

Mobile Ala
April 1 1876

My dear Caldwell,

Have to thank you for Report No. 294, rec'd last evening. The committee adhere, I see, to their decision, and have provided just such a report as alone could sustain it. If the law laid down in it are fair specimens of the Virginia and Missouri bench. I do not wonder that they make so [?] a figure in the authorities. The doctrine (page 3) that the testimony of a conspirator must be corroborated by evidence coming from "uncontaminated sources" is decidedly novel, as a matter of law. The committee, however, had their corroborative evidence from "uncontaminated sources" to the operations of Squire Club, in the Registration list with its 10000 imaginary voters; in the peculiar laws of the State respecting registration & election, in the city registration of December. Naming over 1600 voters up than votes cast in November.

The application made of the rule Howard vs Cooper page 5, is also brilliantly original. That rule applies when the [evidence]

points to frauds, and does not show in what direction the frauds were.

The lex Parliamentaria of no country, England or any other, requires that bribed votes to be rejected should be directly purchased by the candidate or his agent; It is the quality of bribery that destroys the vote. So far from the English laws being more restrictive than ours, they go further, and bring with in the category votes, that were formerly technically doubtful. The real question however, is what is the Alabama law.

The committee find faults with the pleadings of the 12th specification. They say they cover the district they were meant to. What they pronounce a fault, is its merit: more or less of the district was involved by the use of troops and bacon. How much we tried to show specifically by testimony. It could not be done in pleadings. It will please Johnston, T.G. Hamilton & J. Little Smith, to learn that they have made a specification, not one of more grounds but violates good pleading.

I should like to know, what in law is meant by the phrase page 10 "original case", To what can "rebuttal" apply except to the "original case" seeing there is no other.

The committee have certainly not met the law as laid down in the brief, and manufactured a novelty in due time.

The evidence respecting our question points feebly, it is said, to existing by "nonresidents" in connection with the vote of 1869, the law in general, and the vote of 1870, it was claimed to point to "repeating".

The committee suppresses all allusion to the laws of the State, and to Executive Doc 110, which [?] of the case. They speak of Perrin absolute control as an "idle boast" but every witness, white and black, testified to the same fact. They suppress that part of Haralson's harangue in which he advocated the hanging of any one who advised a colored man to vote the Democratic ticket, which was a threat directed against whites. The committee asserts that Squire [?] in important particulars, where in fact he is born out in all, by nearly all. Perez never used the words "fraudulent votes" but "illegal votes" a wise difference, and admitted that if the plan were carried out should have polled 1500 votes. Taylor said he did not mean any institutions to vote more than once; all testified that they were not directly instructed to repeat, but shown how they could with out being caught. Taylor did not qualify by the words 250, when he said he believed "the full strength of the organization was polled." The qualification is a deliberate addition by the committee. The committee are swift witnesses for Haralson. The last specification, which of little truth deliberately added, after

going over the others, and choosing them, are completely ignored by the committee. I feel strongly tempted to go to Washington and claim my right to be heard on the floor of the House, against this report, but - I fear two things, first, that I shall not be allowed as much time as I ought to have, as happened to me in the matter of the Freedman's Bank, and secondly, that I shall say thoughts true enough, but which might embarrass out and out democratic friends like yourself and Johnston. Who have stood by me faithfully. There is no question but the Bourbon element in the democratic party prefer a rascally negro to any Southern man who was for the Union. If I live I shall have the pleasure of walking over the political graves of that crowd, and the few spades full I might - throw up - will not materially add to the depth of their resting place.

The innuendo, that the testimony respecting the club was manufactured, involves lawyers the peers in honor, of any member of that committee. It does not affect me as you well know I was in Washington during the taking of it. I leave their honor to the defense of their fellow lawyers in the Alabama delegation. If the committee do not use their parliamentary power, as the Rank Committee did against me, I should not want to be in their position when you open fire upon them. Their report disgraces their position as a tribunal, consisting of lawyers, and acting judicially.

Give my regards to Gen'l Morgan [John Tyler Morgan] who too has had a hard time before this Committee

Truly your friend
Frederick Bromberg

Hon John H. Caldwell, M.C.

rendered the item here of the House more than usually bad. The House has been in use now more than ten years.

The return of the Rev. Curter here from Paris, developed the fact that the petition to detain her here had been placed in the mail by Mr Leo Lyons with his own hands, but although it was a package weighing 21 cents in stamps, it slipped through some crack in the mail, and failed to reach me.

I sent a telegram to [?] Forney upon the matter in as much as he had already acted in the matter before. Strictly speaking I authorized Mr. Lyons to send dispatch in my name. I trust the cold snap did not affect your health, seeing that you

have been proof, so far, to the influences of the bad air.

Give my respects to Mr Pillsbury.

If you think of it, please ask Mr Mills of Texas, whether he received my answer to his lines of the 28th Fby.

My regards, also, to Gen'l Morgan [John Tyler Morgan] and compliments generally to the Ala. table.

Truly your friend
Frederick Bromberg

Hon John H. Caldwell, M.C.
Washington D.C.

Mr. J.H. Caldwell [John H. Caldwell]

Jacksonville

Ala

JACKSONVILLE ALA
APR