

Nisson, Dec. 5, 1892.

To His Excellency, H. H. Markham,
Governor of California:-

Dear Sir:-

I have given the papers in the Cochran case the careful consideration their importance demand, and I undertake to give you the desired information more as a matter of duty than of pleasure. It is not pleasant to decry the virtues of one's own townemen, which the case clearly calls for, and the facts are so astounding that I fear you will imagine that I have been influenced by either sympathy or malice, which upon my honor, is not the case. If I have any enemies among those I shall later mention, I am entirely unaware of the fact, hence there can be no malice. As I never saw ~~see~~ the imprisoned man ^{only} when he was on trial in Yreka, and then never spoke to him, I cannot have any more interest in his wellfare than a proper sense of justice demands.

You are undoubtedly familiar with the facts of the tragedy. A brother killed the slanderer of his sister, a girl whose years would make it physically impossible for her to be guilty of the charges made against her by De Freece. That fact is a strong mitigating circumstance, respected by society if not by law. As a newspaper man I thoroughly studied the case and in print expressed myself (at the time) that the killing was justifiable. I have had no cause to change that opinion.

I know nothing of the young man's previous history. His family occupies a high social position, which even the sad affair referred to does not affect.

In regard to the remonstrance: It has been signed by several who have but recently located here and cannot possibly have any knowledge of the merits or demerits of the case. There is one thing in their favor - they cannot have any personal interest in the matter.

I have been told that in one instance a signature was obtained to a remonstrance upon the representation that it was a petition for pardoning Cochran. The signer, Mr. Styles, learned differently and had his name marked

off. I notice that his name is canceled on the remonstrance, which in a measure confirms the report.

It is asked that the character of the signers of the remonstrances be given, as far as known. This is not difficult, but far from pleasant:

Ex-Constable John Sherman, one of the signers, and who discourages Executive clemency in a letter: A little over two years ago and before holding office, shot a man in Disson through the shoulder; cleared by favorable evidence. While serving as Constable robbed a drunken man, served 60 days in county jail and consequently lost his office.

J. E. McDowell: Was Sherman's deputy and was implicated to the extent of accompanying Sherman when the drunken man was robbed.

Ex-Sheriff W. R. Boyd: "Killed his man" on Dalmon river in early days when such offenses went unpunished. As a Sheriff he was an All officer. Two years ago was arrested for illegal cutting of timber, near Disson. The complaint gave the wrong number of the section and defendant thus escaped punishment.

R. E. Montgomery: Several months ago had Constable Green eject a prostitute from his home who had been occupying it with him during his wife's absence. That is what makes his allusion (in his letter) to the "lewd and vicious element" highly amusing. He gives his occupation as "Publisher & Notary". He was simply a notary at the time. Mr. Criss, who withdrew his name from the remonstrance, succeeded Mr. Montgomery in the publishing business three months ago.

Knight & Sons, "Merchants!" Not merchants since July 28, 1892, when their store was destroyed fire. Reputation as business men, good. A weakness for fast women is all. { One son married
He is a model young man

Summary:

Sherman's dethronement from office and consequent loss of deputyship to McHawell, R. E. Montgomery's defeat for Justice of Peace at two elections and Knight's defeat in the convention for the nomination of Supervisor, all assigned to the influence of Supervisor Cochran, father of Frank Cochran. This leads me to believe that it is a purely selfish motive, not to say revengeful, that prompts them to oppose the pardoning of Frank Cochran.

These people are constantly together and imagine themselves to have been deeply wronged. Their soul mission on earth seems to be to "even up" with those who have fought against placing the welfare of the community in their hands. However, with the exception of one or two, they are patrons of mine and their venom has not been directed at me.

W. J. Price (Saloon-keeper): A good, honest easy-going man.

J. R. Osgood (Saloon-keeper): Lives in open prostitution with a noted demi-monde.

J. F. Hensley: Last August alienated the affections of Mat Cramer's wife and sent her to Washington, where he later joined her. Returned to Osison a few weeks ago, followed by the woman, who is once more with her husband and children.

There are some good men who have signed the remonstrances, but men, who in my judgment, could be easily influenced, viz: A. Storkman, L. Peibush, W. W. Himes, F. H. Rostel, C. R. Harris, E. J., and G. F. Keyser, N. F., D. J. and C. F. Sul-laway, M. A. Eldy (newscomer). The others are mostly woodsmen, who may, or may not, know anything about the case. I presume it would not make the

slighted difference to them whether young Cochran was hanged or taken out of prison to fill the Presidential chair.

No matter what your action may be in this case I shall always respect it, for you seem to have gone to a great deal of trouble to get at the facts. Conscientiousness stamps every move, and your decision in the matter will be just and right. I had no idea that the pardoning system was so thorough and complete. It seems to me that it would be impossible to err where such care is exercised. While probably superfluous, I pledge myself in advance to unequivocally support you in your decision. I have that confidence in your judgment.

For business reasons only, I would prefer not to be known in this matter. Anything in this communication that you may wish verified will be done by myself and others in the form of affidavits.

I feel honored by the confidence you impose in me and am truly grateful for the kindly recommendation of my esteemed friend, Col. Chadbourne.

Yours Obediently,

R Beerst Loos

"Disson Mascot"