

# ASHLAND TIDINGS.

INDEPENDENT ON ALL SUBJECTS, AND DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF SOUTHERN OREGON.

VOL. II.—NO. 6.

ASHLAND OREGON: FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1877.

\$2.50 PER ANNUM.

## The Grover Investigation.

D. P. Thompson sworn.—Had frequent conversations with Mr. Straight during the senatorial contest; came to me on Wednesday before the election and said that one or two of the members were going over to Grover and he thought he should do so; that some of the Republicans would not vote for Nesmith; Mr. Straight told witness that he was sure money had been used to induce the desertion on the part of the Democrats; he did not name them to witness nor state what the grounds of his belief were; in conversation after adjournment he stated substantially the same thing; witness thinks he and Mr. Straight agreed that Mosier was a suspicious member; witness knew nothing about the use of money; neither did Straight say he knew money had been used—only suspected it; Mr. Straight stated to witness that he thought money had been used on three members, but did not express any opinion as to who furnished the money; witness knew of no one offering money nor of any one taking money; knew nothing of the character of the members who changed; regard Mr. Straight as a man above suspicion.

T. P. Goodwin of Linn Co., sworn.—Was a member of the last legislature—an Independent, only talked to Mr. Mosier once; that was on the night before Grover was elected; in talking about the contest he said to witness: "Why won't Mr. Grover do?" Witness answered that he thought Mr. Grover was a very good man, but not his choice, then Mr. Mosier said: "There is a chance to make money in this and where a man has no preference between candidates and can get some money for his vote, I don't think there is anything wrong in taking it." Witness answered him that some people regarded it in that light. "Well," said he, "a man can get a thousand dollars for his vote and a thousand dollars is a mighty good thing these times. I can get a thousand dollars for my vote and everybody says I'm a d—d fool for not taking it. I don't know what your circumstances are; I am poor and hard run; I was burned out last spring, and a thousand dollars would be a mighty good thing for me." Said I, "who has the money?" He said, "I know where the money is, and you can get a thousand dollars for your vote." Said he, "they want three more votes and they have got three thousand dollars to pay for them." Witness said, "If I see any one that wants the money I will send them to you." This was on the evening before the election; witness had no personal knowledge of money being used, there were various rumors about the use of money, about the hotel and legislature.

Dr. Lucius Danforth sworn.—Reside in Jacksonville; was one of the sureties on the appeal bond of E. F. Dowell, who was S. E. May's security as Secretary of State; there was a judgment secured against Mr. May and Dowell and Applegate as Security for the same for about \$10,000; case appealed to Supreme Court of the State. A proposition was made to the witness like this: To run a straight Republican ticket in Jacksonville so as to elect the Red-Rock Democratic ticket, and that if we would go on and do that, Mr. Chadwick would withhold this judgment, that witness was security on, until they could pass a relief bill for Mr. Dowell, allowing him to pay it in State bonds, which he could get for 40 or 50 cents on the dollar, and by that operation they would get two votes for Mr. Grover. The proposition was to run a Republican ticket which would result in the election of the straight Democratic ticket. The proposition was made by a man named Caton, living in Jacksonville—a Republican. He represented that the proposition came from Secretary Chadwick to witness. Mr. Caton was not interested in the proposition himself but was merely the bearer of the proposition. This was before our county convention. No proposition of that kind was made by Chadwick, Grover or any other Democrat. The only proposition to the witness was through Mr. Caton.

Mr. Chadwick was recalled and testified that the above witness was misinformed in reference to the scheme by which Jacksonville was to go for

Grover. As far as he was concerned he never had given anybody authority to make such a proposition as Danforth testified that Caton made. He further explained the reason of the delay in the collection of the Dowell-May judgment; wanted to give Mr. Dowell time to sell land etc.

Fourth day: Wm. Miller sworn.—Reside in Yakima, W. T.; know D. W. Butler of Tygh Valley, Wasco Co., Oregon; don't know where he is now; was in moderate circumstances before he went to the Legislature; can't say that he had any money; had a stock ranch; he bought a steam saw mill in Tygh valley; suppose he paid about \$3,000; he and one of the county commissioners bought it together some time last winter; was considered in embarrassed circumstances a year or so before going to the legislature, but for a year had not known much about him; he had a nice farm; the purchase under the circumstances excited some surprise—was a subject of remark.

Wm. J. McConnell of North Yamhill, sworn.—Was acquainted with Wilson of Tillamook; like most old Oregonians he was often short of money; after the adjournment Wilson called and paid witness a small sum of money he owed him. About three weeks after this he paid at witness place to Aaron Paine, perhaps three or four hundred dollars, on his note to Paine; did not pay off the note in full; did not know where the money came from which he paid for Paine; was not familiar with the modes by which Mr. Wilson obtained money; up to the time of the Legislature he was considered a man of character and integrity by his neighbors and acquaintances; Wilson got the support of a number of Nesmith's friends who after the senatorial election felt dissatisfied and told witness they believed he had received money for voting for Mr. Grover; none of them said they knew it for a fact; he got elected on the ground that he would vote for Nesmith; a number of Republicans supported him on his promise to vote for Nesmith.

Joseph Taylor sworn.—Keeps a billiard saloon; Wilson came to his saloon several times in one day to drink; every time he threw down a \$20 gold piece taking silver in change; on one occasion he bought a dog of witness paying \$25 in coin for him; witness told Wilson he did not think he would pay so much for the dog and Wilson answered that he had "got his money easy;" he took the money from a sack which witness supposed contained \$700 or \$800; the day he "got stuck after the dog" he was in the saloon four or five times; some one who stood near when he bought the dog remarked that they thought "the man had seen Goldsmith;" witness was once tried in this city on a criminal charge and sent to the penitentiary; said he was not guilty; Oae Ara Brown was in witness saloon when Wilson bought the dog, and told witness that it was Wilson of Tillamook.

James Brown being recalled his evidence corroborated that of Taylor relative to the identity of Wilson.

J. B. Irvin of Linn, sworn.—Saw Goldsmith of East Portland on his way to Salem on the train the day before the election of Senator; Goldsmith had a small valise which witness supposed contained money "from the way it swung;" witness knew nothing in regard to the use of money, except what he heard; did not know that Goldsmith had money; the morning after Goldsmith went to Salem, J. M. Johns said to witness, "all is fixed up; Barney Goldsmith came up here with the coin last night and the matter is fixed up;" Goldsmith was a stockholder in the lock and dam swindle.

Mr. McConnell on being recalled testified that both payments made in his store by Wilson after his return from the legislature were in gold coin—in \$20 gold pieces.

Fifth day: W. H. N. Stiles of Antelope Station, Sacramento Co., California, sworn.—Came to Salem about the time of the State fair and remained till after senatorial election; was secretary of the Tilden and Hendricks club in Salem; was clerk of the legislative committee to examine the books of the State Building Association; preferred Chadwick for Senator, but Grover was his next choice; it was understood by Grover's friends that witness was

friendly to him; saw Grover about midnight with Gilfrey, Watkins and others at the Chemeketa hotel; Grover stepped out from the rest to talk to Gilfrey; heard him ask how Goodman was, if they could depend on him next day; Mr. Gilfrey said they had got his vote but it had cost a thousand dollars; Grover said, "that's good, if we don't carry on the first ballot to-morrow all is lost." Saw Grover in Gilfrey's room a day or two after the senatorial election; he came into the room from Grover's office, which was connected with it by a door; he had money in his hand, and as he counted it named the amount \$750, and then passed out into the hall; didn't know who was in Grover's room at the time; could hear voices in conversation with Grover; in about half an hour Gilfrey came out; did not know whether Gilfrey was in Grover's room at the time Mosier was there or not; Goodman of Umatilla, told witness before the election that he did not think Grover honest; he had promised him in case he voted for him to give him one of the best offices at his disposal; witness asked Palmer of Benton county what his constituents would say about his voting for Grover; Palmer said he "didn't care a darn," that he had a better thing; he was going to come to Salem and take charge of the penitentiary; witness said the reason he voluntarily gave his testimony was because he thought Grover had acted dishonestly in the electoral matter; witness made an affidavit of the facts above stated; he wrote to Mr. Mallory, U. S. Attorney, what he knew and was willing to swear to, and for him to come up and take his affidavit; Mr. Mallory told Mr. Kelly, collector of customs in Portland, who was then in that section to call and see witness; he did so and told him if Mallory could come up he would do so but asked witness if he could not come down; witness said he was a poor man and could not "run all over the country." Kelly told witness to come to Portland; he came down and staid at the St. Charles hotel; did not know who paid his bill; Kelly gave him \$12 to pay his hotel expenses, but was taken sick and used the money to buy medicine; was not paid a cent for making the affidavit; witness said Gilfrey told him on the night after the talk about Goodman's vote that they would have it if it cost \$10,000. Witness thought Mr. Mallory was the proper person to draw up the affidavit. No written affidavit was furnished by anybody.

Sixth day: Z. F. Moody of the Dalles sworn.—Saw Mosier and Butler, also Vic Trevitt at the Dalles about a month ago; witness asked Mosier if he was not going with Trevitt for rehearsal; the meeting of Trevitt, Mosier and Butler at the Dalles may have been an accident, it was understood at that time that the commission was coming.

Wm. Sweeney, of Portland, sworn.—Was in Salem during the senatorial election; knew Thomas Jackson; did not know that any money had been placed under his bedspread by Jackson for another person. Witness dictated an affidavit in the presence of Dolph and Shurtleff which they wrote down, but he had too much sense to sign it—intended it as a joke; did not tell them it was a joke; did not tell Dolph and Shurtleff what was done with the money which was hidden in his bed; part of the affidavit was read in witness' presence; made no answer; witness was a sort of commercial detective; had at different times said in regard to Grover's election that it must have cost "the old man" a heap of money; told persons that \$2,400 had been left under his bedspread; told it as a joke; told that he had himself received \$22,000—only as a joke; did not make the statement that he had paid money for three votes; made statements to Dolph and Shurtleff because he wanted to find out what other people knew; Dolph and Shurtleff seemed to think they had a little God; got money to work up the case—at one time \$200; got other money in small dribbles; only knew he got the money to work up the case, but gave it back; did not get low enough to circulate a petition; got a package of \$200 from the Cosmopolitan hotel; put it back; it was directed to witness; put it back in a month or so, directed as before; it was soon gone; at the time he made the statement to Dolph and Shurtleff he was employed as a detect-

ive; did not know who employed him—was employed by a note without any name to it—name torn off; had an idea who sent it; some good Republican; it was promised by several persons that he should have money, but could not remember who they were; the promise was made at the corner of First and Washington streets; remembered the place where the promise was made but could not remember who the promise was made by; understood that a job was to be put up on Grover; dropped the job because a proposition was made to him he didn't like; a man named Clark told witness that O. N. Denny said they must have testimony if it took every cent he (Denny) had, dropped the job because he did not like Denny.

P. N. Shurtleff sworn.—Sweeney of his own account told witness that he knew a great deal about the senatorial election; went with him to Dolph's office where Sweeney stated that he was employed by Dr. Hawthorne to work in the interest of Grover; Sweeney stated some one came into his room and left money, witness thought he said \$1,500 under the bedspread; said a man was to get it after he voted for Grover; the man voted for Grover.

E. F. Lewis sworn.—Saw the pool selling at Salem in the Chemeketa Hotel, supposed each man put up his own money. Some one present remarked "here is Grover's money." Thought public opinion; witness bought the pool selling was to actuate first pool, it was Sank Owens' money. Witness bought on Grover and thought the pool selling was on the night before the election.

O. N. Denny sworn.—Never sent a word to Sweeney or to any other person by Geo. Clark or any one else to get evidence against Grover, or that evidence must be had to convict Grover, or anything else concerning the procuring of such testimony. Statements of Sweeney in that regard are utterly and maliciously false; never sought to have Mr. Grover's rights to his seat in the senate interfered with.

Seventh day: Thos. Smith sworn.—Resided at Salem during the senatorial contest; kept the Chemeketa Hotel; no pool selling at the hotel on the evening preceding the election; was stopped at the request of Mr. Gilfrey, who asked me to have it stopped as it was against the wish of Mr. Grover; did not hear that Grover had any money in the pool don't know where they were selling pools on the night preceding the election—thought in a saloon across the street; stopped pool selling at the hotel as soon as I knew it was against the will of Mr. Grover.

H. Straight—Mr. Thompson called on me at Oregon city and told me that Nesmith told him he did not think I got a cent; told him none of us who changed our votes got a cent; said if any body got money it must have been Mosier; did not think Mosier could be depended upon standing out with us for Nesmith. Cheesman made a speech in our caucus urging us to stand out for Nesmith, that Nesmith had been a war Democrat, had suppressed Democratic newspapers and would make a good senator for Oregon. I understood Mosier was not satisfied with the speech—I was not and if I had been satisfied Col. Nesmith understood the speech I might have withdrawn from the caucus; told Grover's friends not to withdraw Grover's name as I intended to vote for him. Mr. Cheesman and Mr. Goodman expressed themselves alike, the latter on the night before election; saw Grover about midnight preceding day of election; did not see Stiles; must have been one or two o'clock before I went to bed. Know of no three men who got money, said if money had been used it was on Mosier, have heard that six men got money, never told any one that money had been used, did not intend to say that Mosier got money. Butler told me he would go for Grover if he expressed himself favorable to the enterprises referred to. Objected to that part of Cheesman's speech where he said Nesmith had suppressed Democratic newspapers—never asked Mosier in regard to the speech.

Oscar Kilbourn sworn.—Sold pools at the Chemeketa hotel during the senatorial contest. Did not sell at the hotel on the night preceding the election, had quit on order Mr. Smith, at

suggestion of Grover. Don't remember hearing the expression "Grover money" at the pools. Knew Wilson, didn't know a man he considered more of a gentleman.

Mart V. Brown sworn.—Had the honor to be speaker of the 31 house on the night Stiles said Palmer invited all out to take a drink. Was not invited to take oysters with Stiles, and took none. Have no remembrance of walking with Stiles and Palmer, am not acquainted with Stiles. Heard no conversation between Palmer and Stiles. Talked with Gilfrey about pool selling thought it might militate against Grover's success. Heard frequent talks about money being used, never heard Mr. Mosier named. Palmer told witness that the office of Superintendent of the Penitentiary had been tendered him long after the election, don't remember of Watkins being mentioned in the conversation. Knew Mr. Wilson since 1869-70, as Grand Tyler in the Masonic order, he was regarded as a man of integrity and temperate habits; do not know of his having a sum of money before or after session of the legislature.

T. M. Porter sworn.—Said he was leader of the Grover party in the house during the contest. [Witness gave, from notes, the several ballots polled in caucus and quite a lengthy history of the whole proceeding.] Grover in his instructions said if his friends could unite on another Democrat to vote for him, he never advised or in any way indicated that money should be used. Think Mosier was drinking on the night before election, he told witness he (witness) didn't know what might be accomplished with a little money. Witness told him the party didn't resort to such means. On the 4th vote in joint convention Grover ran down to 42, deserted by Brawley—didn't remember the other. Mosier and Butler were both in the caucus, didn't know who they voted for. Understood Palmer was for Nesmith. Heard a threat that parties in the bank would spend \$30,000 to defeat Grover. Witness would scorn a proposition to use money. Mosier told witness that the reason of his dropping out on the first day of joint convention when his vote would have elected Grover, was that he did not like to take the responsibility of making an election.

John Gray, of Salem, sworn.—Was acquainted with Wilson since 1870, he was a No. 1 man, he told witness an attempt had been made to use money on him, he said "I am an old man and have lived here in this community a good while and I want to leave it in an honorable way, and I don't want money to be offered to me as it was to day." He did not give the particulars to witness. He was a Chadwick man, Grover was his second choice. Regarded Wilson as an incorruptible man.

J. S. Palmer sworn.—Member of the senate, was for Nesmith, was in all the caucuses up to the last night, was in the last caucus a portion of the time. Witness pronounced all statements of conversations with Stiles false and infamous. Grover made no improper proposals either directly or indirectly to witness to secure his vote. After the senatorial election Mr. Chadwick told witness that he considered him a suitable man for Superintendent of the Penitentiary, no formal tender of the office was made until after the adjournment of the legislature. The principal reason witness had for not accepting was that the office would not pay him. Voted for Grover voluntarily.

State Senator E. C. Bradshaw sworn.—It was understood during the campaign that there would be no question raised asking anybody who they would vote for for senator. The person who informed Nesmith witness would vote for him was mistaken, the action of witness was of his own conviction without any consideration whatever; regarded the testimony of Mr. Porter and Mr. Palmer as correct, believed in abiding by the caucus nomination, believed "to the victor belongs the spoils" a good doctrine. Believed that the Democrats had a majority in the legislature and that they were entitled to the senator. Didn't know why Mr. Nesmith should think witness his friend as he always spoke against him.

Senator James K. Kelly sworn.—Was acquainted with Mr. Wilson, never heard a word against his character. Witness used his influence to induce

Butler, Mosier and Straight to support the caucus nominee, they appeared to be friendly to Mr. Nesmith and said but little, witness understood them to say they would only vote for a Democrat.

S. D. Haley sworn.—Member of the house; was not favorable to Grover in the caucus, wanted a compromise candidate proposed and voted for Bonham, had no knowledge of any corrupt means to secure Grover's nomination. John Gray being recalled said there was no conversation between him and Wilson about Wilson's getting the appointment of Warden. Wilson told witness he had come to Salem to borrow money from the school fund. Jas. Martin told witness that at about the time the legislature adjourned he paid Wilson \$800 for a lot in Salem.

Wm. S. Gordon sworn.—Knew Geo. E. Clarke, is agent for him. Clarke has not been home since 1873. Clarke's son has not been home since 1874. This is the man Clarke referred to in Sweeney's testimony.

Eighth day: Dr. Bayley of Corvallis sworn.—Live in the same county with S-mator Palmer; understood he was elected as a friend of Nesmith; Grover understood he was elected as a friend of Nesmith; Grover has never been very popular in Benton county; his voting for Grover was not well received in Benton; witness told him the Sunday after the election he had voted for him with the understanding he was to vote for Nesmith; he said he had not pledged himself to do so. Witness told him he had never asked a pledge but thought of course from what had occurred that he would go for Nesmith. He said to witness among other things "I am offered the position of superintendent of the Penitentiary and expect to go to Salem to take charge of the position. Asked witness advice about it. Advised him not to accept it; said he didn't expect to hold a seat any longer. He expected to leave there and they could talk as they pleased. Talked frequently with him afterwards about it. During the legislature told witness he had decided to go to Salem. Saw Goldsmith at Salem during senatorial contest. Understood he was a stockholder of the Lock Company. Wanted witness to assist him in the passage of a bill for the purchase of the Locks by the State. Told witness the election of Grover did not cost him a cent. Asked him how much it cost to elect Grover, answered "I say it didn't cost me a dollar." Witness heard it said that they had bought a room up stairs and that he and Joe Smith, brother in law to Grover, had brought money up here and they are going up there to talk to Jews to get their pay. Palmer told witness he had voted for Nesmith every time in the caucus.

Gen. Ben. Simpson sworn.—After senatorial election Palmer told witness there was considerable complaint because he voted for Grover. Said he voted for Grover because Nesmith wouldn't go into the caucus. Told witness he was getting very much disgusted at the position he occupied. Sorry he was Senator. Gave witness to understand he intended to resign; and he told witness he had been offered the position of Superintendent of the Penitentiary. This was on the night of the caucus that nominated Grover. Witness told him it was a good idea. Yesterday he told witness he wanted to speak with him outside. Told witness that Higbee, of Benton, was a bad man and not to have anything to do with him. Didn't know why he should make such a suggestion; then he spoke about the testimony of Stiles. Witness told him he ought to be careful in making such statements. Witness said to Palmer, "you told me that you had been offered that position yourself." He answered, "you go and swear it." Marshal Waters coming up witness proposed to drop it and take a drink. Witness said, "Now Mr. Palmer I want to know of you if you didn't tell me yourself that you had been offered the position of Superintendent of the Penitentiary." He answered that he had. Didn't ask him when he had said it.

U. S. Marshal Waters sworn.—Heard the conversation just alluded to by Gen. Simpson. General asked Palmer if he had not admitted that he had been offered the position alluded to. Palmer said he so stated and had so stated to others. They were both excited and walked away. Waters heard no more. Palmer didn't say when he had made these statements.



L. P. Fisher