

would sooner have Tilden than that the Republicans should have a president who could be stigmatized as a fraud. If I were Mr. Hayes I would not have it unless it was settled in some way outside of the Senate. This matter is opposed by the leading Republicans in the House and Senate and throughout the country.'

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

President Grant invited the leading senators to dine with him that day to get their sentiment. He said to me, "You see the feeling here. I find them almost universally opposed to anything like an electoral commission." I named a leading Democrat in the House, who was, perhaps, one of the most prominent men in the country, a man of great influence and of great integrity of character, whom it would be well for General Grant to see in the matter, and the suggestion was acted on. I sent for this gentleman and put the dilemma to him in President Grant's name as follows: It is very hard for the President and very embarrassing as to men on his own side that this matter does not seem to find favor with them as well as to have Democratic opposition. Republicans think you might as well count Tilden in, but as the feeling throughout the country demands as honest a count of the thing as possible, this Electoral Commission ought to be appointed.

The answer at once was that the Democrats would favor it, and it was through that gentleman and General Grant that the matter was carried through. Grant was the originator of the plan. He sent for Mr. Conkling and said, with deep earnestness: "This matter is a serious one and the people feel it very deeply. I think this Electoral Commission ought to be appointed." Conkling answered: "Mr. President, Senator Morton (who was then the acknowledged leader of the Senate) is opposed to it and opposed to your efforts; but if you wish the Commission carried I can do it." He said: "I wish it done." Mr. Conkling took hold of the matter and put it through. The leading Democrat I have spoken of took the initiative in the House and Mr. Conkling in the Senate. General Patterson, of Philadelphia, who was an intimate friend of General Jackson and a life-long Democrat, was also sent for. He had large estates in the South and a great deal of influence with the Democrats. General Patterson then was upwards of 80, but he came down there and remained one or two weeks, working hard to accomplish the purpose in view. After the bill had passed and was waiting for signature General Grant went to the State fair in Maryland the day it should have been signed, and there was much perturbation about it.

General Grant acted in good faith throughout the whole business. It has been said that the changing of the complexion of the court