

MARCH 2.

The committee met.

Mr. Bradley, the witness, attended.

Question by Mr. Woodbury. Were not the extra clerks employed by Mr. Barry, while you were in the office under him, employed in necessary writing in the office?

Answer. Generally so: there might have been exceptions.

Question by Mr. Woodbury. Did not the business of the office increase so as to require additional clerks, either permanent or extra, as often as every six months?

Answer. Every year, or oftener.

Here, for want of time, it became impossible to proceed with Mr. Bradley's evidence; so his deposition was left unfinished.

The chairman offered a report to the committee, which was rejected: Yeas, Messrs. Clayton and Holmes; nays, Messrs. Grundy, Woodbury, and Hendricks.

After debate, adjourned.

21st CONGRESS.]

No. 110.

[2d SESSION.

REMONSTRANCE AGAINST CERTAIN MISSTATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT WHICH THE POSTMASTER GENERAL MADE TO THE SENATE, ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 1831, IN RELATION TO EXTRA ALLOWANCES MADE TO CONTRACTORS.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, MARCH 3, 1831.

*To the honorable the Senate of the United States: The memorial of Abraham Bradley, late Assistant Postmaster General, most respectfully represents:*

That, after his removal from office, he, as is well known to the Senate, presented to the President of the United States a letter, in which, among other things, he stated that Mr. Barry, the present Postmaster General, had made an extra allowance to a Mr. Harrell, a mail contractor, and to others, as this memorialist conceived, without warrant of law.

A copy of this letter having been called for, it was presented by this memorialist to the present select committee of the Senate on the Post Office Department.

During the last session of Congress a call was made on that Department, at the instance of one of the Senators from Ohio, for information relative to the extra allowances which had been made to mail contractors.

The response of the Department to that call was submitted to the view of this memorialist, as containing matters in which he was deeply concerned. Upon examining it, to ascertain if his recollection of Harrell's case was correct, he was immeasurably astonished to find that the extra allowance was there charged to have been made by him, acting as Postmaster General. It was evident that the document had been originally different; that an erasure had been made, and the name of this memorialist inserted. Induced by this to examine further, he found that *forty-nine* cases of extra allowance were in that document charged to have been made by him; *thirty-six* of these were similar to the case of Harrell. The original document had been mutilated, and the name of A. Bradley, acting as Postmaster General, carefully inserted.

Your memorialist called the attention of the committee to these circumstances as evidence of an attempt to impeach his testimony, and to load his official conduct with opprobrium, being public documentary proof from the books of the Department that he had squandered the public funds during the few days he had acted as Postmaster General, between the 10th of March, when Mr. McLean left the office, and the 5th of April, when Mr. Barry came into it; and that, in order to screen himself, he had charged these things upon the latter gentleman.

The committee kindly authorized a sub-committee to accompany this memorialist to the Department yesterday, the 28th instant, to ascertain whether his statements were correct.

Your memorialist confidently appeals to those gentlemen in support of the fact, that it satisfactorily appeared to them that in this case of Harrell, as well as in every other case but one, in which an erasure had been made, Mr. Barry was originally and properly charged; and that it was then asserted that these erasures had been made *by mistake*, and his name inserted *by mistake*. The gentlemen had not time to pursue this inquiry, and no examination was made into those cases originally charged to your memorialist.

In whatever manner these mutilations of the original document may have occurred, and these false amendments to it made, *by mistake* or not, the effect must be, if it go to the world, to injure, if not to destroy, a reputation upon which your memorialist, after nearly forty years of public service, must mainly rely for support.

The Senate has, as he has been informed, directed this report to be printed. If this should be done, and it should, with all its falsehood and injurious tendency be spread before the people, under the sanction of the Senate of the United States, your memorialist submits that great injustice must necessarily follow to him.

He therefore prays that such order may be taken by the Senate as will secure his rights, and especially preserve the reputation which documents published by the authority of the Senate should always possess.

And your memorialist, as in duty bound, &c.

ABRAHAM BRADLEY.

MARCH 1, 1831.