The Weekly Mail.

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A GOOD REASON FOR DECLINING A PRESSING INVITATION.

WE know now why Mr. McMULLEN refused to obey the subpœna served on him by the Royal Commission. There were never two unbiased opinions on the matter, but we have to think his brother for the plain unvarnished tale. If there was one statement more than another which the prosecution have loved to repeat throughout the whole of this long and wearisome Pacific battle, it was that made by Mr. McMULLEN in his letter to the *Globe* of July 14th, to this effect :—

"I wish to nail once falsehood which seems to have gained considerable publicity. I—nor no one for me—ever received directly or indirectly from Mr. Huntington, or any one interested in the prosecution of this case, any money or valuable consideration or promise of either for Pacific railway information or for anything else."

The case stood as follows: In the sealed packet kept by Mr. STARNES were the original letters which passed between Sir HUGH ALLAN and Mr. McMULLEN. There was also a cheque for $17,500. If, two days after the close of the session, Mr. McMULLEN had not made public use of the copies which he held of the originals, the cheque for $17,500 was to become his. In order words Mr. McMULLEN bargained with Sir HUGH ALLAN to give him the exclusive right to certain documents on a certain day for a certain sum of money; but he deliberately voided the bargain nearly six weeks before the time appointed for the mutual transfer of letters and money, and the only possible inference was that he had struck a better customer in the interval. It was altogether absurd to suppose that Mr. McMULLEN had forfeited $17,500 out of pure love for the "great Reform" Party. It was contrary to all preconceived notions of Yankee ethics to believe that the Chicago broker had sacrificed a large sum of money for the sake of a political faction to which he owed nothing, in a country in which he had no stake. But when we ventured to draw the inevitable inference, Mr. McMULLEN came out with the declaration which we have quoted above; and the organs of the prosecution forthwith proceeded to brag that their ally was as unselfish and incorruptible as he was honest and truthful.

Mr. McMULLEN did not make that declaration on oath; but when his brother gave evidence before the Commission on Thursday, he did so with the most solemn formality known among men. He was an unwilling witness, but then he was his brother's brother; and next to *fils de ses*, fratricide, of all things, goes hardest to witness against a brother. He was finally and reluctantly brought to admit that he had learnt from his elder brother that he received $20,000 for the breach of his bargain with Sir HUGH; and from his own knowledge as his brother's partner, he stated that some of money had not been entered in their ledger, but that G. W. took a portion of it and handed what was left to the other three members of the firm, and that they all agreed to quiet conscience by describing the bribe as "current expenses." It is an important matter, and one not difficult of distinction, so he knew the money he received was a bribe. The $20,000 was supplied—it is infinitely more important to consider the value of Mr. G. W. McMULLEN's statement that he received nothing for his correspondence in the face of Mr. D. Y. McMULLEN's oath that he did. If the latter had been a Government witness, the *Globe* would have at once declared him guilty of perjury; but in the case of a brother and a partner, proof of whose dishonesty or evidence had to be wrung, our contemporary's favourite method of handling unfavorable witnesses cannot be adopted. When McMULLEN feels bound in conscience to injure McMULLEN, there must be solid reasons for doing so. We shall doubtless here be reminded by our neighbour of GAIN and ABEL, but in retort we can confidently quote the case of THOMAS v. WILLIAM ROBINSON, of Kingston.

The final destruction of this great scandal has now begun. The chief informer with whom the whole onus of the prosecution rests has been upset in a statement affirmed by two persons both nearly by no jobs a witness than his own brother, and who his partner in the very transaction which led to the charge. The records of justice furnish no parallel to the complete demolition of the small amount of character of which a spy is at all times seized, by his colleague at once in business and blame. Mr. McMULLEN, according to his own admission, began operations after his failure to obtain the contract by attempting to blackmail the Premier by means of the documents now before the public. He followed that up by exhibiting a breach of trust with Sir HUGH ALLAN for the difference between $17,500 and $20,000; then he filed a series of grave charges against gentlemen outside of the Ministry, which were clearly disproven; then he attempted