

Continued from first page.

## VINDICATED!

## Parnell's Innocence Demonstrated.

Egan's letters were genuine. When making the statement to Mr. Labouchere, I was afraid of a prosecution for forgery. Mr. Labouchere promised me that I would not be prosecuted if I made a statement. He also said he pledged his word of honor that the Parnellites would give me £2,000. I ask the *Times* to deal with me leniently. I have been in difficulties and great distress for the last twenty years, and to support myself and family I have been guilty of many acts that must disgrace me. The Attorney-General produced Pigott's affidavit, stating the contents of the letter were true.

## HOUSTON IN THE BOX.

Sir Charles Russell demanded that the court summon the constable and detectives who were with Pigott in order that they might explain how he succeeded in getting away.

Mr. Houston testified that Pigott had not taken his luggage with him. He produced the letters left for Pigott at Anderson's, but they contained nothing of importance. He also produced a letter Pigott had addressed to him on Saturday asking for a balance of £33 which Pigott said he had been often promised. Pigott in the letter said he was told that he would be prosecuted for perjury and he wanted the money to send to his children.

## SOME INNER HISTORY REVEALED.

Mr. Soames was called and produced letters Pigott had written to him. In one letter dated Nov. 30, 1888, Pigott complained that Houston, after informing him that the *Times* had agreed to pay him £5,000, refused to make such a promise. Pigott claimed that according to agreement his name was to be called, and he said that if called as a witness he would refuse to testify. He enclosed a letter from Mr. Macdonald, in which the letter guaranteed that Pigott's name should not be given in any court. Pigott wrote that if he were compelled to appear in court he would consider it unfair treatment. He said he was convinced that the cross-examination would discredit his evidence. (Laughter.) He offered to make an affidavit, but hoped he would be allowed to leave the country. Mr. Soames replied that

had been removed as Pigott's visit to Mr. Labouchere and others rendered full disclosure necessary. The witness said that Pigott was not harmed as he confirmed in court the evidence he had given Mr. Soames and afterwards verified under oath. Mr. Soames was unable to sanction giving Pigott money to enable him to leave the country, but he consented to pay his expenses and recompense him for loss of work. He enclosed £10 in the letter. Pigott replied that he had not relieved the *Times* from the obligation to maintain secrecy and that he had not promised to testify. Houston had deceived Mr. Soames just as he had deceived Pigott. Pigott said he was informed that if he testified, his opponents would produce evidence that would neutralize his testimony and endanger his life. He declared that Houston was responsible for his (Pigott's) negotiations with Labouchere. Mr. Soames wrote to Pigott that the pledges given by the latter must be performed. Pigott told Soames he had an interview with McCarthy. Mr. Soames testified that to the best of his belief he had not informed counsel that Pigott was the source of the letters before the commission act was passed. He did not enquire into Pigott's character. He said Mr. Walker constantly said that he did not doubt that he had mentioned to him that Pigott was the source of the letters. Witness did not know what arrangements had been made to watch Pigott. He sent Sergeant Fawcett to Anderson's hotel on Thursday to see that no one interfered with Pigott. Fawcett stayed at the hotel until yesterday. Witness was not aware that detectives had been employed to watch Pigott. Mr. Shannon saw Pigott at noon yesterday. On October 19 Pigott released witness from the obligation of secrecy. Until then he had not mentioned Pigott's name to counsel. Pigott wrote on Saturday asking for money, but witness did not send him any.

## A FORGER FOR MANY YEARS.

Sir Charles Russell stated that he would prove by a Glasgow agent that Pigott had committed a series of forgeries. The court, however, would not allow the evidence to be presented.

Mr. Lewis, of counsel for the Parnellites, testified that he had subpoenaed Pigott in September. R. Gardiner Pigott's confession, witness said Mr. Labouchere wrote the confession and Pigott signed it. Even after the confession witness expected that Pigott would be in court to-day.

THE "TIMES" TO ABANDON THE CASE. Attorney-General Webster has asked that an adjournment be taken until to-morrow to enable his clients to consider their position and decide what part of the case they should abandon. His clients also wished to ascertain whether Pigott was accessible. He promised to announce to-morrow the course to be pursued by the *Times*. The commission, therefore, adjourned. The greatest excitement prevailed in the court when the commission adjourned. Messrs. Parnell and Davitt, Mr. Gladstone and a large number than usual of the Irish members of Parliament against whom charges were made were present. Sir Charles Russell and Messrs. Labouchere, Healy and Parnell had an earnest conversation after the court adjourned.

## A WARRANT OUT FOR PIGOTT.

The magistrate sitting in Bow street police court, at the instance of Messrs. Parnell and Lewis, this evening issued a warrant for the arrest of Pigott on the charges of perjury and forgery. Constables Gallagher and Fawcett, who protected Pigott at Anderson's hotel, say they last saw him at 4.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. It is believed that Pigott fled to Antwerp or Rotterdam. It is learned that he sent a dispatch to his housekeeper at Kingstown, instructing her to burn "all the papers in the black box," and that his order was obeyed. Pigott posted to his housekeeper in Dublin a blank cheque to obtain a balance of £5 at his bankers. Pigott has four sons, the youngest six years old. His wife died eighteen months ago. It is surmised that the blank cheque mentioned in Pigott's telegram to his housekeeper contained his correspondence with Houston, which, it is reported, Pigott told Labouchere on Saturday he had received.

## ANOTHER WITNESS GOES.

LONDON, February 26.—Prof. Maguire, Houston's patron and colleague, who has been summoned to testify for the *Times* before the Parnell commission, died suddenly to-day. Mr. Maguire had suffered from an acute disease. His death was not connected with Pigott's flight.

LONDON, February 26.—Mr. Parnell has been to Antwerp. He is looking well. It is stated that the Parnell commission has been postponed. Lord Russell's Curtilage

wrote W. H. Smith cautioning him against assenting to the proposition.

LONDON, February 27.—The *Times* says it is precluded from commenting on the commission at this stage.

## HOW THE PARNELLITES DISCOVERED THE FORGER OF THE LETTERS.

LONDON, February 26.—A gentleman in high authority in the prosecution of the Parnell-*Times* case to-day told the story of how the conspiracy against Parnell was detected. Up to July last Parnell, his counsel and colleagues were wholly at sea. They knew the letters were forged, but every effort to discover the forger proved futile, and Parnell and his confidants were disheartened. One day last July a young Irish-American priest, Rev. Maurice J. Dorney, of Chicago, accompanied by Rev. Herbert Dunn, also of Chicago, sent his card to Mr. Parnell at the House of Commons. Father Dorney informed Mr. Parnell that he had a package of documents to deliver, placed in his hands the night before he sailed from New York. It contained, he said, evidence that would reveal the forger and identify the forger of the letters printed in the *Times*. Father Dorney received a telegram from Alexander Sullivan, of Chicago, asking him to meet Patrick Egan at a railway station in New York. He did so. Egan and Father Dorney sat up all night. The priest learned the whole story. He told Mr. Parnell he had carried that package with more solicitude than if it had been millions. When the nature of the package became apparent to Mr. Parnell he was deeply affected. The depression, visible for months on his pale face, began to scatter, and during the night of the story he yielded several times to emotion. When the story itself was over he asked, with painful apprehension, how many men knew what the package contained. Father Dorney replied that only Egan, Sullivan and himself were familiar with it, but Patrick Ford, of the *Irish World*, would be taken into confidence by Egan. Mr. Parnell was delighted. He had feared that somebody might inform the *Times*. A series of interviews followed, participated in by Dorney, Parnell, Sir Charles Russell, Lewis and Labouchere. The discovery that Pigott was the forger was made by Egan in Lincoln, Neb. Egan writes that he was sorely perplexed by the forged letters, the similes of which he got in the London *Times*. The signature of those attributed to him was remarkably good. Expressions and odd abbreviations peculiar to him were in the text. He considered as a possible forger each of several men whom the Parnellites suggested or suspected, but none could have had letters from him which would have made the spurious concoctions possible. He recalled Pigott, but he had been so long dead in politics and covered with accumulated shame that Egan dismissed him from mind. He remembered that Pigott had been in Lincoln years before, but he felt that he might be concerned in these assumed shames. In scrutinizing the forged fac-similes he finally discovered that one signed with his name was written avowedly at a certain address in Paris. Recollection flashed upon him that Pigott was the only man to whom he had ever given it. Pigott had written asking for a confidential address to which he might send important information. Egan, who is methodical in habit, had saved his correspondence for years. He has been accustomed to writing on the fly-leaf of a letter "received," his answer to it, and then copying the answer to be sent to his correspondent. Thus he had letter and answer together. He found Pigott's letters. By comparing them with the handwriting of the forged letters he saw he had the forger. He submitted letters written by Pigott to experts with the fac-similes of the forged letters. They detected characteristic peculiarities which were confirmed under the microscope. Egan had Pigott's letters and the forgeries photographed and started for Chicago, where he placed all the papers before Alex. Sullivan, who is a lawyer. A brief was drawn up by him and Sullivan. It related to the chief incidents in Pigott's career. Years before when Pigott tried to sell the *Irishman* newspaper to Parnell and Egan, he furnished an inventory, apparently authenticated by a well known Dublin accountant, showing the value of the property. Egan proved that the inventory was false and that Pigott forged the accountant's signature. A man in Pigott's newspaper office contributed to the Boston Pilot. His nom de plume was Leo. After his death a relative discovered that Patrick Donahue, then editor of the Pilot had remitted to Leo a draft which his family never received, and that Pigott had opened the letter, forged an endorsement on the draft and drew the money. Pigott was compelled to write. He found among his papers a letter written by him in which entire sentences appeared that were also in the forged letters. Pigott had traced these sentences carefully word for word. Then he interpolated or added other sentences or phrases completely changing the meaning of the whole letter, but preserving the integrity of portions. Dates were also changed to make the chronological interpolations applicable to illegal events. Egan also found letters by Parnell which had been similarly used. Photographs of all these and of Pigott's begging and blackmailing letters were enclosed with the originals in the package with the memoranda recalling the Parnell all the circumstances attending to writing or reception of each. This was the luggage the young clerical man fetched to Parnell.

## PARNELL'S FUTURE COURSE.

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## SALA'S STORY.

LONDON, February 27.—George Augustus Sala writes to the *Telegraph* an article, a column and a half long, describing the interview on Saturday between Pigott and Mr. Labouchere. It confirms the statement that Pigott went to Mr. Labouchere's house voluntarily to make a confession, but that, apparently owing to the gnawing of his conscience, he had great difficulty in opening up and took a full ten minutes to make up his mind. He then began in a musing tone a colloquy, but by degrees his voice rose and he became so fluent that it was rarely necessary for him to halt or to reconstruct a phrase. The copy of the confession which Mr. Lewis obtained was from beginning to end literally and verbally the composition of Pigott, who confessed he forged the Parnell letters and minutely described the manner in which they were written. Pigott said he alone executed the forgeries. "Whether he is telling the truth or another batch of lies," says Mr. Sala, "is not for me to determine, but to my mind he seemed to be confessing facts and nothing but facts. No pressure was put upon him and no leading questions were asked. He went on quietly and continuously to the end of his story. I should have thought it amazing had I not had occasion to hear many more admissions. Pigott did not appear to be overcome by shame and treated his actions more as incidental weaknesses."

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SUSPICION ATTACHED TO THE MANAGERS OF THE "TIMES"—THE JUDGES INDIGNANT.

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## CONGRATULATIONS.

ALBANY, N.Y., February 27.—In the State Senate to-day Laugblin offered the following, which was seconded by Coggeshall, and adopted:—

Whereas, the people of the Empire State of the American Republic, always desiring to cast their influence on the side of the oppressed and against the oppressor, are gratified by every event which hastens the day that is to give home rule to Ireland.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the representatives of the people of the State of New York in legislative session at our capital, extend our congratulations to Charles Stewart Parnell upon his magnificent victory and complete vindication in the investigation of the charges preferred against him by the London *Times* through a series of articles entitled "Parnellism and Crime."

Resolved, we also congratulate him and that other grand statesman and eloquent advocate of the Irish cause, the grand old man, W. E. Gladstone, upon the marked influence which the disclosures of the investigation are exercising in favor of the cause of home rule and upon the universal condemnation which is being hurled at those representing the forgeries and slanders and those despicable tools and self-proclaimed perjurers and villains, Le Caron and Pigott, as a pretext to further coerce and torture starving victims of British landlordism in Ireland and to darken the names and fair fame of the illustrious champions of that poor downtrodden land.

Resolved, That the clerks of the Senate and Assembly forward to Messrs. Parnell and Gladstone an engrossed copy of these resolutions.

## PRESS OPINIONS.

LONDON, February 27.—The *News* says: We condole with the great "Pigottist" party on the loss of its leader and the consequent difficulty of forging ahead. No more utter and hopeless collapse has occurred in the history of calumny.

The *Daily Telegraph* says: To all intents and purposes the Parnell commission may be regarded as ended to-day. We are extremely glad to say that Mr. Parnell stands free and innocent of the damning charges attributed to him, with what was so effectively compelled to call reckless and rash imputations. The *Telegraph* says the result must affect the political situation.

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We desire to endorse as appropriate every word of the foregoing statement. It is our wish, as it is our duty to do so. Moreover Mr. Parnell having in the witness box stated that the letters are forgeries, we accept in every respect the truth of that statement. In these circumstances we deem it right to express our regret most fully and sincerely at having been induced to publish the letters as Mr. Parnell's or to use them in evidence against him. This expression of regret includes also the letters falsely attributed to Mr. Egan, Mr. Davitt and Mr. O'Kelly. It is entirely fitting now to enter into the circumstances under which we resolved and published them. We are bound, however, to point out that Pigott was not the person with whom we communicated. Moreover, we must add that we firmly believed the letters were genuine until the disclosures made by Pigott on cross-examination. It must be evident to all reasonable persons that if a conspiracy existed, the *Times* was victimized by and not a party to it. Errors, of course, in judgment may have been committed, and for them the penalty must be paid. It must be clearly understood that what we have done is altogether upon our own motion and our own responsibility, and in the public interest alone. This withdrawal, of course, refers exclusively to the letters obtained from Pigott."

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In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Healy asked whether attention had been called to the fact that as far back as November Atorney-General Webster had received a statement from Pigott to the effect that he could not bear a cross-examination before the commission. (Parnellite cheers.) Having regarded this he asked did the Government retain confidence in Attorney-General Webster?

## EFFORTS TO EXTRADITE PIGOTT.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Matthews, home secretary, stated that the authorities were taking steps to secure the extradition of Pigott from Paris. Mr. Matthews also said he had no information regarding Houston which at present would justify him in preventing Houston from leaving the country. Pigott's arrest in Paris is regarded as imminent, but it is doubtful whether the French Government will regard perjury as an extraditable offence.

## HOW HE ESCAPED.

It is believed that Pigott posted his letters to Mr. Shannon at the railroad station in Paris and then proceeded for either Spain or Switzerland. It appears that Pigott obtained on Monday from Sotherby's book mart a cheque for £25 in payment for a number of rare books. Pigott had the cheque cashed at a bank at four o'clock that afternoon. The last time he was seen he was walking on Fleet street.

A despatch from Paris this evening says that Pigott is not there. An Englishman having the appearance of Pigott, who gave no name, arrived at the Hotel des Deux Mondes in Paris at 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning. After breakfasting he wrote a brief note on the hotel paper and enclosed it with other papers in an envelope upon which he wrote a London address. He left again between 8 and 9 o'clock.

## A PECULIAR ARGUMENT.

In connection with Mr. Parnell's application to the Dublin court for permission to bring suit against the *Times* for libel, that paper has instructed its solicitors to oppose the granting of a writ on the grounds that a similar action brought in the Edinburgh courts was dismissed, and that the trial would interfere with the Commission's investigations. Mr. Parnell's legal advisers will strongly resist the argument of the *Times*.

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Mr. Smith asked that due notice of the question be given if Mr. Healy's reference was to Sir Richard Webster's discharge of his duties as attorney-general.

Mr. Healy gave notice of a motion that in the opinion of the House the attorney-general had forfeited confidence. (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, resuming the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, charged the Irish executive with increasing the rigors of repression in Ireland during the recess. They were afraid to face a discussion in Parliament. Immediately after Parliament was prorogued the first step of the executive was to persecute the Irish members. In relating efforts to class them as ordinary prisoners the Parnellites had the opinion of the world on their side.

Mr. Chamberlain appealed to the Opposition to place the discussion on a broad and sound basis by informing the house fully what was its scheme to content Ireland and bring about a union of hearts and interests. (Cheers.)

## PARTY FEELING RUNNING HIGH.

In the course of the debate, T. W. Russell, a Liberal Unionist, apparently accused Mr. Dillon of paying for the defence of murderers.

"It is a foul lie," exclaimed Mr. Dillon, springing excitedly to his feet.

The chairman requested that the remark be withdrawn, and Mr. Dillon complied. Mr. Russell also disclaiming any personal reference to Mr. Dillon.

A little later a squabble between Mr. Thomas O'Hanlon, a Nationalist, and Sir Henry Havelock Allen, Liberal Unionist, compelled the Speaker to appeal to both sides of the House to set their faces against unseemly interruptions, which, he said, were unworthy the dignity of Parliament. Subsequently Mr. Healy, desailing with the imprisonment of Wm. O'Brien, accused Mr. Balfour of mis-taking the reasons for his delaying action until three months after the delivery of the speech for which Mr. O'Brien was imprisoned. Mr. Balfour protested and at the Speaker's request Mr. Healy withdrew his accusation.

## THE TIMES MUST PAY.

In the House of Commons, to-day, Mr. W. H. Smith declared that nobody on behalf of the Government had intimated that the *Times* would be recompensed by a parliamentary grant for its expenses in connection with the Parnell commission.

## NO TRACE OF PIGOTT.

Mr. Campbell telegraphed from Antwerp that he has found no trace of Pigott. A radical project to give a banquet to Mr. Parnell has been taken up with enthusiasm. Mr. Parnell has intimated his acceptance of the honor. Lord Granville and Lord Rosebery will be asked to preside.

In the event of the *Times*' counsel asking to be allowed to proceed with the enquiry, Sir Chas. Russell will press the judges to adjourn until the report on the letters has been presented to parliament. In the lobby of the House of Commons it is taken for granted that such a report will be presented which will enable the Opposition to attack the Government on the subject.

## DISCUSSION ON PIGOTT'S EXTRADITION.

PARIS, Feb. 28.—Tidal trains from England during the last twenty-four hours have been closely watched, not only by the French police, but by a score of Irish-Americans intent on warmly receiving Pigott on his arrival in France. The *Times* perjuror, however, is generally believed to have gone direct to Switzerland, giving Paris, where he is so well and so unfavorably known, a wide berth.

The *World's* representative saw Corton at a late hour to-night. He said he knew nothing as yet, but admitted having been notified by the French Foreign Office to appear no pains in capturing the forger. He said that Pigott is now in Paris, and if in France at all is in Boulogne or one of the coast towns. If Pigott is captured no difficulty about his extradition is anticipated, except that he will have to answer several charges against him here. Obtaining money under false pretences is one of them.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—It turns out after all that the two warrants issued yesterday for Pigott's arrest are mere waste paper so far as the Parnell case is concerned. Perjury is not an extraditable offence, and the kind of forgery which Pigott committed for the *Times* is not literally criminal in the same way as if he had forged a check or bill of exchange or some similar instrument. No one could profess to say that the forged Parnell-Egan letters were instruments of any value whatever excepting for purposes of political assassination, and this kind of document is not covered by the law against forgery.

But if caught in Paris, Pigott is almost sure to be arrested by the vendors of vile pictures and books whom he has defrauded, and there is means by which he can then be extradited.

In the course of his extensive career of forgery, Pigott found occasion more than once to forge his neighbours' names to instruments in a fashion which in the eye of the law brings him under its lash as a forger. This

is particularly the case in relation to a certain bill of exchange to which he forged the name of Lindsay of Glasgow. These bills were drawn by Pigott and accepted by him in the name of Lindsay, and were taken up by Pigott before they came due with the proceeds of another forged accommodation bill, which was discounted with punctuality by the Hibernian Bank in Dublin. These accommodation bills, all of which were forged, Pigott kept going for many years, and on any one of them he can be prosecuted for forgery. Application will be made for his extradition on the score of forging these bills of exchange on Lindsay, but even then he will probably never be brought before the Commission again, although he may be terrified into saying something which will bring others there.

LONDON, March 1.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* strongly urges that Messrs. Walter, Buckle, MacDonald, Soames and Houston be summoned to the bar of the House of Commons and be committed to the Clock Tower on a flagrant breach of privilege in charging that Mr. Parnell lied during the discharge of his Parliamentary duties.

The *Telegraph* to-day implies the *Times* in the interest of the Unionist cause, to abandon the whole case, and declares that all this preceding evidence is not incriminating.

LONDON, March 1.—The Parnell commission assembled this morning. The court refused to allow Mr. Houston, secretary of the Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union, to make a personal statement or to hand to the court a written document, on the ground that the time was inconsistent.

Messrs. O'Kelly, Davitt, and Campbell, Mr. Parnell's secretary, swore that they did not write the letters ascribed to them by Pigott. Justin McCarthy also testified. He denied that he had an interview with Pigott.

Mr. Lewis, solicitor for Mr. Parnell, testified that he told Pigott that the letters, not being negotiable, he could not be prosecuted for forgery, but was liable to prosecution for obtaining money under false pretences. Witness declared he had not promised Pigott a fatiguing.

Mr. Labouchere testified that he had never offered Pigott £1,000 if he would swear that the letters were forged, as sworn to by Pigott. He said that before the commission opened somebody named O'Brien had offered him a packet of letters which were said to have been written by Messrs. Egan and Parnell. He did not know O'Brien.

Mr. Soames, solicitor for the *Times*, produced the documents on which Pigott's evidence was based. He said every statement Pigott had made had been submitted to the court.

Mr. Lewis was recalled. He testified that he was convinced that Pigott was a forger before ever he saw him.

Mr. Houston announced his readiness to submit to cross-examination and to give security for his continued attendance before the commission.

Attorney-General Webster urged that Mr. Houston be immediately cross-examined, so as to enable the court to have all the facts before them.

Sir Charles Russell, on behalf of the Parnellites, applied to the court to exercise its discretion under the commission act and make an interim report on the genuineness of the letters that had been placed in evidence.

Attorney-General Webster, for the *Times*, urged that as Sir Charles had stated that there was a foul conspiracy behind Houston and Pigott, the cross-examination of Houston should be finished before the report was framed.

Sir Charles—But we have nothing to do now with anything except the genuineness of the letters which the Attorney-General says he cannot justify.

Justice Hannen—The charge of the existence of a foul conspiracy has no bearing on the point now before us. Our jurisdiction at present is limited to charges and allegations against certain persons. It is not part of our duty to deal in the report with charges against other persons. That will be decided at the next sitting.

Attorney-General Webster occupied the remainder of the day with the reading of extracts from