

graph Company's purposes. He also stated that they had already got two or three of the prominent subscribers to the bonds of the Mutual Union Telegraph Company to join them, and that these men would refuse to pay any more assessments upon what they had already subscribed for and claim back the moneys already paid thereon. He also stated that he was pursuing information as to the previous private character, matters and business of the officers of said Mutual Union Telegraph Company.

Mr. Wiman then left my office, saying he should call and see me the next day, and requested me to see what could be done. The following day Mr. Wiman called at my office and found me not in, and left upon my desk his card, and, at a subsequent hour, again called and found me in. He then showed me some unimportant papers that he had received, in answer to his correspondence in relation to the previous character and business of the officers of said Mutual Union Telegraph Company. He stated that they had caused the records of the District of Columbia to be searched for any papers concerning the Mutual Union Telegraph Company, or its general officers, and found nothing of any importance. Upon leaving, Mr. Wiman said he would call again upon the following morning. He so called, and requested me to offer to the clerk referred to as in the office of John G. Moore & Company one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) to purloin said contract, and make and deliver a copy thereof. Mr. Wiman said that he would be willing, if necessary, to pay more than that sum. He then showed to me a draft of a communication which he had written the night previous to be signed, he stated, with some possible modification, by Mr. Edwin Lord, which communication was to be sent to Mr. George W. Ballou, with whom he stated that Mr. Lord had some time previous subscribed for a large amount of bonds of said Mutual Union Telegraph Company. He also showed me an opinion signed by Brown, of the firm of Beach & Brown, attorneys, respecting subscriptions which had been made to the bonds of said Mutual Union Telegraph Company. He also, at this interview, stated that the attorneys, whom he had just seen, were preparing the papers against the Mutual Union Telegraph Company in a suit which they were getting Mr. Edwin Lord to bring for a bill of discovery to bring into court the said contract for the construction of the lines of the Mutual Union Telegraph Company, but which suit they would not, of course, file if they could possess themselves of a copy of the contract referred to. He stated to me that they had secured one of the first issue of the Mutual Union Telegraph Company, and one of the subsequent issue, and ten shares of the stock of said Mutual Union Telegraph Company, which stock they should transfer to Mr. Edwin Lord, thereby making him a stockholder, as well as a subscriber to said company's bonds, and thereby making a better showing in the coming suit against said Mutual Union Telegraph Company, to be brought in the name of said Edwin Lord. I told him I thought he would shortly be able to get from the said clerk in the office of John G. Moore & Company a copy of the said contract for the considerations before stated; that I was informed that the said clerk had possession of the keys to the safe in said Moore & Company's office on Saturdays, while the cashier of said company was ordinarily out of the city, that the clerk would have to purloin the same from the said iron safe in order to make the copy desired. Mr. Wiman acquiesced in this, and told me it was of the greatest importance to his company, and to offer the clerk more money than the amount before stated, if necessary, to get the document.

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