

a good phonographer, I may want a party, and if you get out of employment you may count on me for employment at least \$1,000 per an.

"(Signed)

DUNN, WIMAN & CO.,

"ERASTUS WIMAN."

Upon writing this letter to Mr. Fearing, Mr. Wiman said that if practicable I had better retain the letter in my possession, show it to Mr. Fearing, and hold it in escrow as a pledge between them, for, he said, he was now a Director of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and that this was a Western Union matter, but that if Fearing insisted upon holding it he could have it. Mr. Wiman then stated that he was to leave the city for Montreal at 6:30 o'clock, P. M., the same evening, and after requesting me to get the copy of contract from said Fearing as quickly as possible, and to bring the same to his office, then said that I might miss him there, and requested that I bring it to the Grand Central Depot previous to the departure of the 6.30 train. Being detained, I feared my inability to reach the depot in time previous to the departure of said train, and I sent a note to Mr. Wiman, which note read as follows:

"NEW YORK, Oct. 13th, 1881.

"Personal.

"DEAR MR. WIMAN: I have seen Fearing and shown him your letter offering him employment. He is all right and has got the copy of the contract all complete, but insists that as he stole it he is running great risks, and now wants more than the \$150 you gave me to give to him. The fact is, his cupidity has been excited by the newspaper talk about this matter, and he now wants \$250. Shall I give it to him? and what shall I do with the contract when I get it?

"Hastily yours,

"(Signed)

B. M. PLUMB."

The messenger found Mr. Wiman waiting in the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad depot and delivered my note to him, and brought me from him a reply to the same, which was in the handwriting of Mr. Wiman read as follows:

"DEAR P.: Give him the \$250 after he has read it over to you, if you find it very favorable to contractors. Perhaps it isn't worth it. I wd. go the \$250 if you like. Keep it till I come, or hand it to the Gen'l.

"(Signed)

E. W."

The "General" referred to at the end of said note I understood to be General Eckert, General Manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, as we had in our conversations already referred to General Eckert as the "General."

During the A. M. of the next day I received from Mr. Wiman an official dead head telegraphic dispatch via the Western Union Telegraph Company, dated at St. Johns, P.Q., Oct. 14th, 1881, as follows:

"B. M. PLUMB,

"5th Floor, 19 Nassau St., N. Y.

"Better do nothing further until I return Monday. Retain letter.

(Signed,)

E. W."