

PARKER'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

Esopus, N. Y.—Judge Alton B. Parker's letter of acceptance of the Democratic nomination for the Presidency was given out here. The letter is addressed "to the Hon. Champ Clark and others, committee, etc.," and is in part as follows:

"Gentlemen—In my response to your committee, at the formal notification proceedings, I referred to some matters not mentioned in this letter. I desire that these be considered as incorporated herein, and regret that lack of space prevents specific reference to them all. I wish here, however, again to refer to my views there expressed as to the gold standard, to declare again my unqualified belief in said standard, and to express my appreciation of the action of the convention in reply to my communication upon that subject."

In discussing the much talked of issue of imperialism Judge Parker says: "While I presented my views at the notification proceedings concerning this vital issue, the overshadowing importance of this question impels me to refer to it again. The issue is oftentimes referred to as Constitutionalism vs. Imperialism."

"If we would retain our liberties and constitutional rights unimpaired, we cannot permit or tolerate, at any time or for any purpose, the arrogation of unconstitutional powers by the executive branch of our Government. We should be ever mindful of the words of Webster, 'Liberty is only to be preserved by maintaining constitutional restraints and just divisions of political powers.'"

Taking up the tariff question the Judge enters into the subject at some length. He says at one place: "Tariff reform is one of the cardinal principles of the Democratic faith, and the necessity for it was never greater than at the present time. It should be undertaken at once in the interest of all our people."

"The two leading parties have always differed as to the principle of customs taxation. Our party has always advanced the theory that the object is the raising of revenue for support of the Government whatever other results may incidentally flow therefrom. The Republican party, on the other hand, contends that customs duties should be levied primarily for protection, so called, with revenue as the subordinate purpose, thus using the power of taxation to build up the business and property of the few at the expense of the many."

"The words of our platform we demand a revision and a gradual reduction of the tariff by the friends of the masses, and for the common weal, and not by the friends of its abuses, its extortions and discriminations."

"I pointed out in my earlier response the remedy, which, in my judgment, can effectively be applied against monopolies," he states, "and the assurance given that if existing laws, including both statute and common law, proved inadequate, contrary to my expectations, I favor such further legislation, within constitutional limitations, as will best promote and safeguard the interests of all the people."

"Whether there is any common law which can be applied and enforced by the Federal courts cannot be determined by the President or by a candidate for the Presidency."

"The determination of this question was left by the people in framing the Constitution to the Judiciary and not to the Executive."

The candidate repeats the demand of his party for reciprocity treaties with foreign nations, declaring "That the benefits of reciprocal trade treaties would inure to both. That the consumer would be helped is unquestionable. That the manufacturer would receive great benefit by extending his markets abroad hardly needs demonstration. His productive capacity has outgrown the home market."

The Philippine question is gone into at some length, and the Judge reiterates his approval of that plank in his party's platform which favors giving the islanders their liberty when they are ready for it.

The Judge discussed the Panama Canal treaty fully, approving of the project itself, but objecting strenuously to the present administration's method of acquiring the rights to the territory.

"An isthmian canal has long been the hope of our statesmen, and the avowed aim of the two great parties, as their platforms in the past show. The Panama route having been selected, the building of the canal should be pressed to completion with all reasonable expedition."

"Our commerce in American bottoms amounts to but eight per cent. of our total exports and imports," he states. "For seventy years prior to 1850, when the Republican party came into power, our merchant marine carried an average of seventy-five per cent. of our foreign commerce. By 1877 it had dwindled to twenty-seven per cent. Now we carry but a contemptibly small fraction of our exports and imports."

"American shipping in the foreign trade was greater by over 100,000 tons in 1810—nearly 100 years ago—than it was last year. In the face of the continuous decline in the record of American shipping during the last forty-three years the promise of the Republican party to restore it is without encouragement. The record of the Democratic party gives assurance that the task can be more wisely entrusted to it," he declares in a summary of this question of his shipping interests.

PHYSICIAN GETS FIFTY YEARS.

Convicted of Assaulting Sixteen-Year-Old Office Girl.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Dr. J. C. D. Heflin, a young physician, who was found guilty of attacking Myrtle Dowler, his sixteen-year-old office girl, was sentenced by Judge Casteel to fifty years in the penitentiary. The jury which found Heflin guilty could not agree upon the punishment. Eight members favored the death penalty.

Personal Mention.

Nelson A. Miles first went to work in a crockery store.

The King of Spain is passionately fond of horseback riding.

J. Pierpont Morgan started life with \$10,000,000 left him by his father.

Mrs. Annie C. George, widow of Henry George, died at her home, Merry Wood, Sullivan County, N. Y., of heart disease.

Among New York's successful lawyers is Mrs. Charles Truax, wife of Judge Truax, whose practice brings in a handsome income.

REGARDING CONDUCT OF THE ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT THE LETTER CONTAINS THAT FAVORITISM HAS PREVAILLED THROUGHOUT, AND THAT PROMOTIONS AND COURT-MARTIALS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED ON AN UNFAIR BASIS.

The Republican attitude toward the Pension Department is severely criticized by Judge Parker, particularly the famous "Order No. 78," which pensions all veterans of the late Civil War who are now over sixty-two years of age. He says in part:

"The national Democracy favors liberal pensions to the surviving soldiers and sailors and their dependents, on the ground that they deserve liberal treatment. It pledges by its platform adequate legislation to that end. But it denies the right of the Executive to usurp the power of Congress to legislate on that subject. Such usurpation was attempted by Pension Order No. 78, and effect has been given to it by a Congress that dared not resent the usurpation. It is said that 'this order was made in the performance of a duty imposed upon the President by act of Congress,' but the provision making the imposition is not pointed out."

"The old inquiry, 'What are you going to do about it?' is now stated in a new form. It is said by the Administration, in reply to the public criticism of this order, that 'it is easy to test our opponents' sincerity in this matter.' 'If elected I will revoke that order. But I will go further and say that that being done, I will contribute my effort toward the enactment of a law to be passed by both houses of Congress and approved by the Executive that will give an age pension without reference to disability to the surviving heroes of the Civil War.'"

Extravagance in the conduct of the business affairs of the Administration is charged, and a curtailment of expenses all along the line is promised should he become the Executive.

An investigation of the conduct of the various departments is demanded in lieu of the recent fraud uncovered in the Postal Department.

In concluding the letter he says: "If we put aside a congenial work, to which we are expected to devote my life, in order to assume, as best I can, the responsibilities your convention put upon me. I solicit the cordial co-operation and generous assistance of every man who believes that a change of measures and of men at this time would be wise, and urge harmony of endeavor as well as vigorous action on the part of all so minded. The issues are joined and the people must render the verdict. Shall economy of administration be demanded or shall extravagance be encouraged? Shall the wrongdoer be brought to bay by the people or must justice wait upon political expediency? Shall our Government stand for an equal opportunity or for special privilege? Shall it remain a government of law or become one of individual caprice? Shall we cling to the rule of the few or shall we embrace the rule of the masses? With calmness and confidence we await the people's verdict."

"If called to the office of President I shall consider myself the Chief Magistrate of all the people and not of any fraction, and shall ever be mindful of the fact that on many questions of national policy there are honest differences of opinion. I believe in the patriotism, good sense and absolute sincerity of all the people. I shall strive to remember that he may serve his party best who serves his country best. 'If it be the wish of the people that I undertake the duties of the Presidency, I pledge myself, with God's help, to devote all my powers and energy to the duties of this exalted office. Very truly yours, 'ALTON B. PARKER.'"

PUNISHES MILITIA COMPANY.

Alabama Governor Musters Out Men Who Failed to Protect Negro.

Montgomery, Ala.—The military court which met at the arsenal to investigate the conduct of the militia company of that city in not protecting the negro Horace Maples from the hands of a mob on the night of September 7 reported to the Governor that the company was inefficient and should be mustered out of service. Acting Governor Cunningham approved the findings.

The testimony of the night jailer showed that the soldiers acted as though they were frightened. He testified that when the mob broke into the jail some were in the closets, some under the bed, and others on the floor smoking. The court in its conclusion declared that there were sufficient men and ammunition to protect the negro, "if they had been intelligently and courageously commanded and used." The testimony of Captain R. T. Hays that he was wounded by a bullet coming from the mob is discredited.

5000 INDIANS TO GATHER.

Will Honor Chief Joseph's Memory and Elect His Successor.

Lewiston, Idaho.—Indians from all over the Northwest have been summoned to gather at North Lapwai, on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, in order to celebrate with a feast and war dance in memory of their late leader, Chief Joseph. At the same time a successor will be chosen to rule the tribe.

Summons by mail and messenger have been sent to all the wandering bands, including Nez Perces, Lapwais, Blackfeet, Spokanes, Colvilles and other tribes. Five thousand Indians will be invited. The date for the affair will be fixed later by the sub-chiefs. A week will be devoted to feasting, dancing and balloting for a new chief.

Major L. C. Norman Dead.

Major L. C. Norman, twice State Auditor, and one of the best known politicians in Kentucky, died at Frankfort, Ky., of heart troubles.

England and U. S. Silent.

No further representations regarding contraband have been made to Russia by the United States or Great Britain. It is believed that Russia may, if requested, yield the point regarding cotton.

British Secretary Arrested Here.

The arrest and flogging of Hugh Gurney, Third Secretary of the British Embassy, by a justice at Lee, Mass., was promptly taken up by the State Department.

World's Fair Notes.

A party of 200 Italians, headed by Italian nobles, visited the Fair.

Two thousand cattle entries for the World's Fair Live Stock Show have been received.

Karl Komzak, of Vienna, Austria, is conducting the Exposition orchestra at the World's Fair.

The process of making turpentine and rosin is shown in the Georgia section of the Palace of Forestry.

The openwork tablecloths in cerise lace and white damask of French manufacture are particularly beautiful.

DYNAMITE WRECKS TOWN

Train Hits Wagon Load of High Explosive Causing Havoc.

TWO MEN KILLED. OUTRIGHT

Widespread Destruction at North Branch, Md., Caused by Concussion, and Many Persons Hurt—School Children Thrown Into Panic—Engine Demolished—Wagon Stopped on Track.

Cumberland, Md.—The village of North Branch, four miles east of Cumberland, was wrecked by dynamite, the explosion having been caused by a Baltimore and Ohio eastbound fast freight train running into a wagon loaded with dynamite at a crossing.

C. Walter Whitehair, a brakeman, of Brunswick, and Nelson Pike, engine driver, of Martinsburg, were killed. A. R. Sanders, fireman, of North Mountain, W. Va.; Charles Hamilton, of Little Orleans, Md.; James Ashkettle, of Little Orleans; Mary Twigg, of Oldtown; Raymond, the three-year-old son of Charles Hamilton; Maude Seibert and James Laing, driver of the dynamite wagon, were the most severely injured.

The Baltimore and Ohio tower was wrecked, as were the residences of Adam Seibert, Charles Hamilton, Charles Bloss, J. Lewis Seibert, Stephen A. Bloss and John Coleman, the commissary of Michael Elmore, a Walsh sub-contractor, and office, stable and hospital buildings. Windows of the school house and of the residence of G. A. Zimmerly and others on the mountain half a mile away, were all broken and the school children were thrown into a panic.

The dynamite was being hauled for Mr. Elmore, for construction work in progress near by. There were fifteen cases on the wagon, aggregating 750 pounds. Laing was crossing the track with the load when he saw the train coming. He became panic stricken and stopped on the track, according to eyewitnesses, and then deserted the team and ran. The train struck the rear of the wagon, which lacked only three feet of clearing the track, but the engine ran on fifty feet before the terrific explosion occurred.

Grant Hamilton and James Ashkettle were in the tower with the former's brother. Realizing what was coming, they dropped down and the tower toppled upon them. They were covered with cuts from glass and splinters.

The engine was stripped of its trimmings and turned over at right angles, a total wreck, while seven freight cars were badly broken up, the foremost cars being destroyed. The track was torn and twisted in all directions, and heavy steel rails were broken in two. The concussion was terrific, an unusual incident being the breaking of wires half way between telegraph poles by concussion only.

Laing was some distance away, running down in a ditch when the engine struck the wagon, and escaped with various cuts and a fractured eardrum. The horses were hardly scratched, although thrown fifty yards into a field. It required the strength of four or five men to lift Pike, the engine driver, from the throttle. His body was on top of the overturned boiler, under a broken iron and his hand grasped the throttle in a death clutch.

The house of Charles Hamilton was torn almost inside out. The furniture was wrecked and all the china and crockery broken. Parts of the engine were hurled many yards, and pickles and whisky, with which several of the cars were loaded, were scattered in all directions. One of the tires of the dynamite wagon was hurled to the top of a telegraph pole, where it hung fast.

The explosion emptied pillows of feathers in several houses. An oak tree was entirely denuded of leaves.

To Head Second Army. The Russian Emperor has placed General Gripenberg in command of the Second Manchurian Army. The Emperor in a letter to the General pays a tribute to the warlike qualities of the Japanese.

Desertions From the Lena. Frequent desertions are reported from the Russian cruiser Lena, at San Francisco, Cal., in spite of the parole given to this Government; it is believed the gunners are attempting to return to Russia.

Left Nearly All to Cornell. Opening the will of the late Professor Daniel Willard Fiske the executors found that he had left nearly the entire estate to Cornell University, amounting to about \$1,500,000.

Hope For Russia's Poor. Jacob H. Schiff said the recent utterances of Prince Mirsky, Russia's new Minister of the Interior, gives much hope for the poorer classes of Russian Jews.

A Record Divorce Case. Mrs. Anna R. Cummins obtained a divorce and \$50,000 alimony in a Chicago (Ill.) court twenty-four minutes after filing her papers against a decree.

Ship Loses Live Stock.

On a voyage from New Orleans, La., to Cape Town, South Africa, the Norwegian steamer Nordkyn lost 600 head of live stock.

French Officer Beaten.

Commandant Laribe, a French officer of the Legation Guard in Peking, China, has been beaten with sticks by Chinese soldiers, and a strong complaint has been lodged with the Imperial Government.

Steerage Rate War Not Over.

There were no further increases in transatlantic steerage rates, but the Hamburg-American Line issued a statement that the war was not at an end.

Sporting Brevities.

Five thousand persons attended the society horse show at Lenox.

Afrigator at 20 to 1 won the Brighton Cup Preliminary Stake.

The Whippany Club opened new grass tennis courts at Morristown, N. J. Seawanhaka's oldest members steered and manned boats in the club's reunion races.

John Bedell won the five mile professional cycle race at the Vailsburg track in 11m. 3-2-5.

C. F. Watson, Sr., won four cups at the invitation golf tournament of the Essex County Country Club.

LONG DROUTH IN EUROPE

Food For Cattle and Horses Will Have to Come From America.

Dry Weather Has Had Disastrous Results in Various Countries—Large Concentrations Have Been Frequent.

Washington, D. C.—George H. Murphy, American Vice-Consul-General at Frankfurt, says in a report: "The severe drouth which is afflicting European countries has had various injurious effects. It has caused frequent and large conflagrations; it has stopped river navigation entirely in many districts, causing a scarcity of fruits and grain, and greatly advanced prices; it has forced works operated by water power to cease running. But it is particularly the insufficiency of feedstuffs for cattle and horses which causes anxiety in agricultural and commercial circles."

"The Governments of Bulgaria and Rumania have already issued decrees prohibiting the exportation of corn and other cattle feed. Serbia and Austria-Hungary also have issued decrees prohibiting the exportation of corn, hay and other feedstuffs. The order of the Austro-Hungarian Government is most rigid and sweeping, as it includes, in addition, bran and barley, potatoes and beans, oil cake, clover, and the husks, dregs and waste materials of malt and sugar beets; in short, everything that can serve as food for animals."

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WRECK ON THE CENTRAL.

The Western Express Derailed by a Broken Rail.

Rochester, N. Y.—A broken rail on the New York Central track near Lockport, between Lyons and Clyde, caused the derailment of the Western Express, sleeping cars of the Western Express, due in this city at 4 a. m. The sleepers careened and fell over on the track used by east-bound freight. While the passengers in the three sleepers were hastily dressing themselves and trying to get out a freight train crashed into the sleepers, badly wrecking them and injuring twenty-five of the occupants.

Most of the injured were taken on to Lyons, but eight of the most seriously hurt were brought to Rochester, even in the face of the winter weather. Newman Erb, of New York City, wife of Vice President Erb, of the Pere Marquette Railway, died of her injuries a few hours later.

Pope Receives Youths.

The Pope received 1000 youths of the Catholic Association of France, referring gently to the religious conflict of France and the Vatican.

No Argentine Ships Sold.

The Argentine Minister of Marine said that no warships had been sold to Russia, and that no negotiations for their sale were pending.

Russia and England to Confer.

Count Samsdorff has instructed the Russian Ambassador to confer with Lord Lansdowne upon the Tibet treaty.

Lake Baikal R. R. Opened.

A dispatch from Irkutsk said that the railroad around Lake Baikal had been opened for traffic.

Six Port Arthur Forts Taken.

A belief prevails in Tokio that six forts of Port Arthur's inner defenses have been taken by the Japanese.

Train Derailed by a Cow.

A passenger train from North Anson, Me., to Oakland, Me., on the Somerset Railroad, was derailed by striking a cow one mile north of the station. The engine and tender were overturned down an embankment. No one was injured. Among the fifty passengers was Governor John F. Hill, who is president of the road.

Peru's New President.

Dr. Jose Pardo was inaugurated President of Peru.

Minor Mention.

France has only gained 444,613 in population in the decade from 1890 to 1900.

The designs for a big new Cotton Exchange for Liverpool have been accepted.

Rev. L. Lochner, of Chicago, has just returned home after establishing a Lutheran synod in Brazil.

The Germans have at last succeeded in breaking the back of the Herrero rebellion in Southwest Africa.

Hereafter all the letters of Russian soldiers will be inspected. No letter in Yiddish is to be delivered.

FIGHTING AT PORT ARTHUR

Six More Important Forts Are Reported Taken.

JAPS CUT OFF WATER SUPPLY

Severe and Bloody Fighting With Many Hand-to-Hand Engagements Mark the Progress of the Siege—Over Three Thousand Japanese Reported Killed in Latest Engagements.

Chefoo.—Such steady progress has been made by General Nogi's troops in their advance on Port Arthur since the renewal of continuous general fighting that they are in possession of enough forts near the inner defenses either to warrant an assault in force or else, at the discretion of their commander, to leave them nothing to do save to sit down before the fortress and starve the garrison into submission. Not only do they hold three main and six supplementary forts on the northwest, north and east of Lieutenant-General Stoessel's position, but they have cut off Port Arthur's water supply, and the garrison for days has been compelled to have recourse to the reserve.

Furious bombardment along the whole Russian position, however, inclines military experts to the belief the Japs will not wait for nature to force the defenders to capitulate. So desperately did the Japanese assault the positions gained thus far in the six days' battle that 3000 were killed or wounded, according to the best information, while Russian reports place Nogi's losses at three times that total. It was in the capture of Fort Kuropatkin, protecting the water supply, that the Japs lost most heavily. Knowledge of the natural weakness of that position led General Stoessel to place an unusually strong garrison in it and to equip its defenders with many of the best guns at his command.

The commanding force on three sides continued for twenty-four hours before Fort Kuropatkin showed signs of weakness. While shells were flying over the city, and the big guns on both sides were booming through twenty-four hours, the water supply fort contributed its share to the thunder and held the Japs in check through afternoon, night and forenoon. Its fire slackened, though, and Nogi's infantry rushed the works. About the same time, the Japanese right captured a fort from which they soon began an effective fire on the Russians' Etse Mountain positions.

All through the night the heavy bombardment of the Russian positions continued, the Japanese fire being directed with particular vigor against another supplementary fort 3000 yards to the west of the fort on Etse Mountain, and regarded as highly important, because of its bearing on the Etse and Anshu mountain forts. The next day, after having pointed this position unflinchingly and until its fire had slackened visibly, the Japanese delivered their assault.

They were exposed to the fire of machine guns and rifles and they made frantic efforts to reach the crest of the slope. They leaped over trenches and embankments and tore down entanglements in their path until at length they entered the fort. The Russian troops refused to desert their position, even in the face of the superior numbers which confronted them, and desperate hand-to-hand fighting occurred inside the fort. Eventually almost the entire Russian garrison was either killed or wounded.

Tokio, Japan.—It is believed here that the Japanese have captured six forts in the second line of defense at Port Arthur within the last few days. The hope of a speedy reduction of the fortress is running high.

PICK COTTON BY MOONLIGHT.

Georgians Work Double Shifts Because of Scarcity of Labor.

Augusta, Ga.—To save the fast ripening crop of this section from the planters' ravages by work picking cotton by moonlight. These scenes of activity in the cotton fields at night were necessitated by the scarcity of labor from which the South is suffering.

The pickers are worked day and night, taking a rest during the hottest part of the day. A prominent planter has declared after a visit through the cotton States that the labor problem will cause much cotton to go to waste in the fields. The crop in this territory is very large and in splendid condition, only a few fields having been touched by the boll weevil.

FATAL AFFRAY OVER NEGRO.

Two Men Killed and One Wounded in a Georgia Store.

Macon, Ga.—At Naylor, Annie Carter, a young white man, and Grady Hodge, a negro, were killed and another white man seriously wounded.

The negro was ordered out of a store for insolence. Ben Penny and Reuben Knight, both white, sided with him. He returned to the store, carrying through difficulty. Penny shot Carter through the body, but the latter, as he fell, shot his slayer through the arm. The negro was killed soon afterward, presumably by one of Carter's friends. Penny and Knight have been arrested.

Business is Good.

Seymour Bell, the British commercial agent in New York City, reported that the general business of this country was absolutely sound.

Japs Still Active.

The Japanese preparations for a turning movement against Mukden continued. General Kuropatkin reported attempts by Kuroki's troops to occupy passes east of the city and the constant movement of reinforcements across the Tai-Tse from Liao-Yang.

Pennsylvania Railroad Wreck.

Three men were killed and one was seriously injured in a wreck on the Pennsylvania Railroad, near Greensburg, Pa.

Peace in Central America.

Permanent peace among Central American republics is expected to result from a broad general treaty recently adopted.

Killed on Maine Railroad.

Two men were killed and ten persons seriously injured in a collision on the Maine Central Railroad near Lewiston, Me.

Death List Increases.

The death list of the wreck on the Southern Railroad was increased on later reports.

MINOR EVENTS OF THE WEEK

WASHINGTON.

Ten thousand persons heard the Archbishop of Canterbury speak at evening service in Washington.

According to orders given out by the Department Rear-Admiral I. B. Coghlan will assume command of the Navy Yard and station at New York City, relieving Rear Admiral Frederick Rodgers, who will retire for age.

The President has disapproved of the findings and sentence in the case of Fred H. Skow, who was alleged to be a member of Company M, Twentieth Infantry, and who, as such, was tried by court martial and convicted under two charges of desertion and of misconduct in joining the enemy, and sentenced to death.

The members of the World's Peace Congress arrived in Washington, and visited Mount Vernon, decorating the tomb of George Washington.

It is recommended by the War Department that State companies of heavy artillery be assigned to coast defense forts for drill and instruction.

PORT ADOPTED ISLANDS.

Oro Rico's 1007 public schools opened with 60,000 pupils enrolled. In the first school year during American occupation there were 800 schools with 25,000 pupils.

Following the establishment of the new Philippine currency, there has been a rapid outflow of Mexican silver to China.

While a number of six-inch shells and a quantity of small ammunition surrendered by the Spaniards in 1898, were being loaded on a lighter in Manila, in front of the arsenal, preparatory to being dumped in the bay, there was an explosion that killed two men and mangled seven. The victims were all Filipinos.

DOMESTIC.

Annie Kanner, the fifteen-year-old daughter of the janitor, risked her life to crawl through smoke filled halls and warn the tenants of 147 Stanton street, New York City, that the building was burning.

Three Italians in a pistol duel at Canal and Centre streets, New York City, created great excitement, but no one was hurt far as known.

Archbishop Farley promulgated his pastors the report of the Commission on Revision of Church Music, according to the direction of Pope Pius X., which bars women from Catholic choirs.

Justice Kelly issued an order authorizing the exhuming of the body of Margaret Lynch, who was supposedly murdered in Long Island some weeks ago.

It was learned that President Roosevelt's name was forced to a letter to Michael Donnelly, of the Butchers' Union; prosecution of the forger will follow.

The Episcopalian Congress, for which twenty bishops and more than 1000 priests assembled, opened in New York City.

Admiral Rivit's flagship, the French cruiser Duplex, arrived in New York harbor.

Alonzo J. Whiteman, once a prominent Minnesota politician, was arrested in St. Louis, Mo., for alleged forgery in Buffalo, N. Y.