

William H. Holmes,
Produce Commission Merchant,
Washington Street, cor Duane.

Large Receiver of all kinds of
SOUTHERN VEGETABLES, BERRIES and FRUITS.
Handle as many POTATOES and CABBAGE as any
firm in the business.

New York, October 9, 1897. 1896.

Dear Uncle Elias,-

Day before yesterday I received a subpoena to appear to-day before U.S. Commissioner in the Southern Railroad case. I saw Capt Day several days ago and he then pretended to want to know something about a certain party attempting to purchase lands in Warren county for a certain rail-road co., but to-day I find that he was acting the part of a dastardly sneak, for while he spoke of your dis-agreement he asseverated that he had "always liked Carr" and that on account of the relations of Aunt Ell and Mrs. Day he was sorry that you made some appointment not to his liking. Now when I appeared this morning I was met by one Mr. Averitt and he asked for a talk before placing me on the stand. He said that this monster of darkness with the ill fitting name of Day had not told him the nature of the conversation that he had with me and he then vouched safe to me the salutary information that I need not answer any of his questions unless I saw fit to do so. He asked me a few questions and I, from the nature of them, saw that his purpose was to use me in an attempt to smirch your character, although disclaiming any such motive, so I, knowing that he could not "take me into camp" said, "Hold on a minute, you are asking me some very direct questions and, if you will let me know what ~~use~~ you wish to prove by me, I will be entirely frank with you". He then told me that they wished to show that Button had placed himself under obligations to certain Rail-road people by reason of certain accommodations from Norfolk banks and that by their penetration had premed-

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^d itately placed Button under obligations to them and had in this way secured Button's influence with you. He then asked me about the three last notes which the Norfolk National Bank discounted with your signature or endorsement, how much they had ever discounted of your paper at a time and if I knew anything about Button's borrowing money from the N.N. Bank. I told him that your endorsement had been good with both the Ex., N. Bank and Burruss, Son & Co., before we went to the N. N. and that it had been accepted for \$15,000 to \$20,000 by both E, S & Co., and the N.N. I did not think so much by Ex.N. He wanted to know who talked with Mr. Ramsay about the paper I told him that I did. I also told him that I knew nothing of Button's subsequent transactions. After he finished his questions I then told him that when we dealt at the N.N. Bank you had no idea, so far as I knew, of being Governor and that I had not seen you for more than five years and had had no communication with you, but that I had never heard your integrity impeached until this suit and that you are the peer of any man for sterling integrity and that I stood ready to testify to it. I then told him that I knew Button's character as well as any living man and that he cared as little for money as any man I ever saw and moreover he had a wealthy wife and there had never been any excuse for his borrowing money upon such terms as he hinted at even though he had the inclination. I told him that Button's life was higher than the sordid and that no one could have so placed him that to reciprocate their favors he wou-

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Id have had you compromise yourself and forfeit your position in life.
" If you can use me I am ready to testify. I was asked to prove my attend-
ance, paid my witness fee and excused. As I was leaving Mr Fab Busbee ask-
ed if I was the son of Mr. Jacob Parker, and then followed me out into
the corridor and remarked that it was a conspiracy and I told him the
gist of my conversation with the aforesaid Mr. Averitt side partner to
the honeyed lip orb of Day. Well it is useless to fret about the unprinci-
pled fellow or else I would ~~I would~~ write and lampoon him for his atten-
pt, by subterfuge, to elicit from me ^{information} to damage a man's character. I told
Holmes that he had an axe to grind when he called for me in the office.
In his gushing way he came in and greeted me and said as I was busy he
would like for me to meet him up town and take dinner with him as he
wanted to talk with me. Then it was that he gave me the bluff ^{about} the land. I
now recall that he casually asked about Button's building the house in
Norfolk, and about other matters that this man asked about. It is very
unfortunate to be frank for then you do not suspect those who are secre-
tive and designing and consequently are always at a disadvantage.
Thinking that this might interest you I try to give details and I am sor-
ry that I have drifted into animadversion of Day.

Yours sincerely, W.C.Y. Parker.