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HONEST JOHN AT BAY.

OLD-MAN-AFRID-TO-GO-HOME IS SENT FOR.

A Preliminary Hearing—The Inevitable Habeas Corpus—A Scoundrel Pleads the Privileges of a Senator.

Patterson was arrested in Washington on the 6th inst. on a warrant from Chief Justice Carter of the District of Columbia. Patterson, hearing of the warrant, secreted himself until his counsel—Mr. Shelbarger of Washington, Wilson Cook, a colored ex-citizen of Greenville, and Charles Pelham—could prepare an application for a writ of habeas corpus. Patterson then surrendered, and the application was made to Judge Humphreys. Patterson claimed that the indictment was not legal, having been found at an extra term of court. He also pleads his privilege as senator. Mr. Richburg, who went to Washington for Patterson, asked a postponement till Thursday so that Attorney General Connor could attend, but the court postponed a hearing of the case until the 17th inst., two days after the meeting of Congress. What course that honorable body will take in the premises is not known.

Four true bills have been found against Patterson. First, for conspiring to defraud the State in the matter of the Mooney and Leggett warrants. Second, for conspiring with H. H. Kimpton and Niles G. Parker. Third, for bribing divers members of the Legislature. Fourth, for counselling Niles G. Parker, State treasurer, to commit a fraudulent breach of trust, such counselling being a felony under the statute. General Conner wrote to Patterson, informing him of these indictments and asking whether he would come voluntarily to trial, or wait until he was brought. Honest John replied, saying he preferred not to come, and suggested that it would be better to postpone a consideration of his case until public excitement shall have cooled down. The requisition was the result of this correspondence.

The greatest charge against Patterson is that of having counselled Parker to bribe the Legislature to pass two bills, one providing for the Blue Ridge scrip, and the other validating the fraudulent bonds. The latter was for the benefit of Kimpton, who made alliance with Patterson, the latter furnishing political influence, and the former hard cash. The scrip act passed but the validating act hung fire, and Kimpton refused to advance the \$50,000 required. After high words and a threatened encounter, Patterson compromised by writing a letter as president of the Blue Ridge Railroad, to Parker, State treasurer, requesting the latter to pay Kimpton, \$114,250 in scrip, on conditions "that forty-two thousand eight hundred and fifty seven dollars of said scrip at par value is to be used for paying the expenses of passing through the House of Representatives bills styled a 'bill relating to the bonds of the State of South Carolina,' and a bill to authorize the financial board to settle the accounts of the financial agent." The same was not to be paid if the bill failed. A second condition was that "seventy-one thousand four hundred and fourteen dollars of scrip at par value shall deliver to said Kimpton, if said bills shall become laws, and provided that he shall pay the sum of fifty thousand dollars (the proceeds of said scrip at seventy cents on the dollar) in paying the expenses incurred in passing through the Senate the bill known as a bill to relieve the State of all liability on account of guaranty of Blue Ridge

Railroad bonds, &c., passed March 2, 1872, which said expenses said Kimpton has contracted to pay, and if said Kimpton fails or refuses to pay said amount in defraying said expenses, (when required by me,) then this order to be void. If said conditions are complied with, and the amount of scrip delivered to said Kimpton, he is not to be held liable for or to account for its value. The above two sums of \$42,859 and \$71,414 in scrip first mentioned in this order." The order was signed "John J. Patterson, President Blue Ridge Railroad, and signed by R. B. Elliott as a witness. It was this letter, which, having been sealed, was delivered to Judge Mackey and Governor Scott, and which they, suspecting rascality, opened. Seeing its importance, they had a photograph taken, and resented and delivered the letter. They and Elliott will testify to the genuineness of the letter, and Patterson's only chance is to pronounce it a forgery, but the fac simile will rebut this. Never had criminal more promising prospect of the penitentiary.



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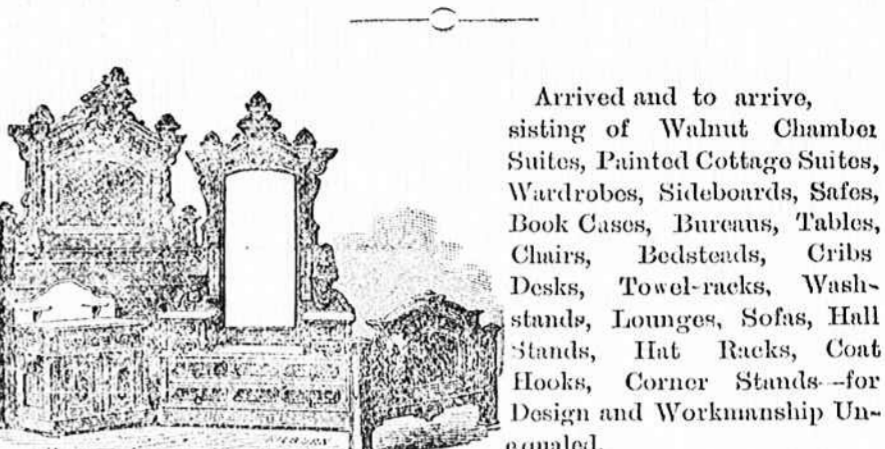
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