War Department,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, January 14th 1881

It appears from the records of this Office that Private William Dalton, Co. "F", 66th Regiment New York Vols was mustered October 30, 1861 and mustered into service November 4, 1861 to serve 3 years; ~~and~~ was transferred to Co. "D", 6th Regt. Vet. Res. Corps, Feby. 16, 1864, thence transferred to 1st Co. Prov. Cavy. V.R.C. (243rd Co. 1st Batt.) Sept. 1864, mustered out Nov. 4, 1864 at Washington, D.C. by expiration of term of service.

This certificate is furnished to enable the soldier, to obtain employment, and is to be used for no other purpose.

H Clark

Assistant Adjutant General.

No 8

My Husband was a native of New York - I am left perfectly penniless without a cent in the world - Perfectly destitute, without any possible means of living; Will you be so kind as to ~~[illegible]~~ favor me a poor helpless widow of a brave Soldier who died from ~~his~~ injuries received in the late war; Please kind Sir consider my destitute condition, and give me some employment as I am without bread; Please let me hear from you at as an early period as possible -

I Am Your Obedient Servant

Ellen A. Dalton

No 1110 - 7th st S. E. Washington City D.C.

Mr President

I have frequently thought that I would, and I am now impelled by a sense of duty to a faithful friend and Comrade to call your attention to his particular case, which has concerned me and our Comrades generally for the year just passed, I shall endeavor to be brief but that in order that you may know him, and of him as I do, I may be permitted just, to call your attention to your speech made in the U. S. Senate in 1886. Wherein you quoted him as authority for ~~the Charge~~ you made against the Democratic party, for the dismissal of Ex Soldiers & their widows and orphans from public employ. Comrade ~~[illegible]~~ Burns he was then ~~the~~ Dept Comdr of the Grand army

and I, no one knew better way his Senior Vice, for his faithful unselfish efforts, and great attainments in behalf of his Comrades, than I did, and he was re-elected for the year 1887. and continued to serve as faithfully as before. In August of this year, without the solicitation of any one he was offered, and accepted a temporary position under the Public Printer, during this time and in the month of September 1888, the American Party held its Convention in this City, it was well known that money was furnished by the Democratic party, leaders to have its proceedings in the interests of the Democratic party, the plan was to pass resolutions denouncing the foreign born citizen, the Catholic Church &c pass resolutions endorsing you as a known friend and advocate of American

principles, and here, Richard once again, Comrade Burke, was a delegate to that Convention, and was fully posted as to the intentions. He wisely kept his own counsel and at the proper time was enabled by reason of being Chairman of the Committee on Credentials to so effectually defeat the whole plan, that won for him the commendation of all true friends of your Candidacy. His friendship to you was so well known, that the Nat Repub Campaign Committee extended an invitation to him to take the stump. and which he agreed to do, but upon learning that he was in govt employ and on which he depended for a living for self and family. he was by the Committee excused, with thanks. On Jany 1st 1889. a ~~vacancy, by death occurred in the Patent Office,~~ and on my solicitation Comrade

Burke was appointed ~~to fill~~ Chief of the Issue & Gazette division, filling a vacancy caused by death, which position he held for three and a half months. ~~two and a half months under Mr Cleveland and one month under you~~ Commissioner of ~~Patents~~, a little over three months under Commissioner Hall, and first five days under Commissioner Mitchell, being displaced by a man who has been unintermittently in Govt employ since 1861, and who has no military or naval service. With a view of correcting a wrong done Comrade Burke frequent efforts have been made by his many friends and to secure for him some suitable position in Commandery, and to this end, such men as Genl. P. J. Burdett, Col D. S. Alexander Genl Alex Rutherford, Genl W. W. Dudley, Maj William McKinley, Maj William Warner, M. M. Parker, Hons. M. Perkins, and Peters of

Kansas, and the Hon Senator Spooner of Wis. have endorsed or asked for his appointment to some place. In Conclusion I desire to call your attention to the fact that he was the very first & solemn removal from Office, under your administration. When the facts as already stated, shows that he was battling against the dismissal of his Comrades from Govt Employ by Democrats, and for this he had your approval as a United States Senator, and now as ~~the President of the United States~~ I his friend and Comrade, I ask you to extend to him the same recognition and protection, he is so justly entitled to by you as the Chief Executive of the nation.

Dear Sir:

The question of raising money by taxation for the support of the district government, as reported from time to time by the daily papers, has without doubt brought about an interest among a large class of people who paid their tax, taking but little, if any, interest or part in proposed legislation, feeling, perhaps, that it would be useless to do so. When many real estate dealers and speculators, now, as now, presenting all sorts of schemes for the good of all the people, without doubt their number wish to see our City made beautiful, perhaps like the speculator

in anticipation of an increase of values in their little holdings. but among the people residing in this district are thousands who are struggling to pay for modest homes, by payments in monthly instalments and governed by rules of the strictest economy. This class would without a doubt welcome any safe proposition enacted into law, provided the law shall be enforced.

The argument is made that the expenditure of large sums of money for the greater Washington bill benefit the holders of realestate and therefore the proposition to lay a personal tax is unjust, as personal property

will not in any way be benefited.
This I suppose means an increase of tax rate on realestate.
But the question of a personal tax levy does not concern the class of people I have in mind. it will be small to but a few, to the many nothing. for the reason that they are not enjoying, or gratifying tastes and desires to make their little homes more attractive by the purchase of costly or unnecessary things. in fact. can not, and meet the monthly payments on the homes they are struggling to own.
The personal tax appears to be objectionable to those only who would have it to pay, or swear it off the list. They perhaps do not

want to do either, I am persuaded to ask the question, which will they do? because of a statement I found in a magazine on this question relating to the conditions of things in the City of New York.

The total assessment of personal property in New York City was $3,324,095,389, fully five sixths of which was sworn off, so that the actual amount levied upon was 350,192,612

Last Month the new assessment rolls were thrown open, and the announcement was made that the total of personal property assessed for 1902 was $3,472,780,802. Citizens are now swarming before the tax Commissioners, and the result will be that 80% of the amount will be ~~[illegible]~~ remitted, and ~~what~~ that much of what remains will be levied against the estates of Widows & orphans

Now I do not offer this as an argument against the proposed personal tax bill. but with the conditions in New York on this subject, I appeal which will the people of our city do, pay or "swear off" You have it heard said, in your Committee room - according to our daily papers that the Law officers of our city think it not worth while, or that it is too much trouble to try persons for perjury in bail cases, would the collecting of a personal tax be any less trouble?

Perhaps the gentlemen who are so desirous of seeing our city so much more beautiful than it now is, and are opposed to the personal tax bill, would favor the taxation of all Church property in the District as also oppose the

Are you could suggest something.
but you are not here, I was about
to say, perhaps you were present in
spirit. but then I thought, suppose
I should see that spirit. (gost)
Oh lordie.

Mrs Hall's Son
for Employment

M. EMMET URELL, *S. V. Dept. Commander.*
DR. FLORENCE DONOHUE, *Medical Director.*
A. J. GUNNING, *Ass't Quartermaster General.*
LUTHER R. SMITH, *Judge Advocate.*

JEROME B. BURKE, Department Commander,
1751 PENNA. AVE. N.W.
S. E. FAUNCE, Ass't Adjt. General,
225 INDIANA AVE.

JOS. H. JOCHUM, *J. V. Dep't Commander.*
REV. BENJ. SWALLOW, *Dep't Chaplain.*
D. B. GALLATIN, *Dep't Inspector.*
JOHN P. CHURCH, *Chief Mustering Officer.*

HEADQUARTERS
Department of the Potomac,
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Washington, D.C., , 188

F. A. Chaffee. Son and only support of the family of Ex Union Soldier. (Burdey)

Mrs Kate Howard, Widow, Soldier, discharged from Folding room. Soldier Served 3 years in my Regt 1st Md

L. C. Griffin, (Compositor) Served in the Ohio V. Infty, for two years. discharged by reason of disabilities endorsed by the leading men of his state is now and always has been a man of highest character and qualifications.

H. E. Young - (Compositor)

The Son of deceased Soldier" this case should receive special attention. Father and Mother both dead and this boy has taken care of two Sisters & younger Bro ever since.

706. 10th St. N.W., W.D.C.

My dear Sir:

Please make in your copy the changes indicated by the enclosed revision of the draft of my proposition for according the statutory preference in appointment to soldiers found so entitled.

The changes are not material, but they give a better expression to the proposition.

I shall remain in the city about two weeks longer, engaged in some historical researches which were interrupted by going into office. If a place congenial to my tastes is offered to me here, I shall accept. If not I expect to resume the practice of law at Charlotte,

North Carolina.

Yours truly
R. D. Johnson

Maj. J. B. Burke,
1751 Penn. Ave.,
W. D. C.

Please return the enclosure to me at the above address. It will be better to see me before making any public use of the typewritten paper. An injudicious use of it might injure the cause, and create prejudice against myself.

Government Printing Office,

BRANCH OFFICE, TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., ..., 188 .

Hon. H. E. Benedict.

Public Printer.

Sir:

One year ago, by the consent of the Sec. of the Treas, this office was removed from the sub-basement to the fourth story of the Treasury building, and the health of the employés has been improved, while the out put of work has been immensely increased through additions to the material and the advantages of good light; ~~But~~ and by this change we have been enabled to do more of the Treasury printing proper, and have thus facilitated the transaction of the business of the Department. But, while this has been done, we have been greatly inconvenienced by the want of additional floor space. I would respectfully suggest that an effort be made to secure the room adjoining where we are ~~now~~ located, and now occupied by the

Government Printing Office,

BRANCH OFFICE, TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C., ..., 188 .

Treasury book bindery. The room is provided with necessary shafting, which would be useful to us, and which is not used in book binding. By securing this room we could remove the ruling machines and paper-cutter ~~to it~~ into it, and also store our paper ~~too~~, which we ~~have to~~ keep in stock in large quantities, and thus secure much needed space in the ~~[illegible]~~ press and composing room.

Very respectfully,

~~Geo~~

~~Asst~~ In chg. Treasury Branch.

Copy of Letter
to President by
G.A.R
in interest of
J B Burke

Washington, D.C. Oct. 16, 1885.

The President:

Your petitioners, members of the Grand Army of the Republic of this Department, respectfully solicit the appointment of Jerome B. Burke, now Senior Vice Commander of the Department, to the position of Register of Wills of the District of Columbia.

The grounds on which we make this petition are -

1. That Comrade Burke is a good business man, in every respect worthy of the appointment, and capable of performing the duties of the office creditably and satisfactorily.

2. That he is not only a good citizen of this District, of high character, but also an excellent representative of the Grand Army of the Republic: having served three years and three months during the war, without a single day's absence from his post of duty, and having been, as a member of the Grand Army, unusually generous, active, and devoted to works of charity for several years past.

3. That we deem it eminently proper, and consistent with the good sentiments of the people of this District, that the ex-soldiers and sailors of this department have such public recognition as the appointment of Comrade Burke to this position, as their representative, would fittingly give them.

Most respectfully,

1751 Penna Ave
Washgt DC
Nov 12th 1885

Hon D Manning
Secty Treasury

Sir

I regret to trouble you but it is my high official duty as a representative of a great and noble organization to spare no proper pains to see that, so far as I am responsible full justice under the law is done the preservers of the Nation, and that the solemn injunction to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan is carried out.

I beg to thank you for your patient hearing, the uniform consideration and kindness whenever I have called on you in behalf of my comrades seeking employment and the restoration to their former places from which they have been dismissed. The appointments you have made for us I am thankful for and is appreciated by the Grand Army, but what I have to complain of is to wit the arbitrary dismissal of competent faithful, efficient soldiers like Mr Holmes from the Watch. Force Mr Park

I design to call your attention to at this time

from a $1400.- Clerkship in your Office. In Mr Park's Case you referred me to Mr Snyder Chief of Division I learned from that Gentleman that Mr Park was in his opinion ~~was~~ very much of a Gentleman and an efficient Clerk and the only cause of dismissal was to reduce the force And when I called his attention to Sect 3 Chapt 287 Laws of 1876 and asked for his retention under the law he replied that it was not for him but his Superior to interpret the law I then in a recent letter to you reported the facts and asked for his restoration under the law to this as well as all other communications to you I have had no reply nor has one single recommendation by me as Chairman of Our Committee been favorably acted upon, that I am aware of. You ordered Mr Higgins in my presence to restore Mr Holmes to the Watch force I think about August 5th this order has been disregarded and Mr Holmes is a badly crippled but efficient Worthy Ex-Union Soldier that might of right been retained under a Democratic Administration. And I now renew my request in his Case that he be restored

your action in these two cases particularly is more of a surprise to me than disappointment your remarks so favorable to worthy Union soldiers and the widows and orphans. and I may add so honorable to yourself as a high public officer leads me to believe that you have in some way been deceived in the matter of dismissals as well as the recommendations for reinstatement I can understand why it is almost an impossibility for you to remember all these things as they ~~that~~ pass from your memory in the current of duties with which you are constantly surrounded.

Without referring to ~~a number of~~ other cases ~~before you~~ in which I have asked you to take favorable action looking to their restoration ~~as well as new appointments~~ believing that you would be willing simplify the sound rule on which the President stands so conspicuously and honorably with most of our public men of all parties. that with respect to the minor offices in the public service. having nothing to do with the shifting governmental principals or policies

of changing administrations. Those who by personal merit worthily hold and faithfully perform the duties of these ~~little~~ places. When without offence they get a living by their labor shall not be subject to arbitrary dismissal

In these three cases you are informed that you can have abundant assurances of the fitness and worthiness from all who know them. If it is possible to procure their restoration ~~in any way~~ and relieve them in their extremity no doubt you will be glad to do so

Sirs

A careful reading of the Third Annual Report of the U. S. Civil Service Commission covering the period from January 16. 1883 to January 16. 1884, has impressed me strongly with the admirable character, in general, of the views ~~and conclusions~~ of the Commissioners. However carefully and conscientiously a subject matter of this kind may be examined, there is a liability, after all, that errors will occur in conclusions, through the multiplicity of points to be kept in view. To one or two such errors of conclusion, in your report, as they appear to me, I respectfully beg leave to call your attention, and to invite your reconsideration of the points in question.

Under the head of "Competitive examinations," you conclude that the persons mentioned in Section 1754 Revised statutes, to be preferred for appointments, are equally subject, with all other classes of applicants, to a competitive examination and all the conditions of the rules relating thereto, as established by the President and the Civil Service Commission. To this conclusion, and indeed to the whole argument upon which it is based, I make objection. It is true the Civil Service act provides a competition or a merit system, but this is only in general. So far as its general application is concerned, ~~and~~ ~~applies~~ to applicants for appointment, no issue can be taken with your conclusions. But every lawyer will hold that in the case of a general statute with an expressed specific exception, the exception must be

particularly observed. This, in accordance with the old maxim that where the law undertakes to be specific, it says all that it means, and means all that it says.

Section 1754 provides that,

"~~Sec. 1754.~~—Persons honorably discharged from the Military or Naval Service, by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty, SHALL be preferred for appointments to civil offices, provided they are found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such offices."

This enactment ~~Section 1754~~, has, in effect, divided the citizens of the United States into two classes, with respect to qualifications for appointment to civil offices = 1st Honorably discharged soldiers and sailors; and, 2d, All other citizens, in general. The first class is to have preference. The civil service act, by a special exception to its general provisions, recognizes the above classification and ~~exception~~ emphasizes the provision for the preference of the 1st class. The persons mentioned in Section 1754,

~~to preference.~~ They are, by designation, set apart from all the other people of the United States as a preferred class. There is no qualification of the terms of preference except that the applicants shall be "found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such offices". Of course, under any ~~system~~ plan of ascertainment as to "business capacity", some sort of an examination of the applicant is necessary. The President and Civil Service Commission, have the right, under the Civil Service act, to prescribe the methods of ascertaining the fo-

plicants "business capacity"; and they have adopted such a method. They have said that a standard of excellence of 65 in a ~~scale~~ scale of 100, sufficiently proves the necessary business capacity of the applicant for an appointment. It is sufficient, under section 1754, to entitle the discharged soldier or sailor to his right of preference, if he has passed an examination showing an excellence equal to the minimum. The law does not require him to show any higher degree of ~~exp~~ excellence or capacity. He is not required, under that statute to show a degree of capacity equal, ~~to~~, or superior to, that of any other person. He is not required to put himself in competition with any other person. If he has shown the "business capacity" which the President and Civil

service Commission have prescribed, in general, for all applicants, then he must be preferred for appointment. The statute leaves no room for any other qualification or requirement.

The civil service act, section 7, ~~provides that "nothing has~~ provides for a Commission, ~~and~~ for a competitive system of examinations, and gives the President and the Commission the authority to make rules under the act, &c &c; but it makes this specific exception, limiting their powers: "But nothing herein contained shall be construed to take from those honorably discharged from the military or naval service any preference conferred by the seventeen hundred and fifty-fourth section of the Revised Statutes". The President's authority (another exception) is limited to a consistency with the civil service act, including the above exception in favor of discharged

soldiers and sailors. With these exceptions in view, it must be held that, whatever powers are given the President and Civil Service Commission by the Civil Service act, such powers are limited by the terms of ~~the~~ Section 1754, and must be exercised in strict consonance with that enactment. The President and Commission, must, therefore, make all rules and regulations so as to be in accordance with section 1754, and not in any manner or degree so as to annul or abridge the preference given by it to discharged soldiers and sailors. They cannot do by indirection what they they are constrained from doing by direction. The correct conclusion, construing the two acts together, is that the persons mentioned in section 1754 cannot properly be subjected to a competitive

examination; and that whenever any one of them has passed an examination, of excellence equal to 65 in a scale of 100, he has answered the requirements of the law, and must be preferred to all persons of the 2d class, mentioned, for appointment.

You have substantially admitted the force of this position. You have ruled that the age qualification as prescribed in the civil service rules for persons in general, cannot be required of the class mentioned in section 1754. Why? Because such a qualification is not ~~required~~ mentioned in the law. By parity of reasoning you cannot apply any one of the arbitrary requirements of the civil service rules, as to qualifications of applicants of the 1st class. If the soldier

or sailor, mentioned in section 1754, has shown his sufficient business capacity, he cannot be abridged of his right to preference by any rule of the civil service commission, not strictly consistent with that section — such as age, relative excellence under competition, or proportionate apportionment among the states and territories. These qualifications are all set aside by the exception contained in section 7 of the civil service act. The rule is narrowed down to the provisions of section 1754.

The law in relation to preference for appointments to office, by necessity of both logic and legal implication, must also apply to certifications of ~~eligible~~ eligible candidates, by the Civil Service Commission; for the lesser power cannot be permitted to control or defeat the greater. I look upon it as unquestionable that the exception ~~of~~ in section 7 of the civil service act, puts out of view, every

qualification and requirement of the civil ~~service~~ Service Act, in regard to the soldiers and sailors mentioned in section 1754, except such as are prescribed in the last named section. Beyond the requirements of section 1754, they are absolutely ~~exempt~~ excepted from the operation of the Civil Service Act or any of the rules under it. It follows then that if you have persons of that class upon your lists of eligibles, you must give them preference in certifications for appointment, without regard to age, sex, relative standing as ~~of~~ compared with persons of class 2, or apportionment among the states and territories according to population. They have been made an excepted class to be preferred over any other class, with only the conditions entitled in sections 1754 R.S. and section 7. Civil Service Act, and not to be defeated by any invention or device otherwise provided.

Capt.
Lieut. Francisco
325
Bridge Dept. Tacoma

The National Veterans' Rights Union.

Officers General Committee.
W. S. ODELL, CHAIRMAN,
Le Droit Building.
B. F. HAWKES, TREASURER,
No. 611 G St. S.W.
JOHN McELROY, SECRETARY,
National Tribune,
1405 G St. N.W.

The object of this Union is, under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic, to secure to those who served in the Army and Navy of the United States in the late war the rights and privileges guaranteed to them by law, and to encourage honor and purity in public affairs.

Executive Committee.
J. B. BURKE, CHAIRMAN,
1751 Penn. Ave. N.W.
J. F. VINAL, SECRETARY,
1009 F St. N.W.
CHAS. KING,
CHAS. P. LINCOLN,
GREEN B. RAUM.

Washington, D. C. Aug 31 1886.

Sir:

In the matter of Miss Jenny Von Pagan, recently dismissed from the office of the Architect, Treasury Department, we respectfully represent that, prior to the resignation of Assistant Secretary Smith, he had promised to reinstate her. After some delay, and when we had reason to believe that she was about to be reinstated, we learned that some charges had been lodged against her, affecting not only her official but private character, that these charges came through the hands of Mr. Bell, Architect. Prior to this time, the assistant Secretary had assured us that there were no charges against Miss Von Pagan. The whole matter being referred to Assistant Secretary Thompson, about the time of our absence in California, he proceeded to decide the application for reinstatement, adversely, without having before him any defense or explanation from Miss Von Pagan.

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Washington, D. C. ..... 1886.

Since our return from California, we have called upon Assistant Secretary Thompson in Miss Von Tagan's behalf, receiving for answer that he had decided the matter and did not care to now reopen it.

It has been, to some extent, bruited about by persons, as we believe, connected with the Treasury Department, that these charges are of a nature to seriously attack the character and social standing of Miss Von Tagan; and her application having been passed upon without an opportunity being afforded her to defend and vindicate her character, we deem it but an act of simple justice to her, to ask that we be permitted to see and examine the said charges, to the end that Miss Von Tagan, as well as we, may know precisely with what she is charged and thus be enabled to defend against them. No person, Mr. Secretary can defend against a stab in the dark. These charges have been filed secretly, and

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Washington, D. C. 1886.

have been acted upon, ex parte. We think it due to ourselves as well as to the victim of these charges, that they be shown to us, and that Miss Von Tagan be permitted to have her defence, whether there is, or is not, any chance of her reinstatement, as a result. We respectfully make this appeal to you believing that your sense of justice will not only perceive the propriety of the request but impel you to accede to it.

Very respectfully

Hon. C. S. Fairchild
Acting Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D. C.

The National Veterans' Rights Union.

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GREEN B. RAUM.

Washington, D. C. Sept 30 1886.

Sir:

In the case of Miss Virginia Von Tagen, late of the Supervising Architect's office, we respectfully represent that she was dismissed from her office last June, without explanation of the reason therefor. She is the sister of three brothers who gave their services to our country during the war of the Rebellion, one of whom is now dead, and another is suffering with permanently broken health, as the results of that service. She is, therefore, legitimately a ward of the Grand Army of the Republic — entitled to its aid and protection. As the accredited head of the Grand Army of the Republic in the Department of the Potomac, I called upon Assistant Secretary Smith very soon after Miss Von Tagen's dismissal, to ask for her reinstatement. Mr Smith then, and repeatedly afterward, informed me that no charges had been filed against her, and, after several conferences, he promised both me and Miss Von Tagen that she should be reinstated. About the time when we had reason daily to expect her re-

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The National Veterans' Rights Union.

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Washington, D. C. ..... 1886.

installement, Mr. Smith resigned his office, and shortly afterward we learned that some charges had been, through Mr. Bell, Supervising Architect, sent to you. So far as we could then learn those charges contained nothing affecting the reputation or moral or social standing of Miss Von Tagen; and we believed that a plain statement of facts in the premises would be amply sufficient to meet and overcome them. Proceeding in this direction, we were surprised, soon after the accession of Gov. Thompson to the assistant Secretaryship, to learn that charges of a scandalous and injurious nature had been also filed against Miss Von Tagen, by parties unknown, outside of the Treasury Department. Some of these were said to be such as, if true, would prove Miss Von Tagen to be an unfit person to hold a position in the public service. We asked to have these charges exhibited to us in order that the accused, ~~knowing~~ being informed of their nature and the source whence they had come, might be able to defend and

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The National Veterans' Rights Union.

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Washington, D. C. ..... 1886.

vindicate her character. It was clear that she could not defend against a stab in the dark, and we could gain only the vague information that charges had been filed and that they were damaging to her. Miss Von Jagen could not let the matter drop under such a state of things, and we cannot consent to do so till every possible effort has been made to right what we believe to be a gross outrage.

So far as we can learn, those who best know Miss Von Jagen, do not give credence to any statement, whether upon rumor or direct charge, unfavorable to her reputation; but among persons who know her less intimately, the bare fact that charges are filed against her (though filed and held under the ban of secrecy) must naturally tend to do her harm. It seems to us that the simplest idea of justice should suggest that, when even the humblest individual is attacked, viciously, from the cover of a cowardly ambush, every man's hand should be raised instantly,

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The National Veterans' Rights Union.

Officers General Committee.
W. S. ODELL, CHAIRMAN, Le Droit Building.
B. F. HAWKES, TREASURER, No. 611 G St. S.W.
JOHN McELROY, SECRETARY, *National Tribune*, 1405 G St. N.W.

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J. F. VINAL, SECRETARY, 1009 F St. N.W.
CHAS. KING,
CHAS. P. LINCOLN,
GREEN B. RAUM.

Washington, D. C. ..... 1886.

as by a common instinct, to stay the blow of the assassin. Particularly ought this to be so when the intended victim is a woman who, in the nature of things, cannot have much of value left, when despoiled of her good name. We cannot fail to believe that you will heartily join us in this sentiment, and that you will not dismiss this matter as settled till Miss von Tagen shall have had the fullest opportunity to vindicate her character. And as the first step to that end we respectfully but firmly request that you will exhibit to us all the charges now on file, against her — and this without regard to any ulterior intention you may have relating to her reinstatement in office.

Very respectfully

Hon. Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D. C.

Letter relating to
Dillon

To the Editor:

I notice in your issue of the of August, 1886, an extender notice of M. A. Dillon, of this City, who recently organized an order, styled by him, the "Union Veteran Union".

Believing that you agree with me in the opinion that the Grand Army of the Republic is big, broad, and grand enough to embrace under its Banner, every ex-union soldier in the land, I enclose you a copy of General order No. C.5. of this Department, which will explain quite fully to your readers the reasons which humpted Comrade Dillon to try to inaugurate a new order of ex-union soldiers. It is due to those who may be blindly led into this new order, to know that its originator and leader has been suspended from membership in the G.A.R. for two years, by the Commander of a

General Court Martial, for offences, which to say the very least, fully merited the punishment inflicted by the sentence.

It may be proper to state that the membership of the G.A.R. in this department is in the main made up of the best material. The exceptions are perhaps, mainly due to the fact that Comrade Dillon was a Post commander for two or three years, and being anxious to have the largest Post in the department, he gladly accepted the application of any one, even though he had never "smelt powder."

The following is the General order referred to:-

Mr. W. Tilghman
Fireman
Poor Man
Wife and five Chil
3 years Service

Mary - Nat Corps

Mrs O. B. Ficklin.
Widow of Hon
O. B. Ficklin, Ded.
late of Charleston
Ills.
Daughter of
~~Gen~~ & Senator
Colquitt of Ga.
Niece
sister of
Senator A. H. Colquitt
of Ga

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It is due to those who may be blindly led into this new order, to know that its originator and leader has been suspended from membership in the Grand Army for two years, by the sentence of a General Court Martial for offences which to say the least fully merited the punishment inflicted by the sentence. It may be proper

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Washington, D. C. ..... 1886.

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Washington, D. C. 1886.

Particularly ought this to be so when the intended victim is a woman. Who, in the nature of things, cannot have much of value left, when deprived of her good name. We cannot fail to believe that you will heartily join us in this sentiment, and that you will heartily

Washington, D.C.,
Sept. 18, 1886.

Dear Burke:

I take great pleasure in recommending to your favorable consideration the case of Mrs S. Bryan, widow of our late Conrad Jno. T. Bryan. She has four children dependent on her for support, and education, and that she may the better be enabled to care for them, she desires to procure employment for the eldest, her only daughter, Lydia.

I do not hesitate to say that this is a very worthy case, and trusting that you may be able to procure the desired employment, I am,

Respectfully,
W. A. Proctor.
1518-9-N.W.

J. B. Burke,
Comd. of the G. A. R., for the D. C.

(Copy.)

U. S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,

Washington, D. C., September 14th, 1886.

To

The Civil Service Commission:

In parting with the Commission I desire to submit in writing a proposition which I have heretofore informally discussed with one or two of your number. It is this: That when there are on the eligible registers the names of ex-soldiers with an established claim for preference in appointment as provided in section 1754, Revised Statutes, such names shall be certified to the first vacancies occurring after the registration of their names and covered by the examinations taken respectively; and, as long as they may remain upon the registers, be given the preference over all competitors for the same grades. This would, of course, result in putting and keeping some States temporarily in advance of their respective shares in the apportionment, but certainly not more so than the practice of certifying the four highest from the special and supplementary registers, nor applicants of <u>specified</u> proficiency from the general registers, in advance of the turns due to the States concerned. In this case the letter and the intent of the law coming in conflict, the intent is allowed by the Commission to prevail.

But in support of my proposition, I respectfully submit there are both the letter and the intent of the law, as will appear from reading sections 1753, (which the President cites in the Preamble to the Civil Service Rules), and 1754, Revised Statutes, in connection with the Civil Service Act. Neither of The two sections ~~are not~~ is annulled

by the passage of the Civil Service Act, and certainly in distributing to the several States their shares of the first thousand classified departmental appointments there is better reason that a State should be the first to get its full quota through the selection of a number of preferred soldiers than through selections from supplementary registers which often show a good supply of applicants found eligible.

Take the case of Morris Keim; Although allowed to remain upon the Limited Register of his State for one year, nine months, and ten days, and notified that his claim of preference was admitted, he was not allowed a single certification.

When an applicant takes a supplementary examination, it may be worth something to him, although his State may not for some time be entitled to an appointment; but here is a soldier who has received no benefit whatever from his examination, although scores of appointments, in the meantime, have been made to positions covered by his examination.

I respectfully submit that these things ought not so to be.

Again, I quote clause 1 of Rule XVI in favor of my proposition - "___four names for the vacancies specified to be taken from those graded highest on the proper register of those in his branch of the service and remaining eligible, regard being had to any right of preference, and to the apportionment of appointments to States and Territories."

The President's order, thus given, is just as binding to observe the preference, as to observe the apportionment.

If it be necessary to temporarily disturb the apportionment that applicants of the highest standing on certain registers may be certified before those of inferior standing, there is a greater

necessity to shake the balance, as provided by law and the rule, to make good an established preference, and allow the scale to be rightly adjusted as subsequent appointments are distributed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. D. Graham

Secretary.

U. S. Civil Service Commission,

Washington, D. C., Sept. 14, 1886.

My dear Sir:

My last act in office is to file for the consideration of the Commission a paper, of which the within is a copy, setting forth my views as to the status of preferred soldiers for certification. You will see that I maintain that no new rule is needed to give them the practical benefit of preference to all places for which they may be found eligible.

Just now it would probably do more harm than good to publish the Klein case, and my object is not to bring charges against any one but to suggest a remedy which

will be found both lawful and effectual.

Action ought to be taken on my proposition upon the return of the two absent Commissioners next week, and I trust it will not require further argument to carry a point which seems to me so eminently just. If so, I shall have to turn the case over to you with my best wishes for your success.

Very truly and respectfully
R. S. Graham
Secretary.

Major J. B. Burke,
V.R.U., G.A.R.,
W. D. C.

Washington, D.C. Sept. 20/86

Hon. Civil Service Commission,

Gentlemen:

You have recently appointed to the position of messenger to your own body a man by the name of John Halloran, or John Haloran, of this city, as I can hardly believe that you would have appointed him had you known who and what he is I deem it but proper to lay before you the following facts that may be verified by inquiry at the various departments, etc.

The following statement was made by himself in support of a claim that has pending before Congress:-

" Haloran: I came to Washington in the "U.S.S. Dawn in the latter part of 1861, was "arrested by the marines and taken from the "ship and locked up in the prison in the "yard.

" About this time Commander Chandler "was put upon trial by Court Martial and "Commander Mc. Cleary succeeded him inter-"vening that period I was arrested.

" After the ship had left, the Commander of "the yard, Commodore Dahlgren, let me out "on sick leave, that I might put my horses "to work, whereupon my horses were taken from

"me and I was arrested by Baker's guard
"and when I was discharged by him I un-
"dertook to get my horses back, etc., I got
"into a fight and was arrested by the
"Civil Authorities and put under bail; when
"Sheets arrested me and compelled me
"to put in a substitute. Then I reported
"back to the yard and was ordered to find
"my ship - She was not there, and I was
"refused admittance at the yard, ordered
"to look up my ship; I then went to New
"York to find my ship, when I returned
"from N. Y. was again arrested by Sheets
"who threatened to prefer charges against
"me.

"I was kept in confinement for a couple of
"of months and I was released and later
"again arrested."

A careful reading of this statement, the original of which is in the files of the Committee of Claims of the House of Representatives, it will be seen that this man was not a soldier nor in fact in the Navy during the war, that he was a deserter, and is a terrible liar.

That John Halloran deserted from the U.S.S. Dawn in October 1861, and the following entry appears in the of the 3d Auditor:-

"Deserted, 10, on C.C. Adam's rolls D of
"Dawn to Oct. 28th, 1861, as ord. sea with
"$53.01 due and deserted."

And there seems to be no record of his again entering the service in any form during the war.

On March 17th, 1883, said Halloran made an unsuccessful attempt to have the charge of desertion removed by the Navy department, and by the letter of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy, of which the following is a copy it will appear that he is still reported a deserter:-

"Navy Department, Office of the Judge Advocate
"General, Washington, D.C., February 6th, 1884.
"Sir: In reply to your letter of the 22d ultimo,
"you are informed that it appears from
"the records on file in the Bureau of
"Equipment and Recruiting, that you
"enlisted in the Navy on the 27th of
"April, 1861, at New York, and served on
"board the U.S.S. Dawn until the 28th of
"October of that year, when you were re-
"ported as having deserted from that vessel.
"By the act of desertion, the pay that
"may have been due you at the time
"was forfeited to the United States.
"By direction of the Secretary of the Navy

"Very respectfully — Wm. P. Reamey, — Judge
"Advocate General.
"To Mr. John Halloran, &c., Washington D.C."

After deserting from the U.S.S. Dawn in 1861, said Halloran went to Hacking in the city of Washington, and after a time his horses were impressed into the service, the same as the horses of other people, and when he made himself known he was arrested as a deserter, and it was understood that he had Jumped the Bounty, and was arrested but somehow escaped. He was however paid for his horses while the war was going on and later was paid for something else. Holleran was a Drinker and fighter in broils and was arrested frequently in consequence thereof.

Halloran I understand claims to have enlisted in the army and furnished a substitute, if that was so there ought to be some record of those facts, but I feel warranted in saying that there is no such record.

This man is an ignorant man can neither read nor write, has a son already in the employ of the Civil Service Commission, is an untruthful

man, has the very worst character of War records and has a bad character and he can get a place while men who served during the war, made a good record, can read and write and has always borne a good reputation can get nothing. Is that because such soldiers have no sons to assist them?

Very respectfully
Your fellow citizen
(Sgd) Hugh Hastings.
205 Pom av nw

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CHAS. KING,
CHAS. P. LINCOLN,
GREEN B. RAUM.

Washington, D. C. Oct 8th 1886.

Hon C. S. Fairchild
Asst & Acting
Secy Treasury

Sir

You will pardon this another attempt to protect the good name of Miss Van Tagen as well as the endorsement of the Grand Army of the Republic. My two letters to you in this case have been by you referred to Asst Secy. Thompson without instruction. And in the absence of specific orders he refuses to act for the reason that action was taken in this case before he came into office and by his superior in office.

Evil speaking, from the innuendo to perjury, is a violation of the ninth article of the decalogue. Petty scandal, practised more or less by almost every one, often produces more mischief than a false oath. The sly whisper, the uncharitable inference, gather importance and magnitude, as they pass from one to another, until they become dreadful realities in the public mind.

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Washington, D. C. 1886.

Many a fair character has been ruined, that would have outrode the storm of open and violent slander. To trace calumny back to the small fountain of petty scandal, is often impossible. But a stain, deep and damning, has been stamped on the fair fame of an innocent victim, by, (to us) ~~an~~ unknown hands; perhaps by those who had no ill-will, or desire to do wrong in any case, but from mere impulse joined in the crowd and have been involuntarily drawn into the vortex of petty scandal, and have become instrumental agents of injustice without a desire to injure, or wound a fellow being. Let us have the charges Mr. Secty, and an opportunity to refute them

300 D street, N.E.,
Washington, D.C.,
Oct. 12, 1886.

Comrade Burke — I would suggest, if you can find any officer of the Government willing to make the request, and who has a right so to do, that the Attorney General be called upon to give his opinion as to the scope, effect, and obligation of the provision of law referring to the reduction of force in the Executive Departments (section 3, chap. 287, laws of 1876).

It is believed that Mr. Garland would be glad of an opportunity to place the administration squarely on record in favor of a liberal interpretation of this law; and if he should do this there would be left no excuse for the continuing ~~overall~~ violation of the statute. Possibly a conference with Secretary Lamar would secure such an opinion, as he seems favorable to us.

Think over this.

Sid. M. Davis.

Copy letter to
Public Printer
Benedict

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Washington, D. C. Oct 12 1886.

Sir

In regard to the reinstatement of employes of your office recently discharged, we understand you to have declared that you will not reinstate such soldiers of the late war of the Rebellion, as now receive pensions. If this be your decision in regard to such persons, we beg, respectfully, to call your attention to the fact that those soldiers who were discharged the service on account of wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty, are the very persons who are preferred for public employment by section 1754, Revised statutes, and section 3, chapter 287 laws of 1876, and they are, in the nature of things, the very persons for whom, primarily, the pension laws were enacted, and who are now, as a general rule, the very persons who are drawing pensions. The statutes above mentioned contain nothing indicating that Congress intended to discriminate, in bestowing the preference therein provided, between soldiers pensioned and soldiers

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not pensioned. Nor does Sec 3, chapter 287 laws of 1876, discriminate between soldiers pensionable and soldiers not pensionable. The law plainly means what it says, to wit: that soldiers discharged for wounds or sickness shall be preferred for appointments, and that in making reductions of force, honorably discharged soldiers (without regard to cause of discharge) shall be retained, if equally qualified, &c. There is nothing in either of these statutes which gives an officer of the United States, the right to discriminate for or against a discharged soldier on account of his being pensioned or not pensioned - when making appointments or reductions of force. We respectfully submit that the question of pension or no pension, cannot lawfully be raised in the consideration of appointments and discharges, any more than could the question of politics, or religious faith, or color. The statute has not admitted any fact of this kind to constitute an exception

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Washington, D. C. ..... *1886.*

to its own well defined and inflexible rule.

We beg to suggest to you that the sections of the statute referred to were enacted subsequent to the enactment of the pension laws — with pensioned soldiers and pensionable soldiers in full view. These pensioned and pensionable soldiers were the very men to whom were given the benefactions mentioned in section 1754 and sect 3, chapter 287 of laws of 1876 — over and above & in addition to — the benefactions of the pension laws. The fact of being so disabled as to entitle these men to pension, and the fact that many of them were already pensioners, were fully before the minds of the legislators when these sections were enacted, and were the moving causes thereto. It was the gift of the american people, in gratitude to these men for their services and sacrifices in the war of the Rebellion.

You will pardon us for the suggestion

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Washington, D. C. ..... 1886.

that, if you have resolved to apply the rule that you will not reinstate, or protect, in office, those ex-soldiers of the War of the Rebellion who are in the receipt of pensions - for the reason that they are drawing pensions - you are practically nullifying the law, made on purpose to protect this class of men. We must express our disinclination to believe that you intend to ignore, or hinder the operation of, a law whose meaning is so incapable of misconstruction as the sections cited, and our hope that our information as to your proposed action in reference to pensioned soldiers, is not founded in fact.

Hoping to receive your early assurance of an intention to observe strictly the statutes cited, in their evident meaning, we remain,

Very respectfully
Your Obedient Servts.

Thos. E. Benedict
Public Printer -

The National Veterans' Rights Union.

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Washington, D. C. Nov 1st 1886.

Hon Thos E Benedict
Pub Printer

Sir In view of the fact that it has been represented to me that the whole of the force in the binding branch of your office is needed to advance the work so far behind — permit me to call your attention to two Volunteer Soldiers who were recently discharged from the binding and ask for their reinstatement. Namely Ephram Nash 9th New York Artillery Bookbinder and Arthur Summers laborer or messenger

I take this opportunity in the name of my comrades to thank you for the patriotic sentiments as expressed in your letter of the 27th Oct. and for the restoration to their places of a number of our comrades — and the widows and orphans of those of our comrades who have been mustered out of our ranks. With the hope that at a very early date you will be able to put the balance of those of our people back in their little places where by ability and fidelity they earned every dollar paid

them and that you will not only esteem
it a duty under the law but as we believe
a pleasure

Yours truly

J B B

OFFICERS.

RILEY J. BLISS, Supreme Grand Commander.
JEROME B. BURKE, Vice Sup. Grand Commander.
WILLIAM R. STEELE, Sup. Grand Secretary.
JNO. C. S. BURGER, Sup. Grand Treasurer.
WILLIAM G. FINNEY, Sup. Grand Chaplain.
MARTIN A. WATSON, Sup. Grand S't'd. Bearer.
FRED. C. PECK, Sup. Grand Guide.
EGBERT G. BARNARD, Sup. Grand Guard.
J. M. COOMBS, Sup. Grand Picket.

SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL,

ORDER OF AMERICAN PATRIOTS.

13. *** *** *** 9. *** *** *** 13.

Office of Supreme Grand Commander,

Washington, D. C., December 13th 1886.

To whom these presents may come, greeting:

KNOW YE, that reposing especial confidence in the integrity, patriotism, and ability of Past S.G. Commander Jerome B. Burke, *I do, by virtue of the authority in me vested as Supreme Grand Commander of the ORDER of AMERICAN PATRIOTS, hereby constitute and appoint the said Past Commander (whose signature in his own handwriting is upon the margin of this Commission), a* **SPECIAL DEPUTY** *of this Order, giving to said Deputy the authority to confer the secret work, and establish Subordinate Councils of the Order, making such return of his action as the rules and usages of the Order and his agreement on file with the Supreme Grand Secretary do bind him to make.*

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Supreme Grand Council to be affixed.

SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL O.A.P. ORGANIZED DEC. 13, 1886.

R. J. Bliss
Supreme Grand Commander.

Attest:

W. R. Steele
Supreme Grand Secretary.

J. B. Burke,

28.00

This contains the full pay from the U.S. Govt to me since Oct 3rd 1864 at which date I received my final pay as an Officer in the Vol Army of the War of the Rebellion

Aug 15th 1887 J B Burke