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## "I TOLE THAT GOLD MYSELF."

**Cochran's Confession to Chief Drummond Is the Mint Thief Insane?**

The exact amount of bullion stolen by Cochran was \$134,093.40. Of this \$100,000 was found secreted in the vault at his home in Darby, outside Philadelphia.

Cochran was in the custody of two Secret Service detectives, but is now incarcerated. Bosbyshell thinks there is but little probability of Cochran being prosecuted. "He will end his days in an asylum," the superintendent said "for I think, and Chief Drummond concurs with me, that his mind is unbalanced."

Chief Drummond described the manner in which he secured a confession from Cochran: "I told him I wanted him to help me catch the thief," the secret service chief said, "and he said he would do it. He was very nervous, but apparently not at all frightened by his unpleasant position, and I let him take his own time to confess. Finally he put both his hands down on my knees, and with his head bowed, said: 'I stole that gold myself.'"

Continuing Chief Drummond said: "He declared that the government owed him for his long service at a low salary. Over and over again he reiterated the assertion that he had made millions of dollars for the treasury department, and it was due him that he should have some share of the imaginary profit. He trembled every time he spoke of gold, and every mention of the word seemed to fascinate him."

"He said he took the first bar because it had fallen down on the floor, when he had to pick it up. The temptation was too much for him, and he carried it out. The next day he melted, sent it to himself at the mint by express, and paid his own messenger for it in gold coin. He did not remember just what year he did this, but he thought it was shortly after the barred door inside the vault had been sealed in 1887. I went with him to his home in Darby, and on the way he expressed indignation that I wanted back all the gold he had taken. He told me it would be very unjust to rob him, inasmuch as nearly \$10,000 had been spent in improving his real estate. He said he loved gold and was happy when he handled it. He thought the government was persecuting him and that it had never treated him fairly. At least half a dozen times he went all over the story of how he caught John Negus robbing the mint twenty-five years ago, and had thereby done a public service for which no credit had been given him."

"He did not hesitate at all to tell me how he had shoved the twenty gold bars through the ventilator shaft, but he dodged for a while the question as to the location of the ten bars which he had carried outside the Mint. What was left, he said, he had hid in the garret of his house, and it was there I found it buried away in a closet, the door of which was concealed in the wall. At first I only got one gold bar and \$2,000 in \$10 gold pieces, but after awhile he pointed out the hiding place of the rest of the \$7,000 and the crucibles into which he had smelted the metal. When he got these for me he promised to make a complete restitution."

"I think there is no question but the gold will come out whole. While Cochran is not wholly a criminal, he is not altogether kleptomaniac. My idea is that his passion for the actual possession of gold, coupled with his strange dislike for the government, has unbalanced his mind to some degree."

Cochran is sixty-three years of age, and has been a trusted employee of the mint for many years. He resided at Darby, a suburb of the city, in a mansion somewhat old-fashioned. He employs two men for his stables and grounds, and his horses, of which he owns six, are said to be the finest in the village.

Mr. Cochran ranks as one of the leading men in Darby. He is an active member of the Presbyterian church and a liberal supporter of the church work. Of late he has been much interested in the Salvation Army, which has been conducting an active campaign at Mount Moriah.

Louisville is to present something new under the sun—an auction sale of field-trial and hunting dogs. Mr. J. L. Adams, a well-known insurance man, is the innovator.

## SENATOR MATT RANSOM.

**An Outsider's Views of the Political Disturbances in North Carolina.**

Residents and non-residents of the "Tar Heel" state are watching with unusual interest a fight which is now in progress in the United States senate on which very probably depends a senatorship from North Carolina. Mr. Ransom, who represents the Eastern district of North Carolina is seeking a re-election. He is one of the oldest (in point of service) and most influential members of the senate. He has come out boldly for unconditional repeal, notwithstanding the fact that his successor must soon be chosen. His colleague, Mr. Vance, is fighting the administration with all the vigor, and it may be said virulence, that he can command.

Among those who will contest for the position now occupied by Ransom is ex-Governor Jarvis, of Pitt county, said to be one of the strongest men in the state. He has the hearty co-operation of Governor Carr, and it is understood, too, that Mr. Vance is a party to the combination to defeat his colleague. Mr. Jarvis was lieutenant-governor under Mr. Vance, succeeding him in the governorship when that gentleman came to the United States senate. In addition to these there are other strong forces which will combine in the attempt to defeat Mr. Ransom.

Colonel A. M. Waddell, of Wilmington, will probably shy his castor into the senatorial arena. Himself as well as Jarvis were candidates against Ransom five years ago and he defeated them both. Mr. Waddell is said to be especially aggrieved this time because Mr. Ransom has overridden his recommendations in Wilmington.

Preliminary to this fight which will be waged is the attack by Mr. Vance on the nomination of Kope Elias, the famous "original Cleveland man" of North Carolina, whom Mr. Cleveland has named as collector of internal revenue. Ransom favors his confirmation. Vance has given it out that he will be defeated, and the result is watched here with the greatest interest. It is thought to be the decisive blow in the fight for the senatorship.

But here comes the strange part of the whole story. I have it on unimpeachable testimony that Mr. Thomas Settle, the single republican member from North Carolina, has undertaken the contract to mass the solid republican vote of the senate against Elias's confirmation. Marion Butler, the leader of the populists in North Carolina, has been here all the week attempting to get the populist members of the senate to take the same action. With those democratic senators that Mr. Vance can control, it is hoped to prevent the confirmation.

It is very evident that these two leaders of the populists and republicans of North Carolina regards the confirmation of Elias as a very good thing for the democratic party, else they would not be found working so hard to prevent it. If this unholy alliance can succeed in unhorsing Elias, then they will try their hand on Colonel Simmons, whose nomination has been thus far held up by request of Mr. Vance.

It resolves itself simply into a question of this combination's ability to deliver the goods. Ransom is a tower of strength in the senate. He has been a member of that body for the past twenty-three years, and no man stands higher with his colleagues. He avoids a fight as long as possible, but when aroused he is a very dangerous man to tackle, as the junior senator from New York can truthfully testify.

Mr. Vance indorsed his cousin for the position that Elias has been named. Ransom is all of the members of the North Carolina delegation, whose districts come under the jurisdiction of the collector, settled on Elias. This is thought to be the true inwardness of the whole fight.

The fight on Elias is the first lick at Ransom's returning to his seat in the senate. Well informed people here say that this will be the decisive blow. If Ransom wins here he will win all along the line.—[Washington Correspondent, Atlanta Journal.]

## Durham's Fire.

At 4:45 Saturday afternoon fire broke out in Swift & Co's. tobacco factory at Durham, extending quickly to Burton's prize house. Both were wholly consumed. Two cottages were seriously damaged by the fire. Total loss not less than \$35,000.

## STATE NEWS.

Will N. Herben will soon have his new North Carolina novel ready for the press. It abounds in thrilling incidents and is sure to meet with a favorable reception.

Andrew Peeler, a prosperous farmer residing near Bean's Mill, in Cleveland county, is suffering from a mental trouble. His mind has been deranged by a prosecution for (as is claimed) a return of taxable property to the assessor. His neighbors say the prosecution is malicious.

In the not altogether general deal going on in changing Postmasters Col. R. A. Deal, the able but timid and witty editor of the Wilkesboro Chronicle has had the Wilkesboro postmastership dealt out to him. Now, if Hickory but had a deal. But—er, er. Oh what's the use talking about it?

Columbia State: The fact that the cotton crop is going to be very short in the South is beginning to penetrate the hard heads of the bears, and from this time forward prices will be fixed by facts and not by guesses. It will not be long before cotton will bring 9 cents in New York, and at that figure even a short crop, made, as this, has been with great economy, will be fairly remunerative. The outlook for our farmers is not a gloomy one.

A pleasant incident following the recent examination of the law students by the Supreme court was the presentation of a beautiful gold-headed cane to Judge A. C. Avery, at his rooms at Mrs. Moseley's yesterday afternoon, by his law class which is the first to apply for license to practice from the Trinity College Law School, of which he is Dean. The presentation was made by Mr. Fred A. Green for the class. This is a beautiful token of their esteem and appreciation for his instruction and zealous work preparing them for the law. The entire class received their license yesterday.—[Paley News-Observer-Chronicle.]

## Train Robbers Killed.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Sept. 25.—The Council Bluffs road foiled an attempt to rob one of its passenger trains, killed two of the bandits and captured three others at Francis, one and one-half miles from this city, last night. The dead are Hugo Engel and Fred Kohler. The names of those captured are N. A. Hurst, Charles Fredericks and William Carter. The officials of the railroad had been notified that a robbery had been planned and notified the police. When the train arrived here a dummy train was made up and sixteen police officers under the command of the Chief of Police were put on board. When the dummy reached a point two miles north of St. Joseph an engineer's attention was arrested by a lighted lantern moving to and fro between the rails. He obeyed the signal. Six masked men surrounded the engine. One mounted the engine and presenting a revolver in subject's face while the other five hastened to rob the express car. They ordered the messenger to open the door, which he did at once. Three of the bandits entered the car, leaving two outside to keep guard. The police men guarding the train were distributed in various cars, a majority being concealed in the express car. As soon as the three bandits entered the door the police ordered them to surrender.

The robbers were taken completely by surprise, but opened fire at once upon the police. The police returned the fire, and a general fusillade followed. About twenty five shots were fired on both sides. When the smoke cleared away the lifeless bodies of Kohler and Engel were found lying on the floor of the car. Both were shot through the head. Fredericks, the third robber was captured uninjured. No officers were hurt. While the fight was going on in the car, the police on the outside succeeded in capturing two men on the watch, but the men on the engine escaped. A detail of officers were put on their track and will probably be captured. The bodies of Kohler and Engel and the three prisoners were brought back to the city. Fredericks, Hurst and Carter were placed in jail. All the robbers lived here.

## President is Too Busy.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 28.—The Washington correspondent of the Press says Representative Kripps, of Pennsylvania was informed by Secretary Thurber at the White House yesterday, that the President hereafter would make all appointments wholly on recommendation of head of departments. The reason given for the President's change of plan is that he has no time now to bother with appointments, being too busy with legislative matters.

## ELOPED WITH A NEGRO.

**A Millionaire's Daughter Weds An Elevator Boy.**

St. Paul, September 22.—It has been learned that the nineteen-year-old daughter of Millionaire Eugene Mehl had eloped with and married James Robinson, colored.

Eugene Mehl was until last week proprietor of the Ryan Hotel, the largest piece of property in the northwest and worth alone nearly \$2,000,000. Robinson was employed as elevator boy in the hotel.

Jennie Mehl, who eloped, has been missing from the hotel since Friday. Eugene Mehl, the wayward girl's father, has lived in St. Paul for some years. He owns several large pieces of business property here and is reputed to be worth from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000. His daughter Jennie has always moved in the best society and was considered the belle of the city.

When Robinson was elevator boy Miss Jennie would recreate frequently by riding up and down in the elevator. Robinson, after hiding with his wife, whom he married Saturday in Minneapolis, came over to St. Paul last night. Eugene Mehl sold the Ryan hotel last week for \$1,500,000, and, at first thinking little of his daughter's absence overnight left for Chicago with the greater part of his family the next morning, leaving word for Jennie to remain here until he came home.

The ceremony which bound the fair young white girl to colored James Robinson, who is himself less than twenty years old, was performed Saturday afternoon by Rev. James Hickman.

"I married the pair Saturday afternoon," said Mr. Hickman tonight "at the house of Wilson, a laboring man. Miss Mehl said she loved Robinson and she produced a marriage license. I knew that if I did not marry them some one else would, and as it is my business, I did it. I took care to see that everything was perfectly regular and legal."

Mr. Hickman is a colored Baptist preacher who spent thirty-two years as a slave. He says in the last five years he has married 100 couples of which the brides were white.

The marriage was witnessed by two colored men. Miss Mehl has had many admirers in the best circles in St. Paul, and several proposals of marriage which she refused.

"I married Mr. Robinson because I loved him," said the girl, "and I eloped because I knew my parents would not permit me to marry him. I would have been willing to obey them in anything else but I knew that I could not be happy with any one but James for my husband. I know what I have done and am doing, and have no regret to express."

The affair has caused the most profound sensation in St. Paul.

## Lost Warship.

NEW YORK, Sept. 23.—First Officer Newman, of the Prince Wilhelm I., which brought news of the foundering of the Haytian warship Petion and the reported loss of eighty souls, including many diplomats, was seen this morning aboard the steamer which is lying at Woodward's wharf, South Brooklyn. He gave further important particulars which precludes a doubt of the catastrophe. He likened the sorrow occasioned to that caused in England by the loss of the Victoria.

"There were sixty on board, not eighty," he said. "Just as we were leaving Port au Prince, the warship Dessalines, the sister ship to the Alexander Petition, returned from the scene of the catastrophe, whither she had proceeded when the first news was received, brought by a half-crazed Belgian sailor, the only survivor and white man aboard the sunken warship. The Dessalines cruised about several days in the vicinity of where the Petion went down. Not a vestige of wreckage could be found. The sea had swallowed the ship up and the suction had drawn down probably all who had attempted to escape a watery grave by flinging themselves in the sea. When the vessel lurched before plunging bow first to the bottom he was flung wide of the maelstrom created by the foundering."

## A Slight Blaze at Blowing Rock.

An attempt was made the night of the 21st inst, to burn the Kelly-Cathcart cottages. The fire started in a closet; but it was put out before much damage was done. Several negroes are under arrest as "suspect."

## PENSION ROLL.

**It Will Now Be Made a Roll of Honor as it Should Be.**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—Pension Commissioner Lochren has submitted his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior, Hon. Hoke Smith.

The number of pensioners on the rolls are 966,012, a net increase during the past year of 89,944.

During the year 44,715 claims for increase of pensions, and 31,990 claims for additional pensions, under the act of June 27, 1890, were allowed. In the same time 115,221 claims for pensions and for increase were rejected.

Claims pending July 7, 1893, number 71,150. The amount of money paid for pensions during the year was \$156,740,467.14. Estimates for 1893 amount to 162,631,570.

Referring to the revocation of the order regulating specific disabilities, under the act of June 27, 1890, the Commissioner states that by provisions of the order the act itself was being set aside and disregarded. Accordingly a board of revision was organized to examine cases under the act and cull out such as had no legal basis.

The Commissioner concludes thus: "I recognize to the fullest extent that my sole duty is to execute and administer the laws as they are enacted and fairly and honestly interpreted."

## COL. BRECKINRIDGE'S DEMURRER.

**The Case in Which Miss Pollard Sues Directed to Be Set for Trial.**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21.—The demurrer filed by Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge to the suit of Miss Madeline V. Pollard against him for \$50,000 damages for breach of promise of marriage and seduction was argued in the District court today before Judge Cox by Mr. Enoch Totten, on behalf of Congressman Breckinridge, and by Jerome Wilson and Calderon Carlisle for Miss Pollard.

Mr. Totten claimed that there could be but one contract of marriage, and therefore one promise was all that was necessary to allege. Hence, in setting out more than one in the same declaration, the plaintiff made it faulty and bad in substance. The court overruled the demurrer and directed the case to be set for trial on its merits.

The condition of the docket is such that it is not expected the case will be reached for two years.

## To Be Ambassador Van Alen.

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—The appointment of Hon. Jas. J. Van Alen as Ambassador to Italy has stirred a big sensation, but he has ability enough and certainly enough to hold his own.

Mr. Van Alen succeeds Hon. William Porter of Philadelphia, who, however, has been raised to the Ambassadorship. The diplomat is a son of the late Gen. Van Alen, an old New Yorker, who made a large fortune, through real estate transactions. Mr. Van Alen is 47 years old and a widower. He married the eldest daughter of William Astor. He is worth \$12,000,000, having by his business tact increased his inheritance from his father of \$4,000,000 by 200 per cent. His villa of Wakehurst, at Newport, is enclosed by a \$40,000 stone wall, and he entertains lavishly there from June 15 to September 15, when he goes to Europe, where he spends the winter with his children and in entertaining. He maintains a large establishment in London, where he receives many distinguished guests.

In personal appearance Mr. Van Alen bears a striking resemblance to the Prince of Wales. It has long been rumored that he would be sent to Italy because of his liberal contribution to the Cleveland campaign fund, but Mr. Whitney, who received his contribution, has denied that the promise was made to Van Alen or any other person by him in behalf of Mr. Cleveland. While Mr. Van Alen never has been engaged actively in business, he is considered a good business man, of which the best evidence is his rapidly increasing fortune. He entertains lavishly, but is not a spendthrift.

## Storm Sweeps Jackson Park.

CHICAGO, September 22.—Last evening a tremendous wind and rain storm struck Jackson Park drenched nearly every one of the 100,000 or more spectators who stayed for the illumination, broke in portions of the roofs of the manufacturer's building and the art gallery, blew off a section of the movable sidewalk roof and damaged a number of very valuable exhibits.