

SATURDAY, 24th April, 1880.

MICHAEL STARRS was sworn and examined:—

*By Mr. Ross:*

1359. Are you acquainted with Mr. James Cotton?—I am.
1360. Do you know Mr. Patrick Boyle?—I do.
1361. Are you aware that Mr. Patrick Boyle was tendering for the Parliamentary printing last year?—I was.
1362. Had you any conversation with Mr. Boyle about his tender at any time?—Very little.
1363. Where did you meet him, or where did he meet you?—I think it was in Ottawa.
1364. Was any other person present while you were having any conversation with him?—Well, I really don't remember.
1365. Were you and Mr. Boyle and Mr. Cotton once together during any of these conversations?—I have no doubt that we were together.
1366. Can you tell us what was said during any of these conversations?—Well, I don't remember that the printing business was spoken of.
1367. Was Mr. Charlton ever present during any one of these conversations?—No, sir.
1368. Did Mr. Cotton ever say anything to Mr. Boyle in your hearing about the withdrawal of Mr. Boyle's tender?—Not that I remember.
1369. Did you ever hear Mr. Boyle say anything to Mr. Cotton whatever?—I did not.
1370. Do you swear positively that while you were present neither Mr. Boyle nor Mr. Cotton ever said anything about this contract, or these tenders for Parliamentary printing?—Well, they might have, but I have no recollection of it.
1371. Did Mr. Cotton ever give you any money during the time these negotiations were going on?—No, sir.
1372. I notice that in the evidence you gave in Toronto you say that you were made, by Mr. Cotton, the custodian of certain cheques. Is that true?—That is true, sir.
1373. Did Mr. Cotton tell you where he got those cheques?—No.
1374. Were there notes as well as cheques?—They were all notes.
1375. Whose name was to the notes?—MacLean, Roger & Co. I think were the makers.
1376. Was there any endorsement?—I think they were endorsed by Mr. Charlton.
1377. What was done with these notes?—I would not swear positively that they were endorsed by Mr. Charlton, but I think they were.
1378. Did Mr. Cotton hand them to you?—He did, sir.
1379. What did you do with them?—I put them in the bank.
1380. Did you endorse them?—Some of them.
1381. To whose credit did you put them in the bank?—To my own.
1382. Did you ever draw any money on them?—Yes.
1383. For whom?—For Mr. Cotton and myself.
1384. What interest had you in those notes?—Not the slightest.
1385. Why did you draw the money on them?—Mr. Cotton, in giving them to me, said, "Here are these notes; I want you to deposit them in the bank to your credit." I asked him, "Why not put them there yourself? Why do you give them to me?" I don't know what reply he made. He said, "You and I are tendering for contracts, and these notes will be there for our security," or words to that effect; and he said, "Any time you want to use these notes you can do so;" and I, being a business man, and sometimes wanting accommodation, and those notes lying there, I simply used them as I required them. Had those notes not been there, I would have put in my own notes for accommodation. Consequently, those notes, to me, did not amount to a pinch of snuff; but they were there and I used them.