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BEN BUTLER TO MACVEAGH.

Simon Cameron's Son-in-Law most Scientifically Scarcified.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 30, 1877.

Dear sir: I received yours of the 29th instant in manuscript, after having read it in print.

I dictated to my phonographic secretary a letter to Marshal Pitkin, in reply to one informing me that his resignation had been demanded by the Executive, and to that demand he had refused to accede, and sent it marking it personal, so that I am in no way responsible for its getting into print.

The facts that are recited therein were stated specially to be from information which I had received from credible sources. Of course, I could know nothing of the occurrences personally, and of course did not undertake to give them either publication or a personal endorsement, save that I believed them.

If you had addressed me even a printed letter, couched in the ordinarily courteous language which passes between gentlemen, especially when the one who uses it, it is rumored, is expecting employment in the diplomatic service of his country, I should have very promptly, upon being set right, made reparation so far as in my power for any injury arising from a publication even for which I was not responsible.

I never thought of charging you with using your own money, of which you declare you "had none to spare," in paying the mileage of the deserting legislators of the Packard House. You will observe, reading my letter more carefully, that I did not even allege that "it was asserted" that any money was paid; my phrase being, "it is asserted that two thousand dollars was to be paid to the leading deserting legislators, and only two hundred dollars to others, disguised in the latter case in the shape of mileage, so that Mr. Johnson, a colored man, speaking out of the innocence of his heart, said on the floor of the House, that all he wanted was to get his mileage and go home."

Now, how any person could find in such a statement an assertion that he paid any money, passes my comprehension. I express myself that poor Johnson declared that "he wanted to get his money and go home," not that he had got it. It never occurred to me that any money was paid, only promised; or that the legislators got their money for deserting any more than Wharton has got his office for not "managing any business." On the contrary, I was told that, although the money was promised as a bribe for the desertion, the poor fellows did not get it, but were required further to vote for Mr. Spofford as Senator before they could get even what was due them. Now, I do not know this fact, but hope and believe the Senate will ascertain it on investigation in the contest for the Senator's seat. I would suggest to the Senate committee to ask certain members of the Packard Legislature, whose names I will give, whether, after all efforts to demoralize the Republican members and get them to go over to Nicholls by the Commission acting together failed, a selected portion of that Legislature were requested by Col. Wharton, a friend of Packard, to meet Wayne MacVeagh, and did so.

Whether he addressed them, saying that the president would not recognize the Packard government; that the troops would be withdrawn the next day; that if they would go over to the Nicholls Legislature they would be recognized, and seated, and get their mileage, but if they did not do so within twenty-four hours their seats would be declared vacant, and loose all. If the committee push their inquiry, I firmly believe upon examination they will find what I have suggested to be substantially true. Now do not deny the words of this. I see you are fond of denying "words."

I read in your letter that you say Wharton "did not manage or transact any kind of business for me." Certainly not. Bless your soul! you do not call such tricks as these business, do you? They are not business, even if you should get that foreign mission for doing them, which I hope you will.

You further say, "Wharton was a friend of Packard." All the better instrument, therefore, to get Packard's friends away from him. It was well done, and does credit to your

training. You say further: "Strange as it may appear to some of them, political results are still attainable in this country by straightforward and honest methods." True; it did seem strange to me, for in more than thirty years' experience in the ways of Pennsylvania political "methods" and politicians in both parties, it did seem strange if this transaction was either "straightforward" or "honest." You made a good point on me there.

I frankly confess I had no evidence then, and have none now, that you paid any money to these deluded men after it had been promised them. I desire, in the most solemn manner, to acquit you of having paid any money. I know, as you say in your letter, that you had "none to spare." I trust and hope the event which you hope will give you command of a large sum of money is in the far distance.

I agree most fully that where you are known you "do not need to deny any silly story" about the use of money in paying anything; and if I had ever asserted that you ever did use your own money for any good or even political purpose, I should have been guilty, as you, in your own chaste language, say, of a "base and cowardly falsehood." Therefore, I repeat again, I never have known or heard of your paying anything to anybody, and as at present advised, without more evidence than I have now, I never will assert such a thing possible. You need not make me excuses, as you do, for "not having money of your own to spare." I have known many men without money, but I have never known one without an excuse for not paying it.

As you state your excuse, "it is only a military commandant of New Orleans, in time of war, who can safely appropriate any considerable quantity of the property of others to his own use."

Do I understand you correctly that it is the want of ability to do it "safely" that has prevented you from "appropriating a considerable quantity of the property of others to your own use?"

However, I shall not affect to misunderstand the allusion which you thus make, but pardon it and the apparent loss of your temper, which makes you at once unjust, illogical, and impetuous. If you believed, what you are brave enough only to insinuate—because, although you were young and able-bodied, I fail to recall the number of the regiment in which you served in the war for your country's safety—certainly you could not, as managing member of the State Republican Committee of Pennsylvania, have invited, with pressing letters, which I now have, one who had appropriated wrongfully other people's property to come to that State, to speak on the same platform with yourself, traveling together many miles to attend meetings to instruct your people on public affairs.

Besides, my dear Mr. McVeagh, the insinuation was unworthy of you. It is neither novel nor useful, and therefore not patentable. A half dozen dirty newspapers have been enabled to preserve themselves from bankruptcy for the last dozen years by printing the assertions about me which you only insinuate.

Every one has his own taste in choosing his way to acquire money, but if I was obliged to choose one of the two ways, either to "appropriate it as military commandant," or to marry into a family where I was neither wanted, nor by which I should be respected, to get "money to spare," I certainly should choose the former, strange as you may think it, because at least I should have the money after having committed a disreputable act to get it, and not be liable to be disappointed as I might be, after I had waited long for "dead men's shoes" by the other method.

There is another denial of yours of an assertion that I did not make. "I have not asked the President to appoint him (Wharton) Marshal." I never intimated that you had so done. I had always supposed that you had never asked President Hayes for the appointment of anybody except yourself, and my knowledge of that idiosyncrasy of yours would have prevented me from asserting that you had asked for the appointment of Wharton. Certain it is that Gov. Packard has not. Who, do you think, is so pressing Col. Jack Wharton, of the Confederate army, that Pitkin

the Republican and good officer, is called upon by a Republican administration to resign his office to make room for the rebel? What service has Wharton (a brave man, it is true) ever done for the party of the country to earn high office, except to help kill some of our gallant soldiers, whose lowly graves we were decorating the day I got your kind note?

Let me advise you, my dear sir, not to lose your temper in discussing political matters. If you do you will prove yourself unfit to be employed to manage diplomatic affairs even near the smallest court in Europe, say of Monaco, where they have a standing army of sixty-three men only, so that you need not be afraid to go there because of any danger of war. I should be grieved if you do anything which would by any possibility lessen the chance that you will leave, very soon, the country to be away at least four years.

For the rest, as to the disputed questions of fact relating to what was said and done by the commission, of which you were a member, when in New Orleans, we will renew the discussion after a committee of Congress, of which it may be my ill-fortune to be a member, has made a full investigation. Then, and not till then, if you please, we will renew our correspondence, unless indeed you should like to practice upon me to educate yourself to formulate diplomatic notes.

I must apologise to you for the seeming delay between the date of this note and your reception of it. I began the reply as soon as I was favored with yours, but as I reserve matters of this sort for recreation, I could not finish it sooner, as I have been very hard pressed with professional engagements. Pray hold me excused.

I am, not only "truly," but very truly yours,

BENJ. F. BUTLER.

The Hon. WAYNE MACVEAGH, Philadelphia, Pa.

Hon. Wayne MacVeagh to General Butler. Short, Sharp and incisive—A Warning to Young Men.

PHILADELPHIA, June 6.—Hon. Wayne MacVeagh furnished the following letter in reply to Gen. Butler to the Press this evening.

Philadelphia, June 6.—Gen. B. F. Butler, Washington, D. C.: I fear you have overworked your inventive faculties, for your long and labored letter of to-day shows signs of failing power, and will go far to destroy that reputation for effective scurrility which you have so sedulously fostered. The issue between you and me was your own seeking, and is so plain that you cannot obscure it by any amount of misrepresentation, however irrelevant or vulgar. You deliberately wrote and published about me some sheer falsehoods, without a particle of foundation for any one of them. Thereupon I promptly put you on the national pillory with a very legible statement of your offenses upon your forehead.

As you have endured your punishment for an entire week, and now virtually confess that every statement made by you was untrue, I have no objection to your getting down, but you must not suppose that I placed you there in resentment only. My chief purpose was to exhibit you as a warning to younger men, by showing them that in spite of great ability and energy you had become the leper of our politics by reason of the general conviction that you habitually disregard the eighth and ninth commandments. That purpose has been fully answered by the comments of the country upon your character, and I have no further interest in the matter. I will not even take the trouble to deny any new falsehood you may think it to your advantage to invent about me, for those who know me will not believe anything you say against me, and those who know you, of course, will not believe anything you say of anybody.

WAYNE MACVEAGH.

A Frenchman has been arrested for compelling his wife to swallow a live spider every Monday morning. His object was to cure her of flirting.

STRANGE WOMAN.

From the New York Correspondence of The Observer we take the following extract:

A curious case of an old lady who died in Boston lately, aged 80, is mentioned. She had been housekeeper at a hotel, and it was not known that she had any property, but on examining her effects after death, it was found that she had the note of the proprietor of the hotel for \$5,000 loaned to her, \$1,700 in bank, and twenty-three large trunks and packing cases full of expensive articles of wearing apparel and house-furnishing. Among all these valuables were eighty-nine dresses, new and perfect, made of silk velvet, satin and all kinds of plaid silks, black and colored thibets, poplins, alpaca, brilliantines, cashmeres, &c., 3 silk velvet cloaks; 19 shawls, from common to the richest Paisley and wrought crape; 106 skirts of all colors, 114 pairs of hose, undergarments too numerous to mention, table linen, towels, handkerchiefs, counterpanes, blankets, coverlets, sheets, live-geese feathers, sets of elegant chinaware, a large lot of table and tea-spoons of best coin silver, silver knives and forks, a fine gold watch and chain and all these goods are perfectly new and in the best order, never having been used at all.

Who will pretend after this that a woman can't keep a secret? The old lady had probably given up the expectation of marrying, and was collecting her wedding trousseau with housekeeping necessaries. Her fondness for dress reminds me of the bank clerk who proved to be a defaulter a year or two ago, one item of his wardrobe being seventy-two pairs of pants.

Women have taken to horse-whipping men. Two cases have occurred within a few days.

H.

AUTUMN PLOWING.

Plow among grapevines and fruit trees late in autumn. In all clay soils there is a yearly chemical benefit resulting from rough exposure of the soil by upheaval, late, very late in autumn. My own experience is that a shallow plowing next to vines or trees, turning the furrow towards the tree or vine, deepening the furrow by little as the distance from the tree is increased, is worth in clay soil, one year with another, the full value of five tons of manure to the acre. Again, if you plow late, say 20th of October, to 10th of November, you cover a large amount of fallen leaves, each of which is a natural manure agent. And again, this throwing of the earth toward the tree or vines, assists in draining, inasmuch as it takes to the centre furrow all superfluous surface moisture and thus leaves the most sensitive or surface roots in a steady, active condition.—F. R. E., in Country Gentleman.

Two daughters of a farmer in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., desired to pay the debt on their homestead, but they preferred not to do it by hard work. They hit upon an idea that suited their purpose, and have made enough money to remove the debt. They had a large quantity of porous stone sawed into small pieces and thoroughly soaked in an odorous preparation, which imparted to them durable scent. These they have peddled throughout the State, at twenty-five cents each, representing that they were cut from the rock of a wonderful perfumed cave of South America. The girls are so demure and pretty, and tell their lie with such an appearance of simplicity, that the sales are very large. They have just put a fresh lot of stone in soak, preparatory to an extended Western tour.

The Hindoos have 13,685,509 gods, and its two years now since the census taker has been around making out a list of them.

A Fine Distinction.

A young man whose attire was clean and neat, and whose general appearance was rather prepossessing, stood before the bar of the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday morning. By his side stood a young man of about the same age, with a coal-black face and woolly hair, and who was dressed with all the gorgeously of a "swell."

"What's your name white man?" asked the Court.

"McFinnigan, sir."

"And yours, my man and brother?"

"Gawge Washin'ton Jones, sah."

"What was the matter, George Washington?"

"Sah; I'll tell yo' de truf, sah, I was a goin' up de street, sah, las' night, when I met this man an' I kine' of jostled again 'im and he turn' right roun', sah, an' fetch me a clip on de nose, sah, den I calls an' offiss' an' had dat man arrested, an' dats all de troof, foa' God, sah."

"How was it, McFinnigan?"

"Shure, yer Oner, an' it was all de nagger's fault, sor. I was a coming down de av'nie, quiet as a lam' sor, saying nothin' to nobody, when that sphalpeen came forinist me sor, wid his elbie, an' I up an' bit him upon the spur av' the moult."

"No, sah, he hit me on de nose, sah!"

"On the spur av' the moult!"

"On de nose, sah!"

"Never mind fine distinctions" said his Honor, "it costs a man ten dollars in this court to hit a man whether it be upon the spur of the moment or upon the nose. George Washington, you are discharged."—New York World.

The Postmaster at Corpus Christi, Texas, has very properly decided that the King snake, the deadliest reptile in that region, is not legitimate mail matter. The serpent was sent from San Diego to Corpus Christi to be mailed abroad, and had therefore already travelled a considerable distance in charge of the mail carriers. Alligators are sometimes forwarded through the post office, but when it comes to handling venomous serpents the best-natured postmaster in the world may hesitate.

Col. John N. Staples of Greensboro, announces that it is a mistake that his business in Washington was for the purpose of organizing the new party movement. The country feels easier since that announcement, and can now give its undivided attention to the unpleasantness between the Turks and Russians.—Winston Sentinel.

A bachelor and a young lady bought some tickets in a lottery at the recent Sanitary Fair at Milwaukee, agreeing to divide the proceeds equitably. They drew a double bedstead a baby crib and lunch basket, and the question is how to divide them.

The real nice young lady will leave a small spoonful of ice cream in her dish when she and her young man rise from the table and then go back and scoop it in while he is paying the bill.

It is a solemn thing for a penniless young man to lead a blushing bride up to the altar and promise to endow her with all his worldly goods.

In a New Orleans Sunday school the question was asked a bright boy: "Who was sold by his brethren?" and the answer was "Packard."

A negro's definition of a bigot—"A man as knows too much for one niggah, and not enuff for two."

Job never had to commence feeling in his left breast-pocket and run his hand on down into his boot leg after a pencil; which is probably the why of his amiable reputation.

A son of Ben Butler and two sons of prominent Confederate Generals graduate at West point this summer.

The young Earl Shrewsbury, now 17 years old, will have an income of about £30,000 when he comes of age.