don't now.

By Mr. Hendrickson—

There were other candidates spoke to me about the position; Mr. Sayre and Mr. Bennett asked me; I think I told Mr. Bamford, at the table, at the Merchants' Hotel, that we in Warren had a candidate of our own; I think Mr. Sayre was present; Mr. Bennett has spoken to me every time he ever met me; Mr. Sweeny never offered me any money; there were present at the Merchants' Hotel, Mr. Carey, Mr. Thos. S. Henry; I can't think of any others.

By Mr. Moffett—

There was no understanding from me, directly or indirectly, that Mr. Carpenter was to be benefited by Mr. Sweeny's appointment; I told Mr. Sweeny to keep still, that if I could not elect him he could not be elected; I knew nothing of this \$500 note transaction until I saw it in the papers.

By Mr. Carpenter—

I remember telling you that Mr. Dawes and Mr. Sharp were candidates for clerk from Warren county; I told Mr. Carpenter that I would make no nominations for any other positions than that of Mr. Sweeny; Mr. Sweeny did not authorize me to make any offer to Mr. Carpenter for the appointment, nor did I make any offer.

JOHN M. WYCKOFF.

Andrew J. Smith, sworn—

I reside at Hightstown, Mercer county; Mr. Bamford came to me immediately after the adjournment of the House, on Wednesday, January 13th, and asked me if I would not go and see Mr. Carpenter in relation to his appointment as Journal Clerk; I said to him, I will not only go and see Mr. Carpenter myself, but I will take some of the leading Democrats of our county, and see if we cannot strengthen Mr. Carpenter so that he will make up his mind and give the appointment to Mr. Bamford; I thought it would do good if Mr. Carpenter knew that the leading men of the county were favorable to Mr. Bamford; I went to Mr. Carpenter and asked him to go into the Engroseing Clerk's room; and in there were invited Mr. Vanderbilt, Mr. Youmans, G. D. W. Vroom, and John A. Hall; as soon as we got in the room, —r. Carpenter commenced the conversation, he said that he was placed in a very embarrassing position in regard to the appointments; there were two candidates, —r. Bamford and —r. Sayre; that he felt kindly disposed to —r. Bamford, but Mercer county had already had so much, and the other counties were making complaint, that he felt he could not give the appointment to Mr. Bamford; I think then Mr. Youmans made the remark, that this outside pressure should not make any difference, that Mr. Bamford was a very worthy young man, and that it would give satisfaction to our people to have Mr. Bamford appointed; I think I made a remark that Mercer hadn't had so much as the rest of the State were claiming; Mr. Carpenter said he felt under some obligations to make an appointment for Union county—that there was a pressure there in favor of a Mr. Kelly; then the conversation lagged, and a part of the party commenced to go out; the remark was made that it would be well for Mr. Carpenter to settle this right away, and he gave the inference that he would settle it before he left town; when I left the room, I told Mr. Bamford, in a joking way, "Let us have peace, I think this will come out all right;" I could see that there was getting to be a great deal of feeling about the matter; Mr. Carpenter did not make any positive promise in the room, that he would give Mr. Bamford the position; in answer to a question by Mr. Bamford, I think Mr. Carpenter said Mr. Sayre and Mr. Bamford had both been to him for the appointment, and I think he said Mr. Ward had also endeavored to induce him; I think Mr. Carpenter said great pressure was being brought on him; that Mr. Ward was pressing Sayre, and that others were pressing Mr. Bamford, and that he desired them

to settle it between them—he did not say how they were to settle it; he seemed to want to settle it so as not to get him in trouble with his political friends throughout the State; he mentioned of other places besides Union bringing pressure on him for the appointment; Essex had a candidate, and Gloucester had one; Mr. Carpenter seemed very much excited, and very anxious to secure a good officer, on account of all the officers of the House being new; I did not, in the slightest, receive the impression that Mr. Carpenter was influenced by any pecuniary consideration; after Mr. Carpenter had decided to give this appointment to Mr. Bamford, by this drawing of lots, I was here in the State House, on Thursday morning, January 14th, and met Mr. Bamford; he said, "You are just the gentleman I want to see;" and he showed me a telegram dated Aanandale, signed by Mr. Carpenter, in which Mr. Carpenter wanted his name taken off a certain note; that was the first I knew of any note or any transaction of that kind; he handed me the telegram, and I read it, and said, "What does this mean?" he went into an explanation, relating the drawing of lots for this position, and the giving of his note for \$500, which Mr. Carpenter endorsed; I think I remarked, "This is bad business—you need more advice than I feel I ought to give you;" I then said to him, "You had better get some of your friends together," and I named Mr. Vanderbilt, Mr. Youmans, and Mr. Woodruff, and I told him I would meet them at Mr. Woodruff's office at 12 o'clock; I then stepped into the Speaker's room, and Mr. B. F. Lee, and Mr. G. D. W. Vroom, and Vanderbilt came in; I called Mr. Vanderbilt one side and told him of this engagement and this telegram, and asked him for some explanation, and he gave me the same explanation which Mr. Bamford had done; as soon as Mr. Vanderbilt was informed of the telegram, Vanderbilt said that he was going to telegraph to Mr. Carpenter—I can't say to what effect; we sat talking until nearly half-past one; on going, I said to Vanderbilt that there was no need for me to be there—and I did not attend the conference; on Monday night I advised Mr. Carpenter to have a caucus to fill the offices; he said, "Very well;" that was on Monday evening of last week, at about 7 o'clock.

By Mr. Carpenter—

Mr. Carpenter said he would submit the whole matter to a caucus, and submit to their decision.

By Mr. Morrow—

I did not meet Mr. Sayre on the train coming from Paterson; I understood that Mr. Vanderbilt did; I don't remember having any other conversation with Mr. Carpenter; I don't know of any money consideration being offered for any appointment.

A. J. SMITH.

January 25th, 10 o'clock P. M.

The investigation resumed.

John Carpenter, Jr., sworn, testified—

Am Clerk of the House of Assembly, reside at Clinton, Hunterdon county, my acquaintance with Messrs. Sayre and Bamford has been at the main correctly testified to by them; some points in Mr. Sayre's testimony I wish to unqualifiedly deny, particularly the incident in which he stated that he called upon me in reference to buying an appointment—neither he nor any other man ever approached me in that manner, who was afterward for a moment considered in connection with that appointment, nor was I ever approached in that way in behalf of any one whose claims were afterward considered; Messrs. Sayre and Bamford had several interviews with me, of their own seeking, but in no interview did I ever make a promise of an appointment, except conditional on the action of the members of the Democratic caucus, though not necessarily by caucus action; Mr. Bamford's testimony, I think, is substantially a truthful detail of the interviews and other communications which he had with me; it will be observed that on his first introduction to me in Clinton, by letter from the three representatives from Mercer, while I remarked that I was most favorably impressed by such an introduction, I did no more than introduce him by letter to Captain Bird, one of the Hunterdon members, and to promise to mention his business favorably to Mr. Swayze; in the second meeting with him accidentally in New York, on the Saturday preceding the organization, I merely introduced Messrs. Sayre and Bamford to each other, in happening to see them in the same company; this certainly shows no evidence of any double dealing with them up to that date; on Monday, the day before the organization, I met them in Trenton, and although I may have spoken encouragingly, when they had come to me upon the subject, and I may have said that in preference to any candidates for that position, they certainly stood first in my opinion, so far as I had heard an expression of the Democratic members, I yet did not promise unconditionally that they should be the appointees; in my whole intercourse with candidates for the Journal Clerkship, as for the Speakership and other offices, I endeavored to be free from all alliances; after my nomination and election in the House, I told these gentlemen at the first opportunity, that during the last few hours of the canvass, their matter had been altered materially; instead of three or four candidates, I had a list of about twenty, all of whom I had to consider out of deference to various members, but told them when they came to me together, that I should reserve for them one of the appointments; after the adjournment of the House on Wednesday, after an urgent presentation of Mr. Bamford's claims by several members and friends, I told them that one of these appointments should be between these gentlemen; that evening or rather in the afternoon at about four o'clock, they came to my room together and after asking me if I was satisfied with an arrangement satisfactory to them to which I replied in the affirmative, Mr. Bamford explained that inasmuch

as neither would withdraw, they had decided to settle that point by lot, the appointee to pay the one withdrawing the sum of \$500; this was done, as I had promised it would be; the payment of the money was to be guaranteed by note, which I (and I would say I did so inconsiderately) consented to endorse; Mr. Sayre, who was the one withdrawing, had explained to me the distress of his newspaper business, and I told him that there was a friend of mine whom, although I had never visited his business place, I thought would, at my request, give him immediate help upon the note; this was Col. Freese, and I went to his office to see him, they following me immediately; I had intended speaking to Col. Freese in regard to the matter before introducing them, but I was detained on the way, and we therefore all entered the bank about the same time; on inquiring for Col. Freese, I learned that he was at home ill; not wishing to disappoint Mr. Sayre, I asked Mr. Shuler, with whom I had a slight acquaintance, if he thought that they could discount such a note as a favor to me; he replied that it would have to be left until morning, when the Colonel would probably be present; Mr. Bamford made his note and I endorsed it; these circumstances had all occurred, I think, in less than half an hour; I had barely time to reach my train for home, and very soon after leaving, the confusion of which had continued throughout the last three days and nights in Trenton, I saw that there might be discreditable interpretation put upon my action, and from my railroad station I sent back telegrams which have already appeared in this evidence, the effect of which I supposed would be to have Messrs. Bamford and Sayre arrange their matters through the medium of some friend interested in them, and relieve me from any part in the transaction; during the following day, Thursday, I received a telegram from Mr. Vanderbilt, saying that he would be in Everittstown on Friday, and wished to see me at noon; I saw him there, at considerable inconvenience, and he informed me that Mr. Sayre was making great disturbance in Trenton, and would not consent to any change in his arrangement with Mr. Bamford; he spoke of the growing disposition among Mercer Democrats to consent to the withdrawal of Mr. Bamford, on account of the fact that other portions of the State thought that that county had more than her share in the organization; I told him that Mr. Bamford, unless he voluntarily withdrew, should receive that appointment; he went for his train with the understanding that in case Mr. Bamford should be influenced by his friends to retire, he would communicate the fact to me; I received no communication, and on Monday came to Trenton, supposing the status unchanged; the first man with whom I conversed on the subject was Mr. Bamford; immediately after reaching my room he told me that Sayre was there, but was unwilling to comply with my request; he left me, however, with the intention, as he said, of trying to effect some new arrangement with Mr. Sayre, the terms of which I either did not hear, or have been misstated by him in the evidence, so far as it referred to any swearing in of the Journal Clerk, which error I would certainly have noticed had I heard it; Mr. Bamford was absent about an hour, according to my recollection, and during his

absence several gentlemen individually called upon me to inquire about the note, which was the town scandal; as the arrangement between these gentlemen which I had ratified was made with the distinct understanding that none except the members supporting these candidates should be informed of its terms, I was of course very much annoyed, and on Mr. Bamford's return I think I accused him directly of having acted in bad faith; he denied the charge, and said that whatever publicity had been given to the matter was through Mr. Sayre; I told him that while I regretted he should suffer unjustly, I could not appoint either whose names had been associated with the scandal; he advised me that I would get into trouble if I did not appoint him, but he gave no positive evidence of ill-feeling; he had spoken of Mr. Sayre, or others had done so, as having said that he had me "on the hip," and, in other ways, by exhibiting the note, and holding it at a very high appreciation in value, had shown a disposition to assert a control over my actions.

In answer to a question by Mr. Hendrickson—

I can't say positively that he proposed to do anything but coerce my appointments to clerks; in short, I told Mr. Bamford that neither of them could be appointed, since our names had become associated in a transaction represented as disreputable; there are no other circumstances to detail in reference to this matter; it seemed to me that the only course to pursue was one which would bring out the real facts in the case, which were being misrepresented with so great injury to me.

By Mr. Morrow—

I did not have any other business transactions with Mr. Bamford except in connection with the Journal Clerkship; I did not have any other business transaction with Mr. Sayre except in that connection; I bought a book of him once; if Mr. Sayre had drawn the Journal Clerkship I would have endorsed the note made by him, under the promise exacted; exacted out of deference to their friends by Mr. Bamford and Mr. Sayre; I endorsed the note more for the purpose of carrying out the agreement than for helping Mr. Sayre's newspaper; I will add, however, that the effort made to procure immediate discount was made on account of Mr. Sayre's necessities; the endorsement was given as assurance that I ratified the agreement; it was agreed when I left my room to go to Mr. Freese's office; I suggested that we should take different routes; I never was in Mr. Freese's banking place; I wished to inquire of Col. Freese if he would comply with my request to discount such a note, and to state to him the reason why it was given; that was the reason why I took a different route; I stated to these gentlemen that I would like to talk to Col. Freese about it; I am not positive, but that was my purpose; I do not remember that it was stated or suggested that parties interested might see us going there together; I did not propose going different routes on that account; I have no recollection of any other purpose than as stated my; recollection is that I suggested that they should follow me within a few minutes; my recollection is not entirely clear; there was very much to confuse my attention during that day; I telegraphed to Mr. Bamford to destroy the note which I had endorsed, simply because I thought that my name

upon a note of theirs, at such a time, would be liable to unjust suspicion; I asked him to get Mr. Youmans to endorse the note, because Mr. Youmans was primarily interested in Mr. Bamford's appointment, and I supposed his name would be equally satisfactory to Mr. Sayre; I did not wish Col. Freese to consider my telegram confidential as regards these gentlemen; I used the expression in the telegram "let that be reason," because I wished him to tell those gentlemen the reason I sent those telegrams simultaneously; I sent the telegram to Col. Freese with the intention of thus communicating with Mr. Sayre, if he should call before Mr. Bamford had seen him with regard to making a new note, I had reason to believe that Mr. Sayre would be at Mr. Freese's office that morning, and I telegraphed Mr. Bamford to see him because I supposed Mr. Bamford would see him before he got to the bank; at the interview with Mr. Vanderbilt, at Everittstown, I did not instruct him to see Mr. Sayre before the Monday evening following; he did not, that I recollect, say that he would see him before Monday evening; I had no intimation, when I sent the telegram to Col. Freese, that Mr. Sayre was likely to give publicity to the agreement between himself, Mr. Bamford, and myself; my anxiety of this matter becoming public, and in a disreputable sense, was caused by the remark which Mr. Shuler made in that bank, that he knew men who would give money for the appointment; and I feared that if Mr. Sayre succeeded in getting it discounted in the morning, it would be exhibited at that bank with remarks similar to Mr. Shuler's; I received a dispatch, last Monday, from Mr. Vanderbilt, from Jersey City; the purport of it was, that nothing had been done in the matter; I took it that it referred to getting Mr. Bamford to withdraw; the feeling that I had acted inconsiderately in endorsing the note prompted me to send the dispatch to Col. Freese, after the remarks which had been made in the bank by Mr. Shuler; I had no other reason for desiring my name to be withdrawn; I do not recollect that Mr. Bamford had told me he would see —r. Sayre and talk the matter over with him; I saw Mr. Vanderbilt on his return to Trenton, and conversed with him about the matter; the dispatch was not referred to in that conversation; Captain Gill, of Elizabeth, Mr. Bird, of Hunterdon, beside Mr. Wyckoff, spoke to me in favor of Mr. Sweeny; besides Captain Gill, Mr. Vanderbilt spoke to me in favor of Mr. Kelly; Captain Gill did not speak of Mr. Kelly at the same time that he spoke of Mr. Sweeny; Captain Gill did not speak of Mr. Sweeny except as endorsing the claims of Warren county, which Mr. Wyckoff had presented in his presence; no one personally urged the appointment of Mr. Sweeny except Mr. Wyckoff, nor those of Mr. Kelly except Captain Gill; they represented others, however, as concurring with them; they represented Mr. Blancke as being in favor of Mr. Kelly; I don't remember who others, but it was rather represented as a recognition of that Congressional district; the name of Mr. Kelly was not mentioned before the organization; Mr. Sweeny spoke to me either the day before or the day of the organization; on Wednesday afternoon, after the organization, on returning home, I did not request nor invite him to come down on the following Monday; I asked him if he was coming down, knowing that many

were coming; I did not know Mr. Sweeny's business before the organization; I know now he keeps a hotel at Phillipsburg, facing the river; I do not remember who all were candidates; Mr. Van Cleef had two from Middlesex; Mr. Magee recommended one; the two members from Gloucester recommended one; Mr. Patterson of Monmouth recommended one; Mr. Cary of Hudson, one; Mr. McDonnell of Hudson, one; there was a candidate from Burlington; I don't remember whether any member presented him; he introduced himself; Mr. Owen presented Mr. Sayre; four applied from my own county; three candidates from Essex; each said that it would please his six members; I agreed to the arrangement between Mr. Sayre and Mr. Bamford before knowing its terms; I promised Mr. Bamford after drawing the lucky number; on the strength of that he gave his note; if that had not been a definite promise to Mr. Bamford, I think I would have permitted him to give the note for \$500 to Mr. Sayre, with my endorsement; I would, in an ordinary business transaction.

Quest. Was it an ordinary business transaction?

Ans. So far as my endorsement was concerned it was a business transaction; there was no consideration for it; I endorsed it to satisfy the friends who were pressing these candidates; if publicity had not been given to these transactions, although I had withdrawn my endorsement, I would have appointed Mr. Bamford; I think I did injustice to myself, but not to Mr. Bamford, in having him make this note for \$500 and endorsing it myself, and then depriving Mr. Bamford of the appointment which was the consideration of his making it; I should not, had they been able to have the note discounted, have appointed Mr. Bamford under the circumstances which succeeded it; I would have paid the note; I did not, nor did any person for me, with my knowledge, endeavor to procure this note from Mr. Sayre or from any person to whom Mr. Sayre might have passed the same; the propriety of securing that note was suggested to me by several friends; I remember Mr. Baltus Pickel; I was in my room on Monday afternoon or evening when he suggested it; Colonel Rafferty of our county, I think gave advice of the same kind; at the time the note was made; I intended to appoint Mr. Bamford; that was one of my reasons for not feeling that I had done him an injustice; another was that I had told him that I would protect him in regard to the note; I remember a document signed by the Democratic Executive Committee of Sussex county, recommending Mr. Sayre, was shown to me by him in Mr. Bamford's presence; after this matter became public, and I had declined to appoint Mr. Bamford, I designed to protect him in regard to that note; I told Mr. Frank Ward so distinctly; I intend to do so now; the day I signed that note I expected to be protected by the honor of these two gentlemen, who were so warmly represented to me; I appreciated the risk when I signed it, but not when I agreed to sign it; at the time I agreed to sign it the impulse which controlled me was principally the recollection of an interview which I had held with the friends of Mr. Bamford, in which I told them that if one would withdraw I

would appoint the other; I can't say that I was governed by the impulse that I would rather lose something to get rid of the trouble; I was willing to take a risk in order to have an amicable adjustment; I had encouraged both of them, one for each position, until the number of candidates multiplied so within a short time prior to the caucus; I had understood that it was customary to recommend by caucus, and I supposed that custom was to be adhered to; there was no agreement that if they and their friends worked for my appointment that I would oppose my friends, the caucus making their nominations; in encouraging them I did not expect that they would endeavor to elect me Clerk, because their support had already been offered to me; I did accept Mr. Smith's idea that the matter should be settled by a caucus; I have not since that time requested the members to settle it by caucus, but I never opposed it; I did not ask any members to secure a caucus, and supposed that it had been attempted and failed; I inquired if a caucus had been gotten up and was told it had not; the matter was brought to my attention by Major Smith, as if coming from the members, and I assented to it; I felt a desire to have the caucus relieve me of the difficulty, but supposed it was being attended to; I had appointed Mr. Sweeny and Mr. Kelly before Mr. Smith spoke to me about it; but if a caucus had been called I would have had their claims submitted to the caucus; they were both appointed with the understanding that if they did not prove competent the appointment would be void; it was at no one's suggestion that I threw Bamford overboard; it was merely suggested by the condition of affairs when I came to Trenton; Mr. Vanderbilt suggested that I should drop Mr. Bamford in order to remove the difficulty; at the same time he spoke of Mr. Sayre's utterances, and I said that I could not under any circumstances appoint Mr. Sayre after his talk of his power to coerce me; I was not fearful that if I withdrew the appointments of these men and submitted these matters to a caucus, I would get into new troubles; there was always an understanding on my part that I was at liberty to remove them on the ground of incompetency; had the suggestion of Major Smith been acted on I would have withdrawn their appointment if the men had not been elected by the caucus; he came and asked if he got up a caucus whether I would submit to it, and I said yes; Mr. Vanderbilt thought that under the circumstances of these statements being issued discreditable to me, that I was justified in refusing to appoint either of them; I think that, in justice to Mr. Sweeny and Mr. Kelly, it would not be unjust to submit the matter to a caucus; I think it would be unwise policy to submit the question to a caucus at this time.

In answer to question by Mr. Bamford—

I don't remember that I gave you an introduction to Mr. Wyckoff, at the Merchants' Hotel in New York—I don't remember whether I introduced you to Mr. Morrow; I have no recollection of meeting you or Sayre between my nomination and election, on Tuesday, January the 12th, in Capt. Bird's room; I don't remember who first made the suggestion as to megiving the other \$500.

By Mr. Morrow—

I remember saying that in the matter of the note, I would protect Mr. Bamford, and telling him that under the circumstances, and I would try to reimburse him out of my own pocket; I remember telling Mr. Bamford that in the case of the incompetency of one of the appointees, I would endeavor to help him by placing him in position; I told him I would reimburse him for his trouble, to the amount of \$200 or \$300; I did not promise him both together; when (as he saw I was excited at what I had heard,) he disclaimed having anything to do with it; I told him I was sorry that he should suffer innocently, that under the circumstances I could not appoint him; I referred to the fact of the competency of these men appointed not being approved; I at the same interview spoke of reimbursing him.

By Mr. Bamford—

Quest.—Whether you remember my remarks after your proposition of \$300?
Ans.—I do not; in regard to the giving of the note; I do not remember making the proposition as to the making of the note.

Quest.—Did I not tell you on Monday afternoon that I ought not to be held responsible for what outside parties were saying in that matter?

Ans.—I think you did.

Quest.—Did I not tell you at Clinton that I would speak to members as I should meet them, in your behalf—in an indirect way?

Ans.—I don't remember any such suggestion.

J. CARPENTER, JR.

January 26th, 1875.

Francis M. Ward, sworn—

I reside at Newton, and am a mill-wright; am acquainted with Stephen H. Sayre; have been in Trenton during the session since the organization; Mr. Sayre has not particularly counseled with me as to the question of Journal Clerk; I can't say that I have advised—perhaps I should not make that answer—I think that I have advised him; the only thing in which I particularly advised him was not to accept any pecuniary consideration in connection with the office, from any body; I meant outside of the legitimate pay of the office; I don't recollect making any suggestion as to applying to Mr. Carpenter; he suggested that if Mr. Carpenter would tender him a per centage of one-third, he asked me what he should do about it; I replied to him not to take any money under any circumstances; I never made a suggestion that if Mr. Sayre would give Mr. Carpenter one-third of the salary that Mr. Carpenter would give him the office; I never made any suggestion of that kind; he made the suggestion to me and I told him not to take any money; I never told Mr. Sayre that if such a proposition was made to him to inform me of the fact; the first that I knew of any money proposition was the Saturday after the organization, when Mr. Sayre came to my place at Newton and recited the

facts; I do not know that Mr. Sayre made a proposition to Mr. Carpenter to give him any money or part of the salary for the office; I did not recommend Mr. Sayre to Mr. Carpenter; he was not, to my knowledge recommended by the Democratic Executive Committee, of Sussex county; I don't know, and I ought to know, for I am chairman of the committee; I took no part in the matter; I did not want Mr. Sayre to do anything that was wrong, or would compromise him; I believe my advice was in that direction.

By Mr. Carpenter—

I have known Mr. Sayre ever since he came to Deckertown, in 1870; all that I know of his political record was that he came there as editing an independent newspaper; there is a charge against Mr. Sayre that he did not support the regular nominations last fall; I can't say that I know why Mr. Owen supported Mr. Carpenter for the clerkship; he told me he was in favor of Mr. Sayre; I told you that I believed Mr. Owen would support you for clerk; I don't think I asked you to remember your supporters in Sussex county, and appoint Mr. Sayre.

By Mr. Sayre—

I don't think I advised you to go to Mr. Carpenter and ask "if I give you one-third of the salary will you appoint me Journal Clerk," and if he said "yes," to leave him; I think the substance of the advice I gave was not to receive or give any money.

By Mr. Hendrickson—

Mr. Sayre did not tell me that he had made a tender of part of his salary; the suggestion as to the note business came from Mr. Carpenter, and I had a conversation with Mr. Carpenter about it after he informed me that the arrangement between Mr. Bamford and Mr. Sayre would not be carried out; Mr. Carpenter said he was willing to contribute out of his own pocket \$500 toward the paper which Mr. Sayre was editing; Mr. Pickel came to me, and was anxious that the note should be taken up; I thought the whole transaction was discreditable, and so told Mr. Pickel; I do not know of any effort by Mr. Pickel to take up the note; I think he suggested to Mr. Sayre that the note should be given up, but did not refer to any consideration; I don't think I advised Mr. Sayre to give up the note; don't think I took any part in the transaction at that time.

By Mr. Bamford—

On the evening of January the 18th, in the hall-way of the National Hotel, I think, Mr. Pickel suggested that the note be given up, and the matter be left to caucus; I don't think that I expressed myself on the subject; I had no fixed opinion at that time; Mr. Sayre stated to me, when he came to my place on the Saturday following the organization, that Mr. Vanderbilt had offered him \$1,000 for that note before he left Trenton; I don't think that he said definitely why he had not accepted it; he said that he expected to make a good thing out of it; I think he proposed to write it up himself, and take it to some of the New York papers, and sell the information; I don't remember his saying that he told Mr. Carpenter he would do so; my inference was, that

he would receive the money from the paper; I think he said Mr. Vanderbilt made him the proposition in Woodruff's office; I think that his statement was, that Mr. Vanderbilt had offered him the money—not that he said he would rather lose \$1,000 than have the matter come out; I don't know anything against Mr. Sayre's character in Sussex.

By Mr. Vanderbilt—

I went to your room on Monday afternoon last, and told you that Mr. Sayre said you had offered him \$1,000; your answer was, that it was a lie; you told me to bring Mr. Sayre to your room, that you might deny it to his face; I went to see him; saw him, and returned to your room in the course of half an hour, and said that Sayre told me he would not come; I told him that you denied ever offering him a dollar; I think Mr. Sayre said that you did not tell the truth; on telling you so, you said that it was false.

F. M. WARD.

George O. Vanderbilt, sworn.

I am Speaker of the House of Assembly, and reside at Princeton, Mercer county; I was always friendly to Mr. Bamford and his appointment; never made any combination of any kind for his appointment; simply introduced him to members and recommended him; told him that if I was elected Speaker thought it would hurt his chances, as Mercer county could not expect so much; told him to do what he could for himself, and, if I was not elected Speaker, he would stand a good chance; he said may-be he could get it if I was elected Speaker; told him I had no objection; this was all before the organization of the Legislature; after the organization of the House, on Wednesday, after the adjournment of the Wednesday's session, A. J. Smith came to me and said that Mr. Bamford requested the members and his friends of Mercer to see Mr. Carpenter in reference to his appointment as Journal Clerk; I, in company with Mr. Smith, John A. Hall, G. D. W. Vroom, and Mr. Youmans, went into the Engrossing Clerk's room; Mr. Carpenter came in and we asked him—I don't know who asked the question—whom he was going to appoint as his clerks; he said one of those appointments he had promised—did not say who to; he said one of the clerkships he should give to Mr. Bamford and Mr. Sayre, and they must settle the matter between themselves; Mr. Carpenter asked Mr. Youmans if he pressed Mr. Bamford; Mr. Youmans said he did; Mr. Carpenter said he was pressed very strongly to appoint Mr. Kelley, of Union; that was all that was said that I remember; some one told me in the afternoon that Mr. Bamford had been appointed Journal Clerk, and I, in a laughing manner, said "Mercer county against the world, she has got candidates for all the positions;" knew nothing more about the matter; I was making my committees at the National Hotel, and, as I was passing through the hall, I think it was Mr. Carpenter said that Mr. Bamford had been appointed; the next morning, while I was in bed, there was a knock at the door; I opened it and Mr. Shuler came into my room; he was a candidate for Librarian; he talked the matter over with me, and other matters, and then

he said Bamford has been made Journal Clerk; I said I heard it yesterday, and I repeated my remark about Mercer county; he then told me the manner in which it was done; said cuts were drawn and that a note had passed from Mr. Bamford to Mr. Sayre for \$500, Mr. Carpenter had endorsed it, and it had been brought to Freese's banking house for discount; I expressed myself as indignant at such a transaction; I did not think it was right for officers to be appointed in that way; that was all that passed between us; about eleven o'clock I came to the State House and went into my private room to write letters; while there met Mr. Bamford, some way or other, in the corridor of the State House; showed me a dispatch which he had received from Mr. Carpenter—(*Exhibit B* shown)—that was the dispatch; I think Mr. Bamford's expression was, "what the devil does Carpenter mean?" he seemed to think that Mr. Carpenter was not going to appoint him; that this dispatch meant to annul the arrangement between him and Sayre; I told him that all I had ever known of John Carpenter, he was honorable; that if I understood the import of the dispatch, it did not mean to annul their agreement, but that Mr. Carpenter wanted his name off the note, and that I thought he had been indiscreet in putting it on; he asked me if I would not come to Mr. Woodruff's office at 12 o'clock; I afterward met Mr. Shuler; he showed me a dispatch which Col. Freese had received; the substance of that dispatch was not to discount the note; (*Exhibit A* shown) that was the dispatch as near as I can recollect; I think then that I said to Mr. Shuler, that this was a discreditable transaction, and I was very much opposed to any such thing; I telegraphed to Carpenter to meet me at Everittstown, Hunterdon county; I was going there on business; Everittstown is eight miles from Clinton; the reason why I went to Hunterdon county, because my uncle was owing me money; his check had been protested; ex-sheriff Rittenhouse told me that he was advertised to be sold out on the 26th, and I went to secure myself for the money; I did so and took a chattel mortgage on the goods, and I thought as I was going up on that business I would see Mr. Carpenter and talk to him about this transaction; at 12 o'clock I went to Woodruff's office; there were a number of gentlemen in the office—Mr. Sayre, Bamford, Shuler, John A. Hall, Woodruff, Edward Woodruff, and I think two or three others, standing around; I went in behind the railing; Mr. Sayre sat there; I don't know who commenced the conversation first, about the despatches, Mr. Sayre seemed to be very much excited, I think he said "what the devil does all this mean?" or something like that; his conversation was loud; he said he believed this John Carpenter, Jr., was a damned rascal; that he believed he had sold out to somebody else; that he believed he was going to make money out of this thing, and several other similar expressions; I said to him that I had always found John Carpenter honorable, during my acquaintance with him; that if I understood dispatches, he wanted new paper given, but did not mean to annul the agreement; Mr. Sayre replied, "you do not know him as well as I do; I have got his note; I'll be damned if I haven't

him on the hip, and I'll have satisfaction;" I remonstrated with him for talking so loud; as near as I can recollect, I told him I did not think it was to the credit of the parties concerned for this matter to be talked of on the street; just then Senator Stockton and one of the editors of the *National Intelligencer* came in; he wanted to see Mr. Woodruff and myself in relation to the Senatorial matter; Woodruff and myself went into the City Clerk's office and gave him an audience of over an hour; but before going out I told Mr. Sayre to come to my room at three o'clock, and I would talk to him further about the matter; he came at that hour; I enjoined upon him that it would not be to the credit of the parties concerned to noise this story around; I told him Mercer county was not entitled by usage to the Journal Clerkship; that I was going to Hunterdon county, and would see Mr. Carpenter and that maybe Mr. Bamford could be got out of the way; that Mr. Bamford was in the hands of his friends; that they would take care of him; that he (Sayre) might have the clerkship himself; Sayre remarked that he would not do anything to injure Mr. Bamford; I think his language was: "I'll be damned if Bamford hasn't stood by me, and I'll stand by him;" I don't remember ever saying to Mr. Sayre that I would rather give a thousand dollars than have this matter come out; I don't remember ever saying anything about one thousand dollars; I went to Hunterdon county on Friday; saw Mr. Carpenter at Everittstown; I told him about the dispatches; I told him what Bamford and Sayre had said about it; he said if that was the way they talked about him, he didn't think he would appoint either one of them; I told him as to Mr. Bamford, that Mercer county was not entitled by usage of the party to the Journal Clerkship; that Mr. Bamford was in the hands of his friends: that he could appoint Mr. Sayre; I think he said he would not appoint Mr. Sayre; I told him all that I asked was good officers for the House; that it was necessary to have good officers as they were all new; he asked me if Mr. Bamford's friends could not take care of him; I told him I would see about it; I thought perhaps I could get him Clerk of Engrossed Bills; anyhow, I would see Mr. Bamford's friends; don't recollect any conversation with Mr. Carpenter about the note; don't recollect that I expressed my feelings in regard to it; I came back to Trenton and saw Mr. Woodruff; talked the matter over with him; we thought it was a very discreditable business; we also talked over the matter in reference to Mr. Bamford; we thought that Mercer county was not entitled to the Journal Clerkship, though we wanted to see Mr. Bamford have it, if he could get it honorably; I think I suggested to Mr. Woodruff how would it do to make Mr. Bamford clerk of the Engrossed Bills, and give Mr. Sayre the Journal Clerkship; but we came to the conclusion that it was a delicate matter, and would have nothing to do with it; I did not go to see anybody else, nor did I see anybody else about it; Mr. Carpenter wanted me to write to him; I did not write; I did not think I could get a letter to his place in time; on Saturday I went to Paterson, and on my return home on Monday, to Jersey City, I tele-

graphed to Mr. Carpenter—"Nothing definite was done in that matter;" (*Exhibit C* shown witness) that is the dispatch which I sent; I meant that nothing had been done to induce Mr. Bamford to withdraw—that was all that it meant; I don't recollect seeing Mr. Sayre at Jersey City; in the afternoon Mr. Frank Ward came to my room and said "Mr. Sayre said you offered him \$1000," I said, "tell Mr. Sayre that he lies, and bring him here that I may tell him so to his face," I said, "what would I offer him a \$1000 for?" "well," said he, "I wondered what it would be for;" he started off to go see Mr. Sayre, he came back in the course of half an hour or so, and said he had seen Mr. Sayre, and Mr. Sayre would not come, but reiterated his statement that I had offered him \$1000; I told him that it was false and untrue; Mr. Ward went away; I afterwards, the next evening, met Mr. Sayre in the office of the Trenton House, I think on the next evening, I asked him if he had told Frank Ward that I had offered him \$1000; "No," he said, he had not told him that, he told him that I said I would rather give \$1000 than that this thing should get out, and said he "I inferred from that you would give \$1000; I told him I had never said a thing about \$1000; he said he had prepared a statement for a New York paper and was going to publish it; I asked him if he had implicated me in that statement, and he said no; I told him if I was in any way implicated I should take means to have redress; he said he had published a newspaper and knew what was libellous; I would like to say here that I was astounded when Frank Ward said I had offered Sayre \$1000, I never had the slightest intention of doing anything of the kind, nor the faintest idea of saying anything about \$1000; Mr. Vanderbilt said he was stopped by Mr. Freese as he was coming to the State House, and was told about the note, and he, Mr. Vanderbilt, declared the whole subject a discreditable one; I don't recollect informing Mr. Carpenter as to my feelings in regard to this transaction; I may have done so, but don't recollect; I first learned of the appointment of Mr. Sweeny by Mr. Carpenter telling me when I saw him in Hunterdon county that he was going to give one appointment to Mr. Sweeny; I asked him who he was and where he lived; he told me at Phillipsburg; I asked him if he was competent; he told me from what he had heard he was; I said, John, I want a first class clerk; I first heard of the appointment of Mr. Kelly either on Monday night or Tuesday morning of last week; recollect Mr. Carpenter telling me that Mr. Bamford had got the Journal Clerkship.

By Mr. Hendrickson—

I should not have gone to meet Mr. Carpenter in Hunterdon county had I not had other business there.

By Mr. Sayre—

I don't recollect meeting you in the Jersey City depot.

GEORGE O. VANDERBILT.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The Special Committee to whom was referred the investigation of the charges that "certain subordinate clerkships of the House had been made the subject of barter and sale, and that at least one of them had been bestowed for a pecuniary consideration," beg leave respectfully to report :

That they have patiently and exhaustively investigated the charges in question, and have arrived at the following conclusions upon the evidence presented :

First. That the Clerk of the House, John Carpenter, Jr., entered into a combination with one Charles Y. Bamford, of Trenton ; and one Stephen H. Sayre, of Deckertown, New Jersey, to assist him to secure his election as Clerk—he agreeing, in consideration of their active support in securing votes of members in his behalf, to appoint them as Journal Clerk and Assistant Journal Clerk, respectively ; it being also agreed between them, that in case of his election as Clerk, his friends should unite with theirs, to prevent any nominations for those subordinate positions by the House.

Second. That, upon his election as Clerk by the House, Mr. Carpenter absolutely refused to fulfill his contract with the parties named, assigning as his reason for this refusal, that the pressure was so great from other parties as to compel the selection of other appointees.

Third. That notwithstanding the alleged heavy pressure, which as he claimed, prevented the fulfillment of his obligation, Mr. Carpenter did subsequently "determine that one of these gentlemen should have the Journal Clerkship," and selected a method by which "it might be ascertained which" of these gentlemen "should receive the appointment;" which method was that the two should draw lots for the office, the one securing the prize to give the other his note for five hundred dollars, Mr. Carpenter agreeing to endorse said note ; upon the drawing Mr. Bamford secured the prize, and therefore gave his note to Mr. Sayre for the amount stated ; it was endorsed by Mr. Carpenter, he agreeing that Mr. Bamford should have the clerkship ; the note, so endorsed, was offered for discount, Mr. Carpenter suggesting the banking house at which it should be offered ; before the discount was had, the negotiation of the note was stopped by order of Mr. Carpenter, through a telegram from Anandale ; that between the time when the note was given, and with Mr. Carpenter's endorsement was offered for discount, and the day on which the appointment of Journal Clerkship was finally made, efforts were made by

Mr. Carpenter and his friends to secure the destruction of the note, and no less earnest efforts were made to prevent the transaction from reaching the public ear; it appearing in the testimony that those who had become cognizant of the facts, regarded the affair as disreputable and discreditable to all concerned.

Fifth. That notwithstanding this agreement to appoint Mr. Bamford as Journal Clerk, and in full knowledge of the further fact that Mr. Bamford's note for five hundred dollars had been given to Mr. Sayre as a consideration for the appointment, Mr. Carpenter then gave that appointment to a third party.

Sixth. These, as briefly stated are the facts conclusively established by the concurrent testimony of creditable witnesses, and upon those facts, your committee beg leave to remark as follows:

1. Such combination was obviously against sound policy and the public good, since under such combinations among individuals seeking public positions, not genuine merit, integrity and capacity, but the opposite of these qualities, must in the long run, always become dominant to the detriment of the public service; and that still further, such agreement was a wrong to the friends of other candidates as tending to prevent an honest selection of officers for the organization of the House.

2. That as to the alleged purpose assigned by the clerk as a reason for not fulfilling his first agreement with Mr. Bamford and Mr. Sayre, the evidence shows that no such pressure existed—only two members solicited the appointment of the candidate chosen, one of the candidates being ignorant of his candidacy for the position to which he was appointed.

3. That the note transaction, with all the incidents attending it, betrayed a spirit of barter and trade, and a want of perception of the grave responsibilities of his office on the part of the clerk.

4. Your committee cannot be mistaken in concluding that with such a precedent ever established, we may expect at no distant day to see all the positions in the gift of the Legislature not bestowed upon the meritorious candidate, but upon the intriguing politician.

5. That the efforts made to procure the destruction of Bamford's note, with Mr. Carpenter's endorsement, or the substitution for it of another, was a confession that his conduct would not stand investigation, for if the note was given with honest intent, why seek its destruction?

If, on the other hand, when Mr. Carpenter endorsed it, he contemplated in his own mind either its destruction, or the prevention of its use as a legitimate value, then he was no less culpable than he proved himself in his final refusal to fulfill his engagements after that note had been extorted from Mr. Bamford.

That although, perhaps, Mr. Carpenter did not premeditate his acts in this unfortunate affair, yet, we are constrained to believe that his experience in public affairs enabled him, or should have enabled him to at once compre-

hend a situation he would be placed in by them, and that he had sufficient time to fully realize the consequences which must grow out of his acts.

Finally, your committee conclude, from first to last, the transaction which provoked this investigation was wholly disreputable, and that nothing remains for this House, if it would preserve its true character and reputation, but to condemn, in the most signal and emphatic manner, so reprehensible an abuse of its privileges. That, while thus condemning the motives and the acts of Mr. Carpenter, your committee cannot pass by without condemnation of the position of Mr. Sayre in the matter, in holding the note for the purpose of forcing from Mr. Carpenter more than the legitimate amount of money called for by it, or other consideration than an honest holder of the note should seek to exact. In the opinion of your committee a mere censure of the offender would not amount to such a condemnation as the gravity of the offence demands. The rebuke must be so unmistakable and absolute that hereafter there shall be no recurrence of a similar state of affairs.

Your committee, in reporting, tender to the House the testimony which they have reduced to writing, and which is now in possession of the chairman, subject to the order of the House, and respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the office of the Clerk of this House be and the same is hereby declared vacant.

SAMUEL MORROW, JR.,
ALEX. T. MCGILL, JR.,
CHAS. D. HENDRICKSON,
HENRY MOFFETT,
HENRY B. WILSON.

