

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ENTERPRISE.

In your issue of this morning you appear to feel hurt at the exclusion of your valuable paper from the bar of the honorable and *honest* Assembly, and by such an overwhelming majority. Three gentlemen who voted in the negative explained their votes. I also would have voted in the affirmative; not that I felt in any way hurt at your article; I do assure you it did not injure my credit either in Virginia or in San Francisco; nor did I feel the least sensitive about it; but simply to punish you. Every journalist should know something of the law. When you published all the flattering articles against this *honest* House, you should have considered an old rule in common law—"the greater the truth, the greater the libel." But when I saw all your dear friends planted in battle array against you; when I noticed a sore-eyed, red-haired, baboon-looking face—the one that offered battle to my empty chair—and others of higher grade and dignity, with glowing eyes, expanded nostrils, open mouths, panting and ready to devour you and your paper, I feared it might choke them. "Man is frail." I could not for the life of me go against you, and I voted in the negative. A young and promising lawyer delineated an article in the San Francisco *Bulletin* in an eloquent and beautiful speech. He must have felt your article very keenly. He mentioned his father, mother, grandmother, his children, and, if I mistake not, some grandchildren, and concluded that your articles against this House injure the credit of the State. Now, to my certain knowledge, when this young gentleman advocated the Coin bill he held that unless we return to a coin basis, or, in other words, unless we, the legislators and all the officers hired by the people at the last election, receive our pay in gold coin instead of greenbacks, the country will be ruined and the State be bankrupt. With every swindling bill introduced the great hue and cry went forth that unless it was passed the State would become bankrupt. After sending a Commissioner to raise a loan, some of the wisecracks called the money lenders of San Francisco a set of Shylocks, sharks and sharpers—just as if those capitalists would force the loan on the State. "Ingratitude is a crime." Who injures the credit of the State the most—a newspaper that partially tells the truth, or the very agents of the people, the Legislature, who cry continually "the State is bankrupt?" All this talk appears to me like boyish play, when the indebtedness of the whole State is only five hundred thousand dollars.

Some of these gentlemen have tried to persecute me. They jeered and taunted me. Every act of mine was scrutinized; every vote I cast was construed to a pecuniary motive. When that very *honest* Coin bill was introduced, I worked hard against its passage. An honorable delegate from Storey County—I believe his occupation in Virginia is something like janitor or a sweeper of some public room—spoke a great deal about political economy (he understands how to handle the broom a great deal better). This gentleman and others favorable to the bill wanted to make the House believe that twice three make eight. I am somewhat acquainted with figures. I could not believe it, and I opposed it with all my might. I thought it would be impossible to say anything against me, when lo and behold, the same janitor rose and said: "It is no wonder a broker and a greenback dealer should be opposed to the coin bill." "Man is frail." I held then nearly eighteen hundred dollars of scrip, and the passage of the Coin bill would be in my favor some \$450 in gold. I know I will pass this fiery ordeal unscathed, and defy them all.

All this small fry can no more injure the ENTERPRISE, which is the paper of the State, than I can hurt pecuniarily the Bank of California. I am your obedient servant,

A. H. LISSAK.

CARSON, March 17, 1867.