

the office of Delong & Seaman, and two or three times brought a blotter or day-book to my room, and also to an office in Bowdoin square, in Boston.

"MacLaren was down to the office with me once, and looked at the book I was working from, and compared a few bills of lading with the invoices I had made out. I have received four letters from him, three of these since he has been in St. John, N.B., and Nova Scotia, and one before leaving Boston, asking me to meet him at 7½ Bowdoin square.

"Since then I have received one, which I delivered, without opening, to Delong & Seaman. Two of the other letters I had torn up by a special request from MacLaren; the other two I delivered to Delong & Seaman. The above letters, and all that I was to receive, was to be addressed to me under an assumed name of John Gordon.

"I also further state that the making out of the invoices given MacLaren was done in a hurried and concealed way, unbeknown to the firm of Delong & Seaman, or any of their clerks, and I cannot say that the invoices I gave MacLaren were correct, either in regard to the date of invoice or the amount of goods, or in other respects, as I worked late nights at them, and felt sleepy, and afraid that I would be found out at any time. MacLaren said to me that he did not want any case to go to law for settlement, but he would rather settle with about one-quarter of the amount fined than have a case in court. He also told me to be very careful that the firm did not find me at the office, and told me if the firm or any clerk employed with Delong & Seaman found me at the office while after invoices, and working for him, to say that I came down to write a letter. He also wanted me to go to the office of Delong & Seaman at night, after business hours, with him, to get blank bills of lading and documents that he wanted to make the seizures. I did go with him there twice, and he compared some bills of lading I had made out, with original, and examined the blotter; and he, while there, called off, a few invoices to me, while I wrote them down. He asked me to tear up or burn up all the letters I received from him.

"CHARLES B. GILLIATT."

"Subscribed and sworn to by the above named Charles B. Gilliatt, at Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, United States of America, this 14th day of March, A.D. 1885, before me, a commissioner for Nova Scotia, duly appointed and qualified to take affidavits to be read in the Supreme Court, and any court of record in said Province.

"Witness my hand and official seal,

"A. J. McLEOD,

"Commissioner for Nova Scotia.

"The foregoing is a true copy of the affidavit taken before me as above shown.

"A. J. McLEOD.

"Commissioner for Nova Scotia.

"I, A. J. McLeod, a commissioner for Nova Scotia, duly appointed under chapter ninety-six, section fifty-four, of the revised statutes of Nova Scotia, hereby certify that on the 14th day of March, A.D. 1885, personally came and appeared before me, Charles B. Gilliatt, described in the foregoing affidavit, and in my presence subscribed his name thereto, and I duly swore him to the said affidavit, and I certify that the said affidavit was made and subscribed by the said Charles B. Gilliatt by himself, and in his own handwriting, voluntarily, and without threat or promise.

"Given under my hand and seal of office, at Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, United States of America, this 14th day of March, A.D. 1885.

"A. J. McLEOD,

"Commissioner for Nova Scotia."

It seems to me that a man who will be guilty of such conduct as this is not fit to be in the Department. I would be sorry to say a word to encourage smuggling in any way, or to prevent anyone getting information in a fair and proper way, to prevent smuggling; but I think any man who will go to the United States and bribe a young man, as this man did, to go into a man's place of business at night, or at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, and to make use of this, as he acknowledges, was not justified.

Mr. BOWELL. Who acknowledges?

Mr. VAIL. Mr. MacLaren acknowledges himself. I have two or three letters written by him to Mr. Gordon, signed "Jack," or something of that kind, and he acknowledges that he used one of the blank bills he received, and says he intended to fill up the blank bill heads and charge the man with smuggling goods; and while the partner was talking, he would place it on his desk, and charge him with smuggling, and in that way, I suppose, levy blackmail.

Mr. BOWELL. I have most of the letters to which the hon. gentleman refers, but I have no recollection of that letter.

Mr. VAIL. I will read the letters. I leave out certain names, which it would be unfair to bring before the public:

"DEAR GORDON,—I made three seizures in Digby; not a dollar paid; asked time until 1st April; Bear River made 5. Will down the Port-

Mr. VAIL.

land and let you know all. As soon as we return to St. John will send you some money; we will make a big thing out of it. I have not heard from you for more than a week; expect your letters are waiting for me in Digby. Now, don't fail me, and send me every bill at once against Nova Scotia; never mind whether you think crooked or not; I find lots made out by themselves on your bill-heads. Also send me bills of lading and bills for all I have written you for; I trust some are waiting for me in Digby; if not, let me know, as I will have to shut down on some places. Forward all at once, and oblige

"Yours, etc.

"J. MACLAREN."

"Will not touch Yarmouth until I am finishing up; I have been so busy getting up reports that I have little time to write. If I get your letters to-morrow, Monday, will write. Now send Lunenburg at once, or I will be past it, and do not want to return there.

"JACK."

"March 9th, 1885.

"DEAR GORDON,—In a great rush; have finished up Digby, Bear River and Annapolis, and take the train to-morrow for Yarmouth; skip it and go on to Pubnico; thence round the shore to Halifax; then through the valley, and finish up and back to Digby to settle. I am afraid it will be small money here. Bear River will pan out well; three schooners tied up there. Schooner *Portland* tied up; will get *Levoze* when she returns; also six more vessels when they return, so we have not done badly. It will pan out so far (if the Department will settle them as I report) a few thousand. As soon as we return will send you some money. It will take \$300 to pay our expenses for this trip, and I do not want to raise money by note; my cash is on special deposit; a month or so is not long to wait. Now, send as soon as possible, or it will be no use, Lunenburg, Port Medway and all others I asked for, and burn these letters you get from me as soon as read, for fear of trouble. Bear River will do well. Now send me Clementsport at once; we leave this place and Granville, and Bridgetown and valley, until we return from the shore. We are afraid of the snow leaving, so are hurrying up. Your letter I received here; sorry you were blocked in not getting bills. Be sure and send bills of lading for Lunenburg, and send bills with everyone you have done business with. I will use you well; don't fear; all I ask of you is to send the bills, also to keep us posted as things go forward. I downed some of them with bills you thought straight; made false ones on your bill-heads. Be sure and send all of Mahone Bay, Bridgewater; you know our route; we are driving right round the shore to Halifax from Yarmouth, thence by rail to Annapolis; also working Margaretville, etc. I will make you a good summer's work. Now, old fellow, if you have to go down to the office after 10:30 p.m. and write until 3 p.m. for two or three nights, have these posted at once; if you do not I will lose it; so, if you have to sit up all night, do them, and don't make your letters too bulky.

"Yours,

"JACK.

"Lose a night's rest to get me them, and forward at once; not too bulky letters."

"March 14th, 1885.

"DEAR GORDON,—Since writing you we went to Barrington, seized the schooner *Pleides* and fined her \$400. I will be in Mahone Bay to-morrow and down them there, and then to Halifax and up the valley. Now send Clemensport every one of them in full, also send Lunenburg; all we had against there was correct, so was Port la Tour, sorry to say, also send all of Lockeport and bills of lading in all cases, cannot get on without them. What is the matter; I got your last letter all right; I am disappointed about bills not coming forward; look out for a man named Will McDonald; he talks about buying out Durkee. He is from Argyle, Pubnico. Have your address changed if he buys there, and have no talk with him, shun him in every way. I have not settled up with Digby. Now send me all bills of lading for Cape Breton, Antigonish, etc.; you must jump quickly or you will lose it. Send Shelburne all sure, did not stay there or at Lockeport; Bridgewater correct. If you want me to send any dates or anything further, let me know at once. I never got any bills but the two first lots you sent me. If you send them I will rattle the parties and make a dollar for us. It is costing us big money for expenses, hiring teams, etc., and until some time about the middle of April I will not have a dollar, as it takes all I have to run us. Now, answer at once, and let me know just what you can do. Yours,

"JACK."

It appears that he was getting all the information he could, and, at the same time, keeping this man waiting for his money.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). Is he a Nova Scotian?

Mr. VAIL. No; I believe he is from New Brunswick. I have given enough to show that this is a very disreputable affair. No man should be permitted to obtain information in that way. I am sure the Minister of Customs will not justify it, and I do not think a man of that style should be allowed to remain in the Department.

Mr. BOWELL. I have had most of these documents before me. Mr. MacLaren was put upon the special staff,