SUPPLEMENT TO

THE HERALD.

OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

Stockton-Phinney-Pitts Conspiracy

AGAINST THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN THE QUINN MATTER.

[Official Report House of Assembly, March 22.]

After speaking at some length on the government's financial policy, Mr. Pitts took up the matter of Mr. Lipsett's dismissal, and read a letter written by Mr. Lipsett, who said he had been dismissed because he would not go out and work for the government and because he was an Orangeman. That letter showed that when Mr. Lipsett got his appointment he had to pay Mr. Wilson $100 before he could get it. As soon as Mr. Lipsett's usefulness was gone he was thrown aside by the chief cook and bottle washer of the government and another man appointed. He (Pitts) could name a dozen men who had had to pool in to help the government. Mr. Quinn had been promised a position in the clerk of the pleas office.

Hon. Mr. Blair—Who promised it?

Mr. Pitts—You did—I have it from two members of his family that he was promised that job if he would give $200, and a note for that amount went through the hands of Wilson and Anderson, but he didn't get the billet and you had to pay $150 of it back to keep the thing from being made public.

Hon. Mr. Blair—Do you say that that I had anything to do with Mr. Quinn—in connexion with which I received a dollar from him—and that I returned any money to him or had any understanding of that kind with any member of his family? I say to the hon. member that I defy the face of clay to produce one tittle of evidence to support the statement he has now made.

Mr. Pitts said that statement wouldn't go down. He wasn't going to take back water. He did not say that Mr. Blair was directly implicated, but he would say that letter after letter had passed between the Quinns and Mr. Blair, and his partner Mr. Barry, with regard to the matter.

Hon. Mr. Blair—That is entirely false. I defy the hon. member to prove it.

Mr. Pitts—Will you say that Wilson didn't get $200 from William Quinn in return for a promise that Quinn was to get a position?

Hon. Mr. Blair—The hon. member is shifting his ground. I will say this: That never to my knowledge, information, or belief, did Mr. Wilson receive a dollar from the gentleman he has named, nor had he anything to do with any such money. If he did he can answer for it, but to my knowledge there never was any transaction of the kind.

Mr. Pitts said that the hon. member looked innocent but he couldn't bluff him.

After supper Mr. Pitts continued. He said he was almost forgetting to produce evidence in support of his statement that money contributions had been exacted from persons seeking favors at the hands of the government. He would read a letter to the house that had been written from the attorney general's office two days before the general election of 1890. It was as follows:

A. G. BLAIR, Attorney General. J. H. BARRY.
Blair & Barry, Attorneys and Solicitors, Fredericton, N. B.:

FREDERICTON, 16th Jan., 1890.

DEAR QUINN—It is of the utmost importance that you should hand me to-day the check we were speaking of yesterday. Our calculations were based on your doing this, and I do not know what the consequences will be if we are disappointed.

Yours very truly,

J. H. BARRY.

He would now read another letter to show that the attorney general had received this amount.

Hon. Mr. Blair—Are you professing to read a letter with my name signed to it?

Mr. Pitts—No, but the letter is signed by William Wilson, your great friend and close relation. It is as follows:

$200.00

FREDERICTON, N. B., Feb. 18, 1890.

Received from William H. Quinn the sum of $200 towards the election fund, not to be used until appointment is arranged, and if no appointment made, then to be returned.

(Signed), WILLIAM WILSON.

Mr. Blair—Does this prove my connection with the matter?

Mr. Pitts—No; you would be too careful to figure in the matter directly. He had another letter which would show that Mr. Quinn was not willing to pay out the money for the office of engrossing clerk. The letter was as follows:

WILLIAM WILSON, Esq., M. P. P.:

Dear Sir—After waiting and begging for over one year for the position in Mr. Allen's office, which Mr. Blair promised me in my store, and now it seems he will not get. I gave the money with that object, and it was the only office vacant, at that time. Please send me a check for the money and interest, as I don't feel inclined to give the money for engrossing clerk.

(Signed), WILLIAM QUINN.

[Official Report House of Assembly, March 23.]

Hon. Mr. Blair said he would have to crave the indulgence of the house for a short time, upon a question of privilege that not only affected himself but the whole house.

During the 12 years he had occupied a seat in the house it had been on very rare occasions that he had trespassed upon the time of the house with respect to matters of a personal character. The present subject, however, was one which had attracted sufficient attention to warrant him in making a statement to the house. On Thursday last the hon. member for York (Pitts) had charged him with having been concerned in the sale of public offices. He had read a letter purporting to have been written by Mr. Barry, his then professional partner, a few days before the general election of 1890. He then said that he would read a letter which would show that the attorney general had received the money. When Mr. Pitts was asked if his (Blair's) name was signed to it he had replied, no, but it was signed by William Wilson as a great friend and close relation. Then he proceeded to read a letter purporting to be from Mr. Quinn to Wilson. It would be remembered that upon Mr. Pitts reading this correspondence, which he was compelled afterwards to admit were only copies of the original papers, he (Blair) had emphatically and absolutely denied that he had been a party directly or indirectly to any transaction of the kind alleged. As regards Mr. Wilson's connexion with it he had said that he had no information or belief which led him to think that Mr. Wilson was in any way implicated. He would have allowed the matter to rest there, feeling that he had set himself right before the house and country, but it appeared that the leading organs of the opposition had thought it expedient to take the matter up and assume that it had been proved that this improper transaction had taken place directly with Mr. Wilson's knowledge and indirectly with his own knowledge and cognizance. I have thought, continued Mr. Blair, that inasmuch as these papers have taken this course, and that the St. John Sun in two or three leading editorials has engaged in the no doubt very pleasing and congenial task of establishing that the statement that I made was utterly untrue and that I was a liar before this house and country, I am warranted in placing before the house not only my own statement with regard to this matter, but information which I have since acquired which I think will be found to cover the whole ground of the allegation made by the hon. member for York. Speaking for myself I wish to emphasize and enforce the breadth and strength of the statement I made the other day. I wish to say that neither directly nor indirectly, neither by myself or any other person, did such transaction as that alleged take place. I say beyond that that I have some personal knowledge of an occurrence which took place in connexion with Mr. Quinn and with the election in 1890, and I will state to the house frankly what it was. Mr. W. A. Quinn, now deceased, was a particular friend of some of my colleagues on that ticket, especially of Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Wilson was desirous, as indeed I was also of doing anything I could for the young man in the way of appointing him to some position that he was competent to fill and which might be at our disposal; and I have no hesitation in admitting at once that there was scarcely any place vacant in the gift of the government that he did not think he was competent to fill and that he did not apply for. I very well remember that just prior to the election of 1890 Mr. Wm. A. Quinn called at my office to see me. The exact date I cannot fix. It was a few days before the election. That was the first occasion on which anything was said by him to me or by me to him or anybody else with respect to the subject of a contribution to the election fund.

He came into the inner office and said that he had come prepared to make a contribution. I would not like to say positively what the amount was that he named. It may have been $100 or it may have been $200. He said his father had given him this money, which he had in his pocket and which he was prepared to put into the election fund but his father had told him that he should exact a pledge from me that he would get this office before he would put the money into the fund. That as I say was the occasion on which Mr. Quinn mentioned the subject of a contribution to me, and Mr. Wm H. Quinn, never at any time mentioned the subject to me. I was indignant at Mr. Quinn for making this proposal, and I said to him, "Mr. Quinn keep your money in your pocket, go home to your father and tell him that I will take no subscription to the election fund upon any such condition." I think I spoke to him somewhat harshly and indignantly. So much so that he went and told some of his friends that I told him he had insulted me, and that I had practically kicked him out of my office. This statement of what took place I am prepared to verify under oath. Mr. Quinn did not give me one dollar of money.

I never saw the color of his money. I never heard that Mr. Quinn, either father or son, had contributed a dollar to that election, from that time down to the present until the matter was referred to the other day. It had even escaped my attention that there was something in the press about a year or so ago.

Mr. Pitts—Didn't you write a letter to Mr. Quinn with regard to this question on the 14th of October?

Hon. Mr. Blair—With regard to what question?

Mr. Pitts—The question of appointing Quinn to an office.

Hon. Mr. Blair—I have not the least doubt that Mr. Quinn was wanting me to promise him an office. I know that he spoke repeatedly to me about the position referred to as well as other positions. I know he wanted to get the position of stamp vender and it was given to him.

If Mr. W. H. Quinn will say that I wrote to him with respect to a position, I will not dispute it.

But what Mr. Quinn will not say, and no written document or any evidence worthy of the name will prove is, that I ever breathed to Mr. Quinn or any other living soul, that he would get an office in consideration of a financial contribution.

The other night, when the matter came up for the first time, I was surprised, and it was not until I turned that matter over in my mind that I recalled the facts I have now narrated.

I then gave the facts to the provincial secretary, and stated to him that I believed there were gentlemen in the office who could verify the statement. It did happen that Mr. John Wetmore, a son of the late Judge Wetmore, a most honorable young man, was a student in my office at the time, and he told the chief commissioner, going down on the train the other day, after seeing these allegations in the press, that he knew about the Quinn matter, as he was in the office when the occurrence took place, and he would write a statement with regard to the matter.

Mr. Blair read letters from Messrs. J. W. Wetmore and J. H. Barry. The letters are omitted as the sworn evidence of the writers is given below.

Mr. Blair then reviewed at some length the editorial articles which had appeared in the St. John Sun, and which, he said, were to the everlasting discredit of decent journalism. It made no difference to that paper how much they traduced the character of a public man so long as he was opposed to them. It made no difference to them how much they distorted and perverted the evidence, or whether there was any evidence at all. The Sun stated that the statement of Mr. Blair, that he knew nothing about the Quinn compact, will be accepted with considerable incredulity. He (Blair) thought that when a public man takes the responsibility in his place in the legislature of giving an emphatic denial to imputations of this character, he is entitled to have that statement accepted by respectable journalists until some evidence is offered which breaks down that statement. Where was the statement in Barry's alleged letter that showed, as the Sun stated, that there was any understanding with respect to Quinn's appointment? Neither would that alleged letter bear out the absurd statement of the Sun that it seemed to threaten that a failure to contribute would be fatal to Quinn's hopes. Mr. Barry, if he wrote the letter, was referring to the election, and that alone, and had never heard that Mr. Quinn had been promised an office. The inference which the Sun drew from Mr. Barry's note, that Quinn had contributed was totally unjustified by the language of that letter, and in connecting the receipt with that note the Sun had totally ignored the fact that the receipt was dated weeks after the date of the election. The Sun says that the money may have been received by Mr. Barry. Mr. Barry says that not one dollar was received by him. The Sun says that the ticket was elected with the help of Mr. Quinn's contribution. The fact was that not a dollar from Mr. Quinn went into the election. The fact stood out cold and clear that, notwithstanding this corrupt bargain, Mr. Quinn did not get the office at all. Was it not fair to infer from that that the promise had never been made at all? If it was made, why was it not fulfilled?

Mr. Pitts—He got another office and paid $50 for it.

Hon. Mr. Blair—I say most emphatically that Mr. Quinn got no office for which he paid $50 or any other sum, and if the hon. member has any regard for decency, I ask him to move for a committee of the house to investigate it. If he does so, every possible facility will be afforded him, not only for that investigation, but for the investigation of any other charge he has the courage to make. The Sun of the 26th inst. had said that people would be led to understand that offices had been bought and sold under the present regime. He challenged any individual to come forward and make that charge openly. Because he was leader of the government was no reason why he and his colleagues should be denied fair and decent treatment. Were the unproved allegations of irresponsible men irresponsible, even though they held seats in the legislature, men who had no knowledge of the force of the language they used, to be accepted without hesitation, unless public life was to be made absolutely unbearable unless public men were to feel that there was no protection for them against any vile and slanderous accusation that might be made, men on all sides should unite in demanding that before a man is condemned he should be heard, and that some evidence worthy of the name should be adduced against him. It was a mere subterfuge—a base reflection upon this house to assert that a committee composed of its members was not competent to conduct an investigation of this character. Surely our opponents have not forsaken all sense of decency and right. Surely they recognize that to us should be dealt out the same measure of justice they would claim for themselves. It was true there were some hon. members opposite who were utterly deaf and blind to all ideas of justice and reason, but he did not believe that all were impervious to these considerations. The Sun also states that the subject of the appointment was discussed between a member of the Quinn family and Mr. Barry. The fact was that it was never discussed with Mr. Barry at all, it was discussed with me but does it follow from that circumstance that I have been dickering and trafficking with offices. The Sun also states that the Blair-Wilson ticket got the benefit of the contribution. It just so happened that Mr. Quinn did not contribute a dollar and Mr. Wilson authorizes me to state that he never received one farthing from the Quinns, and that he never gave the receipt that has been referred to. "If," says the Sun, "the plea of ignorance is made by the leader of the government in this case, we can estimate the value to be placed upon any contradiction he may make of allegations as to the sale of other offices." Then, all you have got to do is to make a charge, and though a man denies it most positively, and does all that a man can do, the public is justified in assuming everything against him. I say that in my opinion a man had better far stab his enemy in the back; he had better take away his life than take away his character and reputation that are dear to him, by such vile attacks as these, and that Mr. Scott, the Sun's editor, would be pursuing a manlier course and one less merciless if he pursued me through a dark alley with a dirk than to write such contemptible articles with reference to a man who had the misfortune to differ with him in politics." Mr. Blair then said that he desired to make a statement on behalf of Mr. Wilson. The fact should be everlastingly borne in mind that no such receipt as that which Mr. Wilson was alleged to have signed had been produced. "I say if the hon. member for York has any such receipt, it is his duty to produce it or else stand branded as a slanderer. Mr. Wilson authorizes me to say that if they have any such receipt; he demands that they should produce it. I say, further, that until this receipt or some further evidence is brought forth to establish the charge against Mr. Wilson that he stands completely exonerated. I challenge the hon. member for York to bring that receipt to the light of day. The sooner he does so the sooner he will relieve himself of the odium which he will otherwise have to bear of having perpetrated a gross outrage upon a man who is not here to answer for himself, and because he happened to be his political opponent. (Loud and long continued applause.)

Mr. Pitts said he was not suprised at the attorney general's dramatic attempt to break down the force of his (Pitts) accusation, if it might be called such. He had even expected a greater display of oratory from the hon. gentlemen than that which he had given. It was a matter of life and death to the attorney general and the house could therefore understand his desire to make it appear that there was nothing wrong in the matter to which he (Pitts) had called attention.

If Mr. Blair imagined that by his oratory he was going to make him take back water he was mistaken. No namby pamby actions of the attorney general would have any effect on him and if the hon. member thought differently he was simply barking up the wrong tree.

Hon. Mr. Blair—Does the hon. member say that he can produce evidence in support of the charges that he has made?

Mr. Pitts—I will produce evidence that will make your hair stand on end. It was all very well for the hon. member to talk about producing evidence. There was already circumstantial evidence enough to warrant him in the position he had taken, and to justify The Daily Sun's references to the matter. The letter of Mr. Barry was just such a one as he had expected from that quarter. Of course Mr. Barry would say that he had no recollection about Mr. Blair's statement that if Mr. Quinn had been promised a position he would have been sure to have got it, loses its force when it is remembered that the attorney general has promised more offices and more contracts than any other man in the house. He keeps such promises dangling before the eyes of those whom he wants to contribute to elections, and then when the elections are over he seldom carries out his promises. He had not accused Mr. Blair of taking the $200 himself.

The hon. gentleman would not be a party to such a proceeding, but those who knew the attorney general would know how absurd it was to accuse that gentleman of threatening to kick out of his office anyone who had gone there offering money as a contribution to an election fund even though such contribution were given on the understanding that the contributor was to receive in return a public office. It was an actual fact that long ago Mr. Blair was approached by a gentleman who had told him that when a certain office was vacant that he was willing to bid so much for it.

Hon. Mr. Blair—Pshaw!

Mr. Pitts said the attorney general had asked to speak on behalf of Mr. Wilson. The latter gentleman would have been here to talk for himself if he had not held on so long to the coat tails of the attorney general. It has been said that no money was paid by Mr. Quinn. He could prove that Mr. Quinn had paid $50 for getting the office of engrossing clerk and Mr. Quinn's father was willing to swear to that statement. It was idle for the attorney general to say that the reference in the letter sent by Mr. Barry to Mr. Quinn did not refer to Mr. Quinn's chances of getting the office for which he had applied, as Mr. Quinn was not concerned in whether Mr. Barry's arrangements about funds for election purposes were complete or not, but was concerned in what his chances for the office were and that, undoubtedly, was what Mr. Barry desired his letter to Mr. Quinn to be understood to be referring to. What was the use of Mr. Wilson saying that no money had passed between him and Mr. Quinn when it is a fact that the clerks in Mr. Wilson's office knew all about it at the time?

Hon. Mr. Blair—Has the hon. member the manliness to formulate a charge and have this matter investigated by a committee of this house. It was unfair that he should make serious charges without having the courage to submit them to a committee for investigation. In this way, however, these ill-founded charges were circulated abroad where, no one knowing this man, some credence may be given to a slander.

Dr. Stockton—You have said pretty hard things about Mr. Scott of the Sun newspaper, and very frequently some pretty hard things are said in the government papers about members of the opposition.

Hon. Mr. Blair—I have no sympathy with unfounded attacks, whether made against a member of the goverment or of the opposition.

Mr. Pitts—It has been attempted to be denied that Mr. Lipsett never paid $100 to an election fund on condition that he would get an office but that gentlemen is prepared to swear that he did contribute the amount named for that purpose. He (Pitts) had not come here and made any public statement regarding the would-be leader of the Liberal party in Canada without fully considering the effect of such statement.

Hon. Mr. Blair—I want to ask the hon. member if he is prepared to furnish to this house the original of the documents which he read to this house the other day, particularly do I desire to ask if he can furnish the original of the receipt alleged to be signed by Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Pitts—We will produce all the evidence that you want.

Hon. Mr. Blair—There is not the shadow of a foundation for the hon. member's statement, and I challenge him to ask for a committee for investigation. I repeat my question, is he prepared to furnish the original of the alleged receipts given by Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Pitts—I saw a copy of the receipt, and when the $150 note was paid the receipt was returned to Mr. Wilson.

Hon. Mr. Blair—Scandalous.

[Official Report House of Assembly, April 2.]

Mr. Pitts quoted from articles in The Telegraph and Herald newspapers, which he said had villified him for the part he had taken in the Quinn matter.

A character was not made in a day, and he could point with pride to the fact that since he had started out in the little farmhouse on the hill to the present time, he had, through the interposition of Providence, been able to come down to this spot with a desire to do what was right. He regretted exceedingly that it was necessary for him to make the statement he had in the budget debate as to the Quinn episode, but he had merely repeated what was in the mouths of hundreds of people.

It was all very well for certain members to claim that a man's private morals or character should not be discussed before the house, but he believed that if a man's private character was not sound, he was unfit to sit in the house and handle the public money.

Being an instrument in the hands of Providence to bring this thing down to where it honestly belonged, he thought it proper that he should clear his skirts of the stigma attached to him by reading the following declaration, which had been placed in his hands:

CANADA,
Province of New Brunswick,
City of Fredericton, S. S.

I, William H. Quinn, of the City of Fredericton, in the county of York, merchant, solemnly declare that:

1. Mr. George Hilyard, who held the office of deputy clerk of the peace, died in the summer of 1888, and during the rest of the year and up to some time in 1890 the office was vacant, the duties therefor being performed temporarily by Mr. Robert Wetmore, the present holder of the office.

2. In 1889 I made application to Mr. A. G. Blair for this position for my son William A. Quinn, and some time previous to the 14th of October, 1890, I wrote the attorney general pressing for the position for my son, William, and stating that if William got the position I was able and willing to help Mr. Blair's party financially.

3. In reply to this letter, Mr. Blair forwarded to me the following letter duly signed by him:—

"Attorney General
"New Brunswick,

FREDERICTON, Oct. 14th, 1889.

"W. H. Quinn, Esq., City:—

"My dear Mr. Quinn: I received a note from you on Thursday with reference to William's appointment to some position under the government, which I think was very well for you to mention and with which I cannot have the least fault to find, but there is one expression in your letter which perhaps I may not thoroughly understand. You say that if William gets a position, you are able and willing to help our party financially. If he does not you will use more than the salary attached to the office. The latter part of the quotation is what I am in doubt about, and I would be glad to have you explain to me your meaning. I understand it as involving a threat that you will spend more money than the salary attached to the office against our party in case he does not receive the appointment. I would have called in to see you personally if I had the time, but have been much hurried the last few days. After hearing from you in reply to this I would perhaps either see you or write you more fully.

Yours faithfully,

"ANDREW G. BLAIR."

4. In reply to this letter I wrote the attorney general as follows:—

"Oct. 14th.

"Hon. A. G. Blair,
Fredericton:—

"Dear Sir: Yours of the 14th to hand, and in reply will say I made no threat or intended any, as Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bellamy told William that he should or ought to have the appointment, and why should I go against men that would do justice where justice was due? I would like to have a decided answer whether William is to get the position in Mr. Allen's office or not, as you told Mr. Wilson that he (William) was to have it, and if not then he will have to look for employment at once elsewhere.

"Yours truly,

"WM. A. QUINN."

5. Shortly afterwards the house of assembly was dissolved and a general election was brought on, polling day being fixed for the 31st day of January, 1890, at which election Andrew G. Blair, William Wilson, Richard Bellamy and John Anderson were candidates, forming a ticket running in the interests of the government.

6. During the election contest my son William informed me that it would be necessary to pool in and pay $200 towards the election expenses, I told William we would do so, and within a day or two afterwards William came to me with a letter from J. H. Barry, the law partner of Mr. A. G. Blair, and the financial agent of the government party in York, and the following is a copy of that letter:—

"A. G. BLAIR, J. H. BARRY.
"Attorney General.
"Blair & Barry,
"Attorneys and Slicitors,
"Fredericton, N. B.

"FREDERICTON, 16th Jan. 1890.

"Dear Quinn: It is of the utmost importance that you should hand me to-day the cheque we were speaking of yesterday. Our calculations were based on your doing this, and I do not know what the consequence will be if we are disappointed.

"Yours very truly,

"J. H. BARRY."

7. After receiving said letter from Mr. Barry, I gave William the two hundred dollars with instructions to give it to Mr. Blair, but not to pay it over until he received a receipt from Mr. Blair for it and a written promise of the office. William returned with the money and stated to me that Mr. Blair had refused to give the written promise asked for.

7. Before election day, Mr. Blair called on me at my store, in the city of Fredericton, and said to me that that appointment would be all right, and that William would get it as soon as the election was over and things had settled down; that Mr. Wetmore only held the office temporarily. The election passed over and some few days afterwards William told me that William Wilson wanted the election contribution of $200 to assist in settling up the election bills, and would give him a written receipt and promise of the office. Accordingly, on the thirteenth day of February, 1890, I gave my son William the two hundred dollars, instructing him to give it to Mr. Wilson, but to hand it over only on obtaining a written receipt for the same and a promise of the office. William took the money and came back with a written receipt, of which the following is a copy:—

"$200.00.

"FREDERICTON, N. B., Feb. 13, 1890.

"Received from William H. Quinn, the sum of $200.00, towards the election funds, not to be used until appointment is arranged, and if no appointment made, then to be returned. (Signed)

"W. WILSON."

This receipt was in Wm. Wilson's handwriting and signed by him. Some time afterwards my son William, at my request, made a copy of this receipt in my store in presence of myself and daughter, Miss Mary Quinn. This said copy was made by my son William in his own handwriting, and was compared by myself and my daughter Mary and my son William with the original, and from which copy the above receipted copy is made.

8. The appointment not having been given to William, as promised and anticipated, William became anxious about the fulfillment of the promise, and, as he informed me, had rejected interviews with Mr. Wilson and Mr. Barry respecting the same, and one of the reasons alleged for William's not getting the office was that Mr. Blair was indignant because I would not take his word for the office unless it was put in writing signed by him, and my son William brought to me a letter, which he said had been written by Mr. Wilson, and I believe to be in his handwriting, for me to copy and send to Mr. Blair, and the following is a copy of what Mr. Wilson so wrote:

"After thinking over the matter of asking you to sign a written promise to give William the position, I feel I made a mistake. I acted hastily in the matter, and had no intention of making you think I had no faith in your word. I have no experience in such matters, and thought of it as a business transaction."

I did not write or send this letter to Mr. Blair.

9. A short time after, and about the first day of April, 1890, William informed me that he had waited upon Mr. Wilson at the house of assembly (Mr. Wilson then being a representative of the county of York), and sent in to Mr. Wilson on the floors of the house the following letter written upon a C. P. R. telegraph blank:

"April 1st, 1890.

"William Wilson, Esq.:

"Dear Sir: On Friday last you told me to call on Tuesday, and I am now here for your answer, and waiting to see you in the lobby near the speaker's door.

"WILL QUINN."

Which letter my son told me had been returned to him by a messenger, with the following memorandum endorsed thereon in Mr. Wilson's handwriting, and signed by Mr. Wilson:

"Can't go out until this matter is over. I may have something to say. Did your father write to Blair? He has not the letter yet.

"Yours, etc.,

"W. WILSON."

10. In 1891 William was appointed an engrossing clerk for the house of assembly for that year, and he filled the position for that year and was also holding the position in the session of 1892, at the time of his death. I declined to accept this position for William in lieu of the situation that had been promised, and on March 12, 1891, I wrote a letter to Mr. Wilson, of which the following is a copy:

"FREDERICTON, March 12, 1891.

"William Wilson, Esq., M. P. P.:

"Dear Sir,—If William is given the position of registrar of probates, I am willing to give the money now in your hands, and if not please return the same with interest, as I do not feel disposed to give anything for the position of engrossing clerk. Awaiting your reply,

"I remain, yours,

"W. H. QUINN."

11. I subsequently wrote Mr. Wilson a letter of which the following is a copy:

"William Wilson, Esq., M. P. P.:

"Dear Sir—After waiting and begging for over one year for the position in Mr. Allen's office, which Mr. Blair promised me in my store, now it seems he will not get it. I gave the money with the object, and it was the only office vacant at that time. Please send me a cheque for the money and interest, as I don't feel inclined to give the money for engrossing clerk.

Yours,

W. H. QUINN."

12. William not getting the position in the clerk of the pleas office, or the registrarship, I demanded the money back from Mr. Wilson, who promised to repay it 30 days, and not receiving it in that time I wrote Mr. Wilson on April 17th, 1891, a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"FREDERICTON, April 17, '91.

"William Wilson, Esq.:

"Dear Sir—I think the thirty days have expired. Will you please send me my money, $200.00 (two hundred dollars), with interest and I will send you your receipt. I have not been out for ten days. By attending to this you will oblige,

"Yours,

"W. H. QUINN."

13. Mr. Wilson, after the letter last above written promised to pay the money in a few days, which he did not do, and on June 25th, 1891, I wrote him another letter, of which the following is a copy:

"FREDERICTON, June 25th, '91.

"W. Wilson, Esq.:

"Dear Sir—You told me that you would pay that two hundred dollars in a few days. I think that time has expired. If you cannot pay me now, give me your note with an endorser with interest at 7 per cent. since the 12th of March, when I demanded the money. If these terms meet your approval, all right. If not, please send me the cash with interest from 12th Feb., '90, to 12th March, '91, and 7 per cent. since that time. By attending to this you will oblige,

"Yours,

"W. H. QUINN."

14. On September 18th, 1891, William Wilson gave me his own note in favor of John Anderson, then M. P. P. for York, and endorsed by the said John Anderson, for the amount of two hundred dollars, of which said note the following is a copy:—

"$200.00.

"FREDERICTON, N. B., Sept. 17, 1891.

"Six months after date I promise to pay John Anderson or order, for value received, $200, at the store of William Quinn, Fredericton.

(Sgd.) "W. WILSON."

On receipt of this note I gave up to Mr. Wilson in his (Wilson's) office the receipt, a copy of which is set forth in the sixth section hereof. Mr. Wilson said, "You ought to give us something," and I said, "Well, endorse $50," and Mr. Wilson thereupon endorsed that amount upon the note with my consent.

15. That the balance of the said note and interest thereon was subsequently, in the month of May last past, paid by the said William Wilson to my attorney, and the said note was delivered up to the said Wilson by my said attorney, as I am informed by him and believe.

16. That on the 28th day of March, 1894, Mr. William Wilson called upon me at my store in the city of Fredericton, and requested me to show him the copy of the receipt set forth in the sixth section hereof, as he said he had lost the original. I told him that I would not show it to him, but that it was a true copy of the original.

17. That I have read in the issue of the St. John Daily Sun of the 29th March, instant, what purports to be a copy of a letter written by Mr. Wilson to Hon. A. G. Blair, dated March 28, 1894, in which he says, among other things: "I am authorized by Mr. Quinn to say that there never was any such bargain as is alleged between him and me on behalf of the government in regard to his son's appointment to any office, nor that he ever did pay me any money for my services in his son's behalf in that connexion, and that all his transactions with me are honest and honorable; and I most positively say that I never had any such conversation with Mr. Wilson and never gave him any authority of any kind or character to make any such statement.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canadian Evidence Act, 1893.

(Signed) W. H. QUINN.

Declared before me at the City of Fredericton, in the County of York, this 30th day of March, A. D. 1894.

(Signed) JAS. W. MCCREADY,
A commissioner for taking affidavits to be read in the supreme court.

Mr. Pitts thought this entirely cleared his skirts, that the statment he had made was not detrimental to him.

Hon. Mr. Blair asked whether, having read this declaration, the hon. member proposed to follow it further and ask for a committee of this house to ascertain whether there were any foundation for the insinuations put forward as respects himself? He desired nothing more than to have these people make oath to their knowledge of the matter. He did not acknowledge the authenticity of the letters to and from Mr. Quinn, for he kept no copies of his own correspondence, at the same time he was not going to say that he did not receive a letter from Mr. Quinn, or that he did not reply to it. But he was going to say that if Mr. Quinn wrote that letter, it was similar to other letters he had received containing suggestions of which no notice was taken. He had taken no notice of Mr. Quinn's suggestion that he would help in the election. Probably when Mr. Quinn wrote it, having a friendly feeling towards the government, he thought that he would forward his plans by a financial offer. But as for his ever having directly or indirectly, communicated with Mr. Quinn, recognizing him as giving any subscription in lieu of an office, or making any promise to Quinn upon that basis, or being a party to any such proposition, he desired to give it, as he did the other day, his most absolute and unqualified denial, which he would be prepared to verify under oath, supported by other testimony, if these gentlemen chose to follow the matter up. There was nothing in Mr. Quinn's statement, which, in the slightest degree, impunged or impeached the statement that he (Blair) made the other day as regards the financial part of the transaction. If any money had passed between individuals, it did not pass with his knowledge. His information was that Mr. Quinn made no contribution to the election fund. Mr. Wilson says there never was such an arrangement and that it was a matter of imagination. He asked, as a matter of fair play, if any hon. members sought to base any imputation against himself, that they should formulate their charge and ask for a committee of the house, who would be thoroughly competent to hear all the evidence offered under oath. He presumed it was not the first time that people had heard of election contributions.

Mr. Pitts—Yes, they heard of them in Queens, as well as in York.

Hon. Mr. Blair—If the hon. member desires to have that subject ventilated let him ask for an investigation into the election in York at which he was returned.

Mr. Pitts—Do you say that I spent any money in that election?

Hon. Mr. Blair—I do not know that the hon. member himself contributed, but I know that he was thoughly aware that many thousands of dollars were contributed in that election by means of which his return was secured. Despite the unholy cry these gentlemen raised in that election they could not possibly have carried the county of York without deluging it with money. After all the digging and delving of these gentlemen opposite, this was the full product of their labors.

Mr. Pitts—You are not at all sceptical now as to the originality of the documents.

Hon. Mr. Blair—I am not at all assured of it. I would be very sorry to acknowledge it, because from the experience we have had here it is quite possible that this letter of Mr. Quinn's has no actual existence in fact. However, I merely say, not in a definant or challenging way, that if any inference is to be suggested against myself, I think it is only fair that the matter should be submitted to evidence under oath that we might see just where the facts lie. I am prepared to make oath upon the stand in the most solemn manner, that Mr. Quinn never suggested to me in any conversation or any writing that he was going to make a specific contribution of $200 or otherwise in that election, I never had but one conversation on the subject and that was with W. A. Quinn as I have already stated. He never got the office and I never promised any. The letter which has been read from Mr. Quinn shows that my state-