

E
668
132





Memorandum of
A. B. Chubbie
REPORT OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

Encl.

THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

IN RELATION TO OUTRAGES COMMITTED

BY

THE KU KLUX KLAN

IN MIDDLE AND WEST TENNESSEE.

SUBMITTED TO THE

Extra Session of the Thirty-Fifth General Assembly

OF

THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,

September 2d, 1868.

NASHVILLE, TENN.:

S. C. MERCER, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1868.



Journal of the Special Committee on Military Affairs
R E P O R T

OF

E V I D E N C E

TAKEN BEFORE

THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

IN RELATION TO OUTRAGES

Committed by the Ku Klux Klan

IN MIDDLE AND WEST TENNESSEE.

SUBMITTED TO THE

Extra Session of the Thirty-Fifth General Assembly

OF THE

STATE OF TENNESSEE,

Wednesday, the 2nd day of September, 1868.

—•••••
ORDERED PRINTED.
—•••••

NASHVILLE, TENN:

S. C. MERCER,..... PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1868.

E448
T32

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
RECEIVED
1921
DIVISION OF DOCUMENTS

44
8
97-R

EVIDENCE.

MR. SPEAKER:—

The following is the sworn testimony taken before your Committee on Military, in regard to the outrages committed by the Ku Klux Klan in Middle and West Tennessee.

Respectfully,

W. J. SMITH,

Chairman Committee on Military.

Testimony of Geo. F. Bowles.

Question. What is your name, age, residence, occupation; and have you been molested by any person or persons, if so, by whom?

Ans. My name is George F. Bowles, my age is 24 years, I am now stopping in the city of Nashville, and have been since July 7th, 1868. Was, before the late war a resident of Fayette county, Tennessee; was, by occupation, a farmer; came to Pulaski, Giles county, Tennessee, in the year 1865, when I followed barbering up to about July, 1866, when I went into the grocery business, in which business I remained until about June, 1867; when I took up a colored school near Cornersville, Giles county, Tennessee. I succeeded in getting along with said school perfectly agreeable, as far as I could learn, to about the 15th January, 1868, when a band of about twelve masked persons came to my boarding house and asked who lived there, changing their voices; on being answered, they further enquired if there was a white man stopping there, when answered that there was not, asked the gentleman of the house who he voted for, when he told them that he did not vote for any one; they then asked him if he belonged to the Union League; he told

them he did not. There being two other gentlemen in the house with myself, they asked us who we voted for. One of the gentlemen answered, we voted for no one; which they disputed, saying, he told a d——d lie, that we voted for Brownlow, and that they did not want to hear of our voting for him again; that if they did that they would send us to hell or heaven, one. They then asked if there was any one in the house which belonged to the Union League; was answered there was not. They said we had better not, leaving, saying, that they would call on us again. Within about one half an hour they returned, entered the house, broke open my valise, and searched my papers, finding one letter—which was written to me by a political friend—which they read to Klan, which had increased to about fifty in number. They then left, saying, they would return soon.

I was not disturbed any more until about the 26th of June, 1868, on, or about which time, one of my students found in my school house, a note, a copy of which is as follows:

“CORNERSVILLE, Tenn., June 25th, 1868.

“*You, the Trustees of the Colored School and Church:*

“SIRS:—This is to notify you, that you cannot have any more schools, or gatherings of any kind, at your present location on the pike. You must move it to some more private place, so that you will not come in collision with the white people. Take warning in time.

“We say to you, Bowles, don't attempt to teach any longer at the place you are at, for you cannot do it.”

The same day my school was to turn out for an exhibition at night, it being the close of the session. About 12 o'clock, M., a crowd of about 10 men, unmasked, passed my school, and remarked that, “they intended to come up that night and make you negroes hunt your holes, so prepare to meet your God.”

I then called upon the Recorder of the village, and he said he could give me no help, as my school was out of the corporation. I called upon a number of the citizens, who advised me to suspend my exhibition, which I did. There being some persons remaining on the school house grounds where they were visited about 9 o'clock, P. M., by a band of about 12 or 14 men, who formed in line and gave three cheers for Jeff Davis, and the Ku Klux Klan. They then dismounted, with pistols in hand, and came in the crowd of men and women, and commenced using obscene language,

when the crowd began to scatter. There was a number of colored men who had armed and hid themselves somewhere near by, who surrounded this band and arrested a part of the number. When captured, they declared that "they only did what they had through fun." They were then released, leaving in the direction of Cornersville. The crowd then broke up; part of them, however, met again within about half-a-mile from there. Some 25 men passing said party quietly: after passing them some 200 yards, the party fired a volley and fled from the place.

The following Saturday night, about 9 o'clock, P. M., a squad of men passed the school house in the direction of Cornersville. Some half an hour after said party passed, we were waited upon by some citizens of the town, and advised to break up our meeting, which was a Debating Society, or that we would be fired upon by a band of armed men, who were then in town. We acted as advised.

The following Saturday night there was a large party, numbering some 200 or more, came to Cornersville and enquired as to where I was. This party was armed and masked. Proceeded in the direction of Pulaski. Went to Mr. Marchbank's and shot and killed Mr. M. Burklo—so I was informed by Mr. Marchbanks, himself.

On Monday following, I was advised by the citizens of Cornersville, to leave the place. They stated that they believed that I was unsafe there that night. The house where I was boarding, was visited by a party in mask, who enquired for me, at the same time making threats.

I left next morning, fully believing that if I remained there, that I would be killed by them. I am now in the City of Nashville, Tennessee. Other colored people are here from that place to preserve their lives.

GEO. F. BOWLES.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 31st day of July, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Chairman Com.

Evidence of Pink Harris.

What is your name, age, residence, occupation? Do you know anything of an organization known as the Ku Klux Klan; if so, state all you know of it?

My name is Pink Harris, my age is 23 years; am a farmer by occupation; reside on Bradshaw Creek, Giles county, Tennessee. I saw them in mask about two hundred in number, at a church in my settlement. This was in April, as well as I can remember. I saw them

again in same month, two in number. They came to my house masked and armed, and knocked at my door. My son opened the door and told me that there were Ku Klux at the door. I then went to the door, and they called for water. I gave it to them. After that they asked if I did not have a pistol. I answered, I did. They asked to see it. They took it away with them, and ordered me to say nothing about it, saying, if I did, that they would place the rope which he had, around my neck, and they then left me, telling me if they came again that they were going to hang me. I did not see them in mask again until about the 12th of July, 1868, when they again came to my house armed and masked, took me out of the house and threatened to hang me. I begged them not to do so, and asked them if I had done anything to them. They answered, that I had not. I asked them if they had known me to say anything against them. They said not. They then told me to stay at home, and not be running about. They asked me who I was working for. I said to them that I was working for one Wm. Harrell. They then asked me if Mr. Harrell and myself had had any falling out. I told them that we had not. They abused me for having been in the United States Army. They then stripped me and whipped me severely, and released me. I at once reported to Mr. Harrell; and he told me he could do nothing in the matter, and advised me as a friend to leave at once, which I did. Mr. Harrell promised me that he would take the best care of my wife and family he could till I could return. He directed me how to get away. I am here in the city; am afraid to go back without protection.

his
PINK X HARRIS,
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this August 5th, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm Com.

Evidence of D. B. Garrett, of Marshall County—recalled:

Question. State what is your name and age, and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county; also, your occupation.

Answer. My name is D. B. Garrett; I reside in Marshall County—was born there; I am twenty-four years of age; have resided in Marshall County all the time; I am a school teacher.

Q. State whether or not, you have seen or known of any organized band known as Ku Klux; if so, what appeared to be their object, and, in general, all you know about them.

A. I have seen them twice; the first time, there were ten or twelve in number, and on the second time—the 15th of June—about twenty; all masked and armed with pistols, and some guns. They had threatened to “break my neck,” and said that they would whip Ben. Scales that night. They took Louis Stegall and whipped him that night about 40 or 50 lashes. They then left us and went to Chappel Hill. I left home, and have not returned since.

Sworn and subscribed to August 3rd, 1868.

D. B. GARRETT.

Evidence of Benjamin Martze.

Benjamin Martze, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

Question. State what is your name and age, and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county; also, your occupation.

Answer. My name is Benjamin Martze, and I reside in Maury County, was born there; I am a carpenter by trade; I am twenty-eight years old.

Q. State whether or not you know or have seen an organized band in that county, disguised, and known as Ku Klux; if so, what appeared to be their object, and, in general, all you know about them.

A. On the 4th of July, about dark, I saw a large squad of men pass my house. They were dressed in masks; also, their horses; there were about fifty of them. I got out of my house in order to keep out of their way, but they searched and found me, and took me half-a-mile, where some five or six hundred were gathered, and they swore they would hang me. They asked me if I belonged to the Union League, and I told them that I did. They said if I belonged to the League, using an oath, that they would shorten my days now. They then took me to a tree and threatened to hang me, but did not do it. They finally told me to go home.

In about two weeks, a squad of them came back again, masked as before, about an hour or two before day, and told me to get up and open the door. My wife got up to open it, while I was getting under the floor. They then inquired where Ben. Martze was, and my wife told them that she did not know; they then swore that she did know, and said if she did not tell where I was, that they would kill her; she said they would have to kill her, for she did not know, and they might as well kill her as me. They then commenced

slapping her to make her tell; and from that they went into the room where I was hid under the floor; and one of them said, "see, boys, here is a bed full of them; no, it is a d—d woman in the bed!!" They then asked her if Ben. Martze was in the house; she told them she didn't know; yes, you bitch, you do know. They then truck her with a gun; she said Ben. Martze was not in the house; then said one, where is Ben. Martze, to a small child in the house; the child said he was under the bed; then they went to taking up the floor, and took all up but a little, but did not find me. They then started, and as they left, my wife asked them what they had against Ben. Martze; they said he belonged to the Union League, and my wife remarked, that "all the colored men belonged to the Union League, and why persecute my husband?" They said they would commence with him, and kill him first; also, that they intend to kill from fifteen years upwards, and they could manage the women. I then left, and have not returned home since. his

BENJAMIN X MARTZE.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, the 3d of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'n Com.

Daniel Scales, being sworn, deposed:

Question. What is your name, age, residence and occupation? Have you been molested; if so, when, where and by whom?

Answer. My name is Daniel Scales, I am about 45 years old; I reside near Chappel Hill, Marshall County, Tenn., on the premises of Mr. McCord; my occupation is farming.

I was molested by a band of masked and armed men, known as the Ku Klux Klan, on or about the 15th day of June, 1868, who came to my house about 20 or 25 in number, broke down my door, and searched my house, swearing that they intended to have me if they could find me; that I was one of Brownlow's leading men. They left my house and went to Mr. David Christman's, who lived about three-quarters of a mile from me. I and another friend followed them up: They broke open the doors of his house, and took out Mr. Lewis Stegall, blind-folded him and whipped him severely. Me and my friend, believing they were going to kill him, fired upon them, dispersing them at once. I had a talk with Mr. McCord about that time, and he advised me to leave, saying that they were determined to ruin the country. He said that it was the citizens who were doing this.

They whipped my brother the Friday night before they were at my house, and he told me that they said they were going to whip all the members of the Union League who lived in that county.

There are many men in the city of Nashville, together with myself, who have left their homes to save their lives.

BEN. SCALES.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this, August 3rd, 1868.

W. J. SMITH,

Chairman Committee.

Manuel Sykes, being called as a witness, was duly sworn:

Question. State what is your name and age, and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county; also, your occupation.

Answer. My name is Manuel Sykes; I am about 45 years of age; I was born in Maury County; have lived there all my life; by trade, a stone mason.

Q. State whether you know, or have seen an organized band in that county, disguised, and known as Ku Klux; if so, what appeared to be their object; and in general all you know about them.

A. On the 4th of July, about dark, I started from my wife's to my father-in-law's. I met one about 100 yards from my house; he was disguised; I did not speak to him, nor he to me. When I got to my father-in-law's I saw 15 or 20, all in a lope. They had three flags. I stood and looked at them, but they went on towards my house. When they got to my house, they were fired on. I did not hear the firing. I had started back home, when I met a man. He asked me if I did not hear the firing. I said no. I went near enough towards home to see that they had formed a line of battle around my house. They were skirmishing and fighting from that until day, with colored men, numbering some 15 or 20. They caught one man that was hid from them that night, named Ben Mays; they took him to Head-Quarters. They then took six from their beds, out of their own houses, from their wives and families. They told them that I was a Captain, and had a company drilling to fight the Ku Klux. They asked them if they belonged to the Union League. They answered yes. They then asked them if they did not know that it was wrong. They told them to quit the League, and if they did not, they [the Ku Klux] would kill them. They were determed to break it up. They would kill them, God damn them, and all Union white men that belonged to it: tha'

they were determined to break it up. They said they were determined to catch me, and hang me when caught.

The next morning, Col. Milton Norris sent for me. When I got to him, he told me that the country had no laws, and that they were bound to have laws. That these Radical niggers, and Radical white men had ruined the country. The Ku Klux were bound to kill all men that do not obey their laws. He then asked me where I expected to be on the next Monday, I told him that I expected to help L. D. Myers to thrash wheat. He then told me that if he did not see me he would leave word with my wife where to meet him at a certain place, on Monday night. He asked me if I had any fire-arms. I told him no; that I had neither, gun nor pistol. I expected to meet him at that time, but three men came to me in the afternoon, and told me that if I did not leave right then that I would be in a terrible fix; that they would hang me that night.

Q. Did you take their advice, and leave?

A. Yes sir, I left that day. It was the 6th of July, 1868. That is all I know about it.

Witness—ROBT. EATON.

his
MANUEL X SYKES,
mark.

Milton Leftwick, being called as a witness, was duly sworn:

Question. What is your name, age, residence, and occupation; have you been molested; if so, when, where, and by whom?

Answer. My name is Milton Leftwick; my age is about 26 years; I live in Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee; was born and raised there; am a painter, by trade.

I have been molested by a band of masked men, who were armed.

This was about three weeks ago. This band of men came to my house, about 40 in number, and called for me. I had saw them in time to get out of their way. They called for me, and was told by my wife, that I was not there. They then came into my house and searched it, and then left and went to Mr. Israel Webster's house, who lived about a quarter-of-a-mile from my house. They broke open his house, broke up his dishes, etc. They then went to Mr. Thomas Phelp's, took him and brought him back by my house, and carried him away. He has since been found dead.

A few days before this band came to my house, I was at the house of Mr. Thomas Rainey. Some of this band came there and

took him away and killed him. These occurrences are frequent in that locality.

This band have different colored masks—some white, some red; and black, high caps; and their faces covered with veils. Some of their horses are masked, also; and the object of the Klan appears to be that of whipping and killing Union men.

I am now a refugee to this city [Nashville] for safety. There are many others who are anxious to save their lives, and they continue to come.

The late Confederate soldiers and rebels, swear that they are determined to vote any how, regardless of the law forbidding the same.

his
MILTON X LEFTWICK.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this the 3d day of August, 1868.

W. D. GARNER.

Anderson Cheatham being called as a witness, was duly sworn:

Question. State what is your name and age and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county, also your occupation.

Answer. My name is Anderson Cheatham; I reside in Maury county; I have lived there three years; I am a barber by trade; I was 24 years of age last June.

Q. State whether you have seen or know anything of a Ku Klux organization, or the existence of such an organization; if so, their object, and in general, all you know about them.

A. I have being seeing them for the last six months. The first time I saw them was the time they took a white man out and hung him. His name was Watts or Walker. The next time I saw them they were hunting Tom White, a school teacher. The next time I saw them was a squad of about fifteen. They were going to break up a prayer meeting I was attending and leading. They asked who I was, and one of them said, this is that damned Cheatham.

Q. Who was it that said this?

A. It was the Captain of the Klan, Milton Voris. The next squad I saw was the second Friday in June. There was eight of them. They came in the Square. The next time I saw them was at my house. There was another party of them below the house. I don't know how many was in that lot. They knocked at the door. My father-in-law opened the door; but before it was opened they said they would be God damned if they did not burst it open if

it was not opened quick. They were hunting for my brother-in-law. His name is Israel Webster. They asked where he was. My father-in-law said he had not seen him in two weeks. They then wanted to know who was in the house. My father told them there was no one but his own family. They ordered that a light should be made. One of them said he would vouch for "Old Lie," so that there was no light made. They enquired if he had any arms about the house. Father told them, no, he never had a pistol in his life. They then went to Hugh's house: that is my brother-in-laws, across the yard. They had a light made, and went in and searched for arms, and asked where the pistol was he had the other day. The reply was, that it was not his pistol, it was Brown's. They then enquired if he belonged to the Union League. He said he did before they broke it up. They then enquired where Jeff Brown lived. They intended to have him if he was on the top of the ground. They were bound to have him and Israel Webster, if it took all night. They then went to Webster's house and broke the doors and windows down, went in, and threw everything out of doors, and put a chunk of fire under the house to burn it down. They then went to Tom Kelley's house and took him out, tied his hands fast, and put a rope around his neck and took him off. He has not been seen since. This morning I learn that he was shot and thrown in the river. He has raised to the surface and been identified. They came to my shop and took Tom Galloway away. He has not been seen since that time. They went to Old Sister Wallace's house, took her out, whipped her, and abused her very badly, and broke three of her ribs, and shot at her husband twice, as he was making his escape.

Q. Why is she called Old Sister Wallace?

A. She is an old lady, and a member of our church.

his
ANDERSON X CHEATHAM.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 3d day of August, 1868.

R. P. EATON.

Evidence of Washington Davis.

Question. What is your name, age, residence, occupation; and have you been molested by a band or Klan known as Ku Klux, if so, when, where, and how?

Answer. Washington Davis, my age is 21 years, I reside in Columbia, Tennessee, I am a blacksmith by trade; have lived in

Columbia, Tennessee, about three years. I was molested by a band of men known as the Ku Klux Klan, who came to my house at about 10 o'clock at night, about six weeks ago, five in number. Asked my wife where I was. She told them I was gone to the next house. They then broke open my door and went in my house and shot at my wife. The ball went through the head-board, swearing that they would kill her. They then came to a neighbor's house, Mr. Henderson Birdlong's, and shot through his door, and shot him. I was there. They then left, firing through the windows of the house. Going to the barn, they searched it for the Hon. S. M. Arnell, as I was informed, by good authority.

The night of the 4th of July, 1868, sixteen of that Klan came to my house and stopped and looked around the house, and left. After they left, I heard the firing of shots on the Mount Pleasant Pike. About two weeks ago about thirty of the Klan came by my house with two colored men under arrest, without their clothes, and barefooted. They then had two flags with them. I have been seeing some of this Klan since last Fall. At one time I saw about seventy-five of them come out of the Cumberland Church in Columbia, Tennessee. They called me by name, but I did not recognize them.

his
WASHINGTON X DAVIS,
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 3d day of August, 1868.
W. A. GARNER.

Nim Wilks, aged 22 years, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

Question. Where do you live, what is your occupation, and have you been in any way molested; and if so, when, where, and by whom?

Answer. I live in Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee. I am a rock mason. On Friday night, in June last, there came a clan of men, about twenty-five in number, Known as the Ku Klux Klan, to my house. I lived in the second story of the building, and heard them coming up, and made my escape through a small window, and got on the top of the house. They searched the house for me, and choked and kicked my wife to make her tell where I was, and threatened to hang her if she did not tell where I was, and said they intended to hang me if they could ever get their hands on me. They were in disguise, and I did not know them. I heard some rebels talking the next day about what they aimed to

do with me if they caught me. They did not know me, but I knew them. They said they intended to have hung me if they had caught me. And I was satisfied, from their conversation, that they were engaged in the search for me. I had seen the Ku Klux before the night of the search, and those making the search were disguised in the same manner as those I had seen before, with high, white paper hats, shrouded in white, and masked over the face, looking like a dough-face.

Previous to the night of the search for me, they had taken my pistol from me, and told me if they caught me with any more arms they intended to hang me. I served two years and six months in the Federal Army.

About the first of June, two colored men were taken out of jail and hung; said to be done by the said Klan. I saw them hanging next morning, on the Pulaski pike. I also saw a white man hanging before that; said to have been hung by the Klan, and the one who is said to have killed Bickner, or some such name. One of the colored men was accused of burning a barn. Jim Booker, one of the Klan, said that he tied the rope around his neck, but was now sorry for it, as the evidence showed the colored man to be innocent of the charge, and that Tom Halcom burned the barn.

I left Columbia four weeks ago, and have not been there since. I left to keep from being hung, and cannot return back there without protection. I left wages due me for about six months' labor, at \$12.50 per month. My employer is a rebel, in sympathy with said Klan—as they often passed his premises and talked with him; and I have heard him boast about what he could make them do. I lived on his land, and he refused to settle with or pay me; and because I insisted on my rights, he assaulted and struck me with a stone; and on the following night, the Ku Klux came after me as before explained.

I also know of two colored men who were taken by them from their houses, and very badly beaten. They also beat their wives and broke up all their dishes, and told them if they went to town to report to the Col. commanding the post, that they would hang them. There were about thirty in number of them. It was understood among them, as I heard from their own lips, that they were to give those colored people 25 lashes apiece, that is, each one of the Klan was to inflict that number of lashes upon them. But I don't think they did it, as it certainly would have produced

death; but they were very badly beaten. Said Klan were in the usual disguise.

Witness—B. T. R. FOSTER.

his
NIM X WILKS.
mark.

Hon. Wm. Wyatt, being called as a witness, was duly sworn:

Question. State what is your name and age, and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county; also, your occupation.

Answer. My name is William Wyatt; I am sixty years of age, and reside in Lincoln County, Tennessee, where I have lived for nearly sixty years. I am a farmer and school teacher.

Q. State whether you have seen, or know anything of the existence of a Ku Klux organization; if so, their object, and in general, all you may know about them.

A. Before I left Nashville, I heard that there was an organization known as Ku Klux, and heard of them riding into Nashville before I left, but did not see them. On returning home to Lincoln County, I heard of the same organization in our county, in large numbers. Some time in the month of April, they came to my house, supposed to be about forty or fifty, dressed in masks. They rode up to my gate and hallooed hello!! Some eight or ten alighted and came into my porch, and rapped on the corner of the house, as they came into it, and shoved up my windows and let them down again. All this being about 10 o'clock at night. Some on horse-back hallooing out, "wake up the old man." They passed out of my house into my lone sister's parlor, and rapped on her room door, and then walked out; no person in the houses speaking to them. Some of the boys in my employment on the farm, were coming up the branch from fishing. The Ku Klux ran down on them and shot 3 or 4 times. The boys ran. They [the Ku Klux] come back, and the company then left. Afterwards I heard of their raid through the country, whipping some negroes very seriously, and calling on a number of other families. Their visits have been frequent through the country at nights; but once or twice I have heard of them in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

It is reported that they have whipped several white and colored people through the country, and have hung one or two colored people. I get this from reliable sources. They knocked down the Deputy Sheriff's doors, rushed in and searched his house, both up-

per and lower stories. He was not at home. They charged his family not to tell that they had been there. The Sheriff has since resigned his office.

On the first Monday in March, 1868, one Dampplin was shot by them, and killed dead, and one negro man was also shot and killed, all in the town of Fayetteville, just before the county elections. The election was contested, and, consequently, another one held. And on the day of the second election, one Logue Connors shot a citizen in the court-house,—just after he had put in his ballot—twice, through the body; however, he has since recovered. No arrests have been made for these depredations, by the civil officers, for fear of endangering their own lives.

On Saturday night, the 18th inst., a band of disguised Ku Klux came about midnight, to my house, some 8 or 10 lighted from their horses, waking me up, coming into my piazza, rapping on the door with their knuckles three or four times, and halloöing hello! No person answering, they repeated their rapping again; felt the latch—that the door was not latched—rapped again immediately, struck a match, and opened the door a little. The ladies from my bed-room screamed out. They immediately latched the door, and said, “ladies, don’t be alarmed, we will not do you any harm, we want to see the man of the house, and will see the man of the house.” They rapped again a time or two on the door, saying that they would see the man of the house. They again struck a match, opened the door, and lit a candle. The ladies again screamed out in my room. I immediately spoke out saying, “girls, don’t mind those fools.” They then said that they wanted me to come out there two minutes. I answered that I was in bed; for them to come up and tell their names and business. They just answered me that they did not do that. They demanded me to come out there again, if I did not, they would soon bring me out. I told them to come to my window, and I would answer them any questions that they would ask. They said I must come there, and should come there, and that soon. They immediately rushed into my room, without saying a word more—two of them seizing hold of my arm, giving a couple of pulls. The women screaming in terrific screams. My wife seizing hold of my shoulder, pulling against them. A third one catching my right leg, which I had against the bed-post. I placed my left foot firmly against the bed-post, so that it was shivered to pieces in the struggle. They immediately dragged me out through both doors. Whilst in their hands, one of their number

rushed up behind them and struck me on the head with a pistol, I supposed, which caused the blood to run freely. They immediately said to him [the man that struck me] "don't do that; you shan't do that." They sat me down in my piazza, they standing around me in their masked, disguised faces. The women rushing about with screams of terror. One of them said to me "negro equality." I immediately replied, "*negro equality, just what you made it, and where you left it, with your hands lifted up to the Most High God, swearing that you would obey all the proclamations, laws and ordinances of this Government. I, myself, with every man and women in Lincoln County, that was able to get to the Marshal, swore the same thing, and I have lived up to it.*" I further stated to them that this was the first time in my life, that I was ever called on to make a political speech in my shirt-tail. My political crime is, I have wronged no man; I have corrupted no man; I have defrauded no man. If God give a man a black skin I was taught from the cradle not to abuse him, nor tramp on him for what God gave him. About this time, one of them pulled me by the sleeve, saying, "that man wants to ask you some questions." He muttered out "do you know us"? I went on with my own remarks: "I have lived here near sixty years, and am sixty-six years old—man nor boy, from my boyhood days in school, never struck me till that fellow struck me, while three or four were holding me. I call upon you to take him to condign punishment. I call upon my family as witnesses of what you have done. You said you would not hurt a hair of my head. You dragged me out of my bed in the dead hours of night, tearing my bed-stead to smash, and have the blood running in gores from head to foot. It looks like you keeping the peace. I never cover my face. I am not afraid of your ugly faces, nor of the face of the *devil*. I expect to appear before a holy and a just God. I have lived in good conscience: laid down and slept soundly, all my life, without ever locking a door, or bolting a window. Any man or woman that I have said or done harm to let them come forward and show me where or how, and I will repay them four fold." One of their number spoke and said that, "we are numerous." I replied, "I never count noses: if a thing is right, it is right, if wrong, it is wrong, and I don't count this right in no set of men." One of them said, "we have a long ways to go, we had better be going." Their leader said, "we won't interrupt you any more" I began to feel where my head was bloody. He said "it is a damned sight worse than I thought it

was." I took hold of a pan to get water to wash myself with, and they bid me good-bye, and left.

Q. By Committee: Did you ever hear of this Ku Klux Klan until the State Militia was mustered out of service last Fall, or Winter?

A. I never did.

The shooting and killing in Fayetteville, Tennessee, above spoken of, was done by persons dressed in citizens clothes, in day time.

Q. Do you know of any persons having to leave Lincoln County for protection and safety, and if so, how many?

A. I have known as many as five citizens to leave the town of Fayetteville, on account of their Union proclivities, and have heard of some in the country leaving; and a good many colored people have left and abandoned their crops.

WM. WYATT.

John Dunlap, being called and sworn, deposed.

Question. State what is your name, residence, avocation, and where you formerly resided.

Answer. My name is John Dunlap, Jr.; I formerly resided at Goshen, Clearmot, Ohio; my avocation is school-teaching. I reside now at Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee. I have been there nearly three years; I was sent by the Western Freedmen Aid Commission, directed by Prof. Ogden, Superintendent of the above Commission of Tennessee. I have been in charge of the freedmen schools since that time; I am now in the employ of the County District Commissioners, at Shelbyville, Tenn.

Q. State whether or not, you have been disturbed in your avocation; if so, by whom and where; what did they do to you, and what did they say at the time? State fully all that occurred, and describe the persons, and give the number who were engaged in the affair.

A. I have never been disturbed until July 4th, 1868, when I was, by persons who said they were Ku Klux. There were about 50 in number, on horses, and armed with pistols. They were all masked; also, their horses. They had long hats in the form of a pyramid, spotted, red and white, with the common false-face attached to them. They had on long, flowing white robes, except the officer and one other. The officer was dressed in a red robe; the other was dressed in women's clothes, and was called the woman of

the party. They appeared at the front of my door, about 10 o'clock at night. We seen each other about the same time; they rushed to get into my house, two of them succeeded, and I put them out.

They then shot at me twice through the window. I retreated into the back room, and got my pistol; by that time they had broke open my front door, and asked me to surrender, said if I would, they would not kill me. I gave them up my pistol, and they kept it. They would not give me time to get my hat and coat; took me out and mounted me behind one of their number. I made an attempt to get off; and they told me if I attempted to escape, they would kill me. I halloood to friends as I passed, and they placed a pistol at my head, and told me to shut up my mouth, or they would shoot me, and from that time kept me guarded with pistols on each side of my head. The person I rode behind stated they were from Chicamauga—talking down in their throats, that they had rode hard all that day, to take part in the celebration, but could not reach the place in time, and concluded to have a celebration at night. They then passed around by what is known as the Big Spring, up on the Public Square, then passed on to Britton street; thence to the residences of James Franklin and William Scott, (colored;) broke into Mr. Scott's house, and took him out. One of the number remarked, he was not the man they wanted. They then broke into Franklin's room, and pulled him out. They told Scott to go back to bed, as they had no use for him. They then mounted Franklin behind one of them, and wheeled and came back to the Public Square. At the signal of their whistle, they formed a semi-circle, and gave three cheers for Andrew Johnson. They then passed across Duck River bridge, the distance of two hundred yards from the Square. On the way, they asked me how I liked their flag, pointing to a flag they carried, flesh colored and in the shape of a heart. I told them, very well, for all the use I had for it. They said that meant Ku Klux.

When across the bridge, they dismounted us, and whipped Franklin, each of them giving him five blows on his naked skin. They tied a handkerchief over his face, and made him kneel while they whipped him. When about half through, they told him if he could not stand it, he had better say his prayers. When through whipping him, they spoke to him in a low tone, and he went home.

They then ordered me to be taken up the road three hundred yards farther. They let me walk up, they walking and leading their horses. When there, they asked me why I shot at them, and

why I had the pistol. I told them that I had it to make use of under the same circumstances. They said, as I had not shot them, and they had promised me my life, they would only whip me. I asked them what they were going to whip me for. They gave me no reason, but said I would get only what I deserved. I told them that I had done nothing but teach the colored school, and many of the best Conservative citizens were my friends; if they did not believe it, to ask Mr Mooreman and Mr. Buchanan. They said that those men were gentlemen—what they said was right, but that they were not there to intercede for me. They then stood me in the middle of the road, and ordered me to let down my pants; then turned my shirt up over my head, and fastened it. They then struck me each five licks, except eight. One of them stood by with a pistol, and said if I made any noise or movement, he would shoot me. During the whipping, one of them said I talked like a d—d Yankee, and he would whip me like a d—d Yankee, and he did whip me harder than any one else. The officer told him not to insult me, but to whip and get through with it. There were eight left at the bridge, to guard and keep any one from crossing. While the eight were coming up, the officer kept examining my back, and said they would whip me on my belly, and I would have a nice time sleeping. When the eight came up and did not whip me, the officer said they would not whip me any more, if I would leave the State, and go to my home and stay there. He asked me if I could leave on to-morrow; I told him I could not, as it was Sunday. He asked me if I could leave on Monday; I told him I could do so. They told me if I was found in Shelbyville on Monday they would kill me; that they intended to serve all Northern men the same way; that they all had to get out of the country. They then let me return to my home. In a few minutes after I got home, eight others passed my door, dressed in a different mask. They were watched. They went to Dr. Simpson's stables, undressed, and came up into town with ordinary clothing on. Before they undressed, they inquired for Frank Stamps, colored. I ought to have stated at the place, at the conclusion of the whipping, that the officer stated that there were two negroes with them who whipped me the worst. Also, asked me if the Radicals had not bragged, and said that the Ku Klux were afraid to come into Shelbyville.

Q. [By same.] State whether or not you left by the time specified, and whether you afterwards received any letter; if so, please produce them, and state how you received them.

A. I did not leave at the time ordered. On the 9th, I received a letter, handed me by the Post-master, ordering me to leave by the 16th. A copy of which, in red ink, is as follows.

CHAMBER OF DEATH,
No. 45, y o y, 2,160,
July 9th 1868. }

Mr. Dunlap:

By order of the Maj.-Gen. of the Ku Klux Klan, I write you this letter, to notify you to leave Shelbyville by the 16th of July, 1868. If not, we will take you out, tie you to a stake, and then burn you to *death!* Beware!!
SHELBYVILLE.

At the urgent request of my friends, I came away, and have been away ever since; and do not think it safe to return.

Q. State whether or not other persons engaged in teaching schools composed of colored persons, at Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tenn., have had to leave or quit teaching.

A. I know of one at Bellbuckle; also, my assistant teachers, (colored,) and two others, have been notified to leave; also, one agent, for fear of personal violence.

JOHN DUNLAP, JR.,
Principal First Colored School,
Shelbyville, Tenn.

Testimony of Thos. J. White.

Question. What is your name and age, and what is your occupation, where do you reside, and how long have you lived there?

Answer. My name is Thomas J. White; I am twenty-seven years of age; I am a school teacher; I was born and raised at Columbia, Maury county, Tennessee, where I now live.

Q. Do you know anything of an organization called the Ku Klux, if so, tell us all you may know about them?

A. I have seen persons in disguise, both day and night. Some dressed in red and others in white, with a covering for the head of a corresponding color, with holes in the same for the eyes, parading the streets of Columbia, both on horse-back and on foot. Any number over twelve carry a white flag, with a red inscription K. K. K. I saw about nineteen of them, masked and armed with pistols and swords, pass my house the day that young Mr. Bicknell was buried, which was Sunday. Upon Monday night afterwards, about 10½ o'clock, I saw sixty or seventy of them, in the same disguise, pass my house with the prisoner charged with the murder of young Bicknell, who, it was said, escaped from them that night, but was re-

captured and returned to prison the next day; and upon the same night they returned to the jail, took the prisoner out, and hung him to the limb of a tree about one mile south of Columbia, near the Pulaski Pike. I saw the prisoner in his coffin.

Mrs. Violet Wallace, living about three miles from Columbia, told me that a squad of men in disguise came to her house and shot at her husband, while he was trying to escape from them. They said to her, you are white, you think you are rich, you curse white folks: abusing her at the same time with something like a bridle rein—two or three applying the lash at the same time. One of them struck her upon the head with a pistol—which abuse they continued until she fainted and fell insensible, when she was kicked or stamped, breaking two of her ribs. Before leaving her in that senseless condition one of the number stripped his pants down, and sat down upon her face. She was taken to Dyer Johnson's. Dr. A. H. Brown attended her, where she was confined to bed about two weeks. Mrs. Wallace says she knows some of them, but declines to go before the authorities and prosecute them, or to speak of the occurrence in public, as she fears they would repeat the deed, or take her life.

I saw Jacob Polk, Simon Ferguson, Ritter Bryant, and a number of others, who had been abused, as they said, by the Ku Klux; and had evidently been badly abused from some source.

I have been in Nashville since the 9th of July, and fear to return to my home. I have been advised by a kind lady of Southern sentiments that it would not be safe for me to return home. My wife came to Nashville the 16th of July, and told me the night before she left a squad searched my house for me, arrested my father, drew knives upon him; but finding they had mistaken him for me, they released him.

Ed. Williams told me there was five hundred Ku Klux in Columbia. I also heard him tell S. M. Arnell in a few minutes afterwards, that these men (referring to the Ku Klux) did not live there, and that he did not know any of them.

Wm. Clemens was took by them and seriously wounded, but has since recovered.

T. J. WHITE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, August 1, 1868.

A. M. CATE,
Act. Ch'm Mil. Com.

Evidence of Charles Belefont.

Charles Belefont being called as a witness, was duly sworn, deposes and says:

Question. State what is your name and age, and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county; also your occupation.

Answer. My name is Charles Belefont; I reside in Culleoka, Maury county, Tennessee; I have lived there thirteen or fourteen years; I am a farmer, and 18 years of age.

Q. State whether you have seen or known anything of a Ku Klux organization, or the existence of such an organization; if so, their object; and in general, all you know about them.

A. I know that there is an organization known as Ku Klux. I have seen them in squads, sometimes eight, and at other times from that number to thirty and forty. They were dressed in red, with black veils over their faces, and sheets on their horses, and low hats with lanterns in them, so that nobody could tell who they were, except they were familiar with their voices, and that they tried to conceal.

They came to my house one Saturday night, about 9 o'clock, and took me out from my house about one hundred yards and stripped me. There were nine in this gang: each one of them whipped me.

Q. Did they whip you much?

A. Yes, sir; they whipped me very hard. They gave me about two hundred lashes, and cut my back up very badly.

Q. What did they say they took you from your house for, and inflicted such punishment?

A. They did not say what they took me out for, nor what they were going to do with me.

Q. What did they say to you after they whipped you?

A. They said I was a damned nigger and had been a Yankee soldier, and they were going to kill all that had been in the Yankee Army, or that belonged to the Union League; and that if I reported what they had done to me, they would kill me the next time.

Q. Have you remained at your home since they whipped you?

A. No, sir; I left home, and have not been back since; nor do I think it safe to return.

Q. Do you know of them ill-treating anybody else in that neighborhood?

A. I know of several particulars. I saw Williams. They whipped him, and put him on their horses, and jerked him about, and

ducked him in the pond. The way they done it, one would put him on the horse, and another would jerk him off into the pond. He lives at Tom O'Neil's, quarter of a mile from where I live.

Q. Did you have to leave your crop standing in the field, when you left after they whipped you?

A. Yes, sir; I had to leave everything, and come here to save my life.

Q. Do you know any of those disguised men that molested you last May.

A. Yes, sir; Joe Belefont and William, my late young master, were two of them. William Richardson was another. James Hickman and his brother. Jesse Tamlin is another, and Barney Ramsey.

Q. Were those men in the army, and if so, which army?

A. Those men were all in the rebel army. Some of them were out in the army till the close of the war.

Q. Do they go out regular in disguise, and have you seen them dressed in their uniform?

A. Yes, sir; I have seen them dressed frequently. They go out pretty regular: not less than twice a week. his

CHARLES X BELEFONT.

Witness—A. M. CATE. mark.

Sworn and subscribed to this day and date, before me,

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm Com.

Evidence of D. B. Garrett.

Question. What is your name, age, residence, occupation?

Answer. My name is D. B. Garret, I am 24 years of age, I reside in Marshall county, Tennessee, near Chappel Hill; my occupation is school teacher.

Q. Do you know anything of an organization known as the Ku Klux; if so, state all you know of such organization?

A. I know that there are armed bands of masked men in the county of Marshall, Tennessee, who are known as the Ku Klux Klan. I saw some of this Klan twice before the 15th day of June, 1868. The first time I saw them there was about twelve in number. The second, there was about three. The first time I saw them there were five of us colored men together. They turned us back. The second time I saw them there were three of us, and three of the Klan. They then remarked, that it was common for negroes, when they met their masters, to pull off their hats, and call them

master. They drew their pistols on us, and told us that they had a good mind to blow our brains out. Told us then to go on, but hereafter when we met them to take off our hats, and call them master. I was born and raised in this county. Had been teaching there two sessions—one in 1866 and one in 1867. Had attended school one session in Nashville, after teaching there two sessions; and was, when I met the three men, on my return to again open my school. I did open the school on the 14th of June, 1868. Taught that day, and the 15th, also. I had been informed that the Ku Klux Klan had threatened to break my neck, so I was on the alert. So on the night of the 15th of June, about twenty of the Klan came to Mr. Ben Scales', and broke down his doors. I and Mr. Scales were hid out, watching for them. As they left Scales's they passed us, and remarked that Scales was hid out, and that he had better stay so, for they intended to whip him and break Garrett's neck. They further remarked, that they intended to whip from there to Eaglesville that night. Mr. Scales, myself and another friend, then followed them up to Mr. Lewis Stegal's: They took Mr. Stegal out of his house, and began to whip him cruelly, when we, believing that they intended to kill him, fired upon them. They then left. We did likewise the next morning. We went to Mr. Stegal's to see what had become of him. We there found three of their hats. These hats were long and crowned with red flannel. Two of them run to a peak, and one was flat. We found one of their faces, which was red also. We at once began to gather a company to come to Nashville that evening. We were advised by the Justice of the Peace of the district, Mr. Williams, to come back and make peace, which summons we obeyed, and started back to the Justice of the Peace's, when we were fired upon from the rear by men, about sixteen in number. One of the number was wounded. I then started for Nashville, and was followed by about seventy men. When we got into Murfreesboro', the Sheriff and his deputy, together with the Mayor, requested us to lay down our arms, and promised to stop the pursuit of this party. We did this, and divided into squads, and started for Nashville. I reached the city of Nashville about the 18th of June, where I have since remained. I do not believe that I would be allowed to live in Marshall county. There are others here from that county for safety.

D. B. GARRETT.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this the 4th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm Com.

Wesley Alexander being called as a witness, was duly sworn:

Question. State what is your name and age, and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county; also, your occupation.

Answer. My name is Wesley Alexander, I reside in Columbia, Maury county; I have lived there all my life; I am 20 years old, and a farmer by trade.

Q. State whether you have seen or known anything of a Ku Klux organization, or the existence of such an organization; if so, its object, and, in general, all you know about it.

A. I have seen a large body of men known as Ku Klux. They were dressed in uniform. On the 4th of July they were in Columbia to the number, I should think, of four or five hundred. They were dressed in red costume, with masks on their faces, and most of their horses were covered. Some of the men were dressed in white, with white flags and black letters. Others of the flags had three stripes on them of white and red. They went on down the road, hallooing and whooping, till they came to my house; and they asked for me, saying, "where is that damned drummer boy that has been drumming for them children belonging to the colored schools that have been having a barbecue." They could not find me at my house, so they came back up the road, and halloed three cheers for Brownlow's head and Sam. Arnell's. They have shot at me seven or eight times, and run me off from home.

Q. Did you have to leave your crop in the field, and do you feel it unsafe to return? Would you feel that your life was in danger?

A. Yes, sir; they have told me that if I ever come back they would kill me. This spite is, because I beat a drum for the colored children, and have been a soldier in the Union Army, and belong to the Union League. They say they intend to kill every nigger that belongs to any of those things. That is all I know about it.

WESLEY ALEXANDER.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this August 4th, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm Com.

John L. Brandon being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

Question. State what is your name and age, and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county, and also, your occupation.

Answer. My name is John L. Brandon; I reside in Lawrence

County, Tennessee; I have lived there since 1861; I am 40 years of age; I am engaged in the manufacture of spun yarn.

Q. State whether you have seen or known anything of a Ku Klux organization, or the existence of such an organization; if so their object, and in general, all you know about them.

A. I have seen them twice; it was the 3d and 4th of July, or 4th and 5th, I cannot exactly say which. The first night they rode through the square; this was the first time. They did not say much, they were masked, and acted, I thought, very foolish.

The next time I saw them was the 4th of July: I saw 35 or 40. They were not counted by any one where I was. They come from the South and rode around the Court house; went round and round, and then dispersed. Some of them went up North street, and some eight or ten of them went on two or three hundred yards and come back, and rode around the Court house, and then disappeared. They did not come back any more that night, that I heard of. I remained about one hour. That is all I know of their second appearance. The first time I saw them, they came to my house. They rode up to my porch and hallooed hello! I stepped to the door. The one that spoke, said, in a gutural voice, or from his throat, "who lives here?" I told him. He then asked for some water. My wife spoke to Captain Devenport, who was staying at my house, and told him to tell them to come in, she wanted to see what they looked like. He remarked that he never went into a house, but as a sick lady requested it, he would do it, and got down, and fifteen or twenty of them went in. My wife asked them where they were from. One said he was from Antony's Hill, in Giles County. There was a negro that came in to an exhibition in the Cumberland Church. One of the students, Mr Balch, went to him and told him to get up and go out, that this was a white man's celebration. The boy told him that he would not—that he had as good a right there as any body else had. Mr. B. turned round and spoke to Mr. Reams, and somebody else. Reams went to him. Sometimes he [Reams] is sober, and sometimes not. He went to the boy and talked pretty rough. The boy then went out. I understand from my wagoner, that a few nights after that, somebody went and took him out and whipped him.

Q. Do you regard as good citizens, men that are engaged in that business, and are their objects legitimate, from your own knowledge, or reports?

A. I do not think there is any harm in them.

J. L. BRANDON.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 4th day of Aug., 1868.

W. J. SMITH,

Chairman Committee.

Evidence of Lewis Stegall.

Question. What is your name, and age, and occupation; where do you live, and how long have you been there?

Answer. My name is Lewis Stegall; I am twenty-five years old, and a farmer by occupation. I have been raised near Chappel Hill, in Marshall County, Tennessee, near where my home now is, and has been for about one year and-a-half.

Q. Do you know anything of a Ku Klux Klan? If so tell us whether you know anything of their committing outrages upon anybody, and all you may know about their appearance, their acts, and their object.

A. I have frequently seen squads of men, varying in numbers from eight to twenty, dressed in disguise, with red robes and long hats; and some with red, and others with black covering over their faces, with holes for their eyes, nose and mouth. At one time, eight of them came to my house, and asked me to show them the way to Chappel Hill, which I did, by going with them to the toll-gate, where they told me I could go back; during which time they asked me if I voted the Radical county ticket.

Upon the night of the 15th of June, 1868, about twenty men came to my house in the disguise above described, mounted upon horses, covered with white and red, and ordered me to open the door, and asked me my name, when, as many of them as could get hold, seized me, while others stood in the door, with their pistols cocked, until they tied me, when they took me out, and down the pike about one hundred yards. They asked me if Brownlow gave me the land he promised me. I told them Brownlow never promised me any land, when they said it was a damned lie—that that was what made me vote for him, and now they intended to give me the land; and asked me whether I would rather be shot, hung, or whipped to death; when they blindfolded me by confining my shirt over my head, and let down my drawers, and told me to lie down upon that rock; and said they intended to give me five lashes a-piece, and make me count up the whole number of licks when they were done. When two of them had hit me five licks each, and one other had

hit me two or three licks, they were fired on from the woods, by some colored men. Then they (the Ku Klux) ran off about fifty steps and fired on me, lodging a shot near the centre of my left breast, and wounding a finger of my right hand, materially destroying the use of my finger.

About the 6th of July, two men came my door and asked me to open the door, one cocked his gun, and the other a pistol, and swore they intended to kill me, when I opened a hole in the floor and escaped. Upon the following night I left, and have been in Nashville ever since. I left my half interest in thirty-six acres of cotton, about twenty acres of corn, and one third of about twenty acres of wheat. I fear to return to my home, in consequence of the state of feeling against me, which is common to all colored men who voted the Radical ticket. Since I left home, I have reliable news that they have given my mother fifty licks, to make her tell where I was.

LEWIS STEGALL.

Evidence of Gilbert Akin.

Question. What is your name, and age, and what is your occupation; where do you reside, and how long have you lived there?

Answer. My name is Gilbert Akin; I am about thirty-three years old, a mechanic by occupation. I have lived in Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee, for about twenty-four years.

Q. Do you know of any such organization as the Ku Klux Klan; if so tell us all you may know of their existence and objects, as well as any depredations they, or any of them may have committed.

A. I have seen squads of men in Columbia, both day and night, dressed in disguise, with a uniform mostly red, with a cap over their head, with holes for their eyes, nose, and mouth. They were all mounted on horses, also masked, or covered. The largest number I have seen, was at Columbia, on the 4th of July, I think about five hundred in number. I have been a marshal in a society I belong to, that is the reason they are so spiteful towards me. They sent me orders to leave; if I did not leave, I would be hung the next night. I took their advice, and left. This was about the 15th of July, 1868. I have not been back since. I think I should lose my life if I were to return. There are some 60 or 70 of us that have been driven off, and dare not return. The only charge is, that we voted the Radical ticket. They whip and abuse everybody that is Union, or belong to the Radical party. They

say that they are determined to break up, and drive off every "damned man that belongs to the League, or has been a Yankee soldier."

his
GILBERT X AKIN.
mark.

Evidence of James Barron.

James Barron, being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

Question. State what is your name and age, where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county; also, your occupation.

Answer. My name is James Barron; I am about 43 years of age; I reside near Nashville, Tennessee; I am a dairy farmer by occupation; have lived there 10 years.

Q. Mr. Barron: have you been disturbed at your house; if so when, and by whom?

A. Have lived there 10 years; am a dairy farmer. On Saturday night, last, I was disturbed by parties unknown, and two shots fired at me. I fired one at them, and they retreated.

On Tuesday night, the 4th of this month, six negroes came to my house, well armed with muskets and revolvers. I was alarmed by the dog. They asked for the man of the house. I put my head out of the window, and said, here I am! They said they were military men, sent out by Gov. Brownlow to hunt up Ku Klux. I made reply and said, "I know nothing about the Ku Klux." With that, they approached the door, three on each side, and ordered me out in the yard; said they wanted me to go with them to head-quarters. I told them no, that I was not going into the yard, I was going to stay in the house. They told me that if I did not come out the third time, they would break in the door. With that, they took hold of the sledge-hammer and the axe. My old lady says, "James, open the door, and let them in." I let them in. The first thing they asked me for was my arms. I told them, there it is behind the door, that is all I have got. They then asked me if I did not have some money. I told them no, I was a poor man. They took me out and placed my back to the wall, also my wife. We then told them where the money was. They then put us in the hen-house, and put a guard over us, when they ransacked the house, and broke open the mattresses on the floor: My money was in the till of my trunk, between the two bedsteads. The amount of money was \$450; that was all I had in the world. My wife had seventy-five cents on her person, which they took.

Q. Do you know any of them?

A. I think I know some of them. One of them was Jerry Overton; he is now under arrest.

Q. Did they take anything else from you?

A. They took 125 chickens, six shirts, four table-cloths, six towels, one gun, one watch, one locket, some knives and forks, spoons, under-clothing, combs, etc.

Q. Have you ever been disturbed before?

A. No sir; I have lived there ten years; and have never been disturbed before. These men were not masked. My house is all alone, the nearest neighbor being half-a-mile distant. My family consists of my wife, myself and daughters. One negro man on the plantation, they served the same as they did me.

JAMES BARRON.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this, the 7th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH,

Chairman Committee.

Jacob M. Davis, being called as a witness and duly sworn, deposed:

Question. State what is your name and age, and where you reside, and how long you have been a citizen of said county; also, your occupation.

Answer. My name is Jacob M. Davis, about 53 years of age; I was born in North Carolina; have lived in Tipton and Fayette Counties 33 years—in Tipton for the last 3 years. I am a wheelwright by trade.

Q. State whether or not you know or have seen an organization or band, known as Ku Klux, in that county, in disguise; if so, what appeared to be their object? State, in general, all you know about them.

A. At the first commencement of these troubles, I saw a man come to Mason's Depot, in Tipton County, where I lived, from Memphis, with a haversack on him. He took the stage, and went to Covington. Before he returned again, I heard this noise about the Ku Klux from a man named Joseph Collier. It was on account of him, (the man from Memphis,) dropping bills about where he went of a Ku Klux order. I mentioned the matter to Mr. McKenzie; he made light of it, and said Joe Collier had no sense, any how. I saw this strange man when he returned from Covington, with his haversack on. He came to Mason's Depot, and returned

immediately to Memphis. I found out afterwards, that McKenzie was one of them. They took goods from McKenzie's to Mr. Spelman's house, where Ku Klux uniforms were made by Mrs. Spelman. They accused me of watching them. Mrs. Walls, Mrs. Studevant, Mrs. Nobey and Joe Walder's wife, all went to the room where these uniforms were being made, and kept the room very close while at their work. Oliver Poindexter took me to task about watching them. I told him I was not; that I had as much as I could do to mind my own business. He told me that they were watching me, and that they would kill me if they heard of me talking or telling anything. He said they were not going to hurt anybody who had not been in the Union army, or who had not meddled with them. Mr. McKenzie told me that if ever Gen. W. J. Smith came there to make a speech, they would kill him (Smith.) This was the day after the Brownsville Convention, the 24th of July, 1858. The first I ever saw or heard of these Ku Klux organizations, was about the 1st of May, 1868. Their antipathy towards me was, because I told them that I did not know much about politics, but from what I did know, I favored the Republican party. They wanted me to promise to vote for Seymour and Blair. I told them I never would do it; that I should vote the Republican ticket; that I believed the Republicans were my best friends. They then said if I staid there, that I would be killed. I am not easily scared, and did not leave until my own friends advised me to do so to save my life.

I should have stated, that there were eighteen or twenty white men waiting at the depot to assault the Memphis delegation, and the colored persons of the Tipton County delegation. This was at 8 o'clock at night, July 23rd, 1868; and on account of the train being behind time, the crowd was persuaded to disperse before the train got to Mason's Depot.

Q. Do you know of any outrages committed by these bands?

A. I know of five or six persons having been whipped about five miles from Mason's Depot, at Mr. Hillard's place. The men who whipped them were in disguise, and were thought to be the Poindexter family. It is not known what they were whipped for; it was in the night. One man in Tipton County, was hung by some of these bands on July 30th. They took him, and put a rope around his neck, and threw the other end over the limb of a tree, and pulled him up. The man had a small knife in his hand, that he had just been cutting a piece of tobacco with; he used the

knife to cut himself down; then he ran, and them after him. In the race he fell over a big log into a marshy place, where the hogs had had a bed; when he fell in, the hogs scattered and took to the woods. He laid in the mud, and the horsemen took to the woods, thinking that he had gone that way. While they were in the woods, he made his escape by hiding. He lived with Mr. Isham Beesely. His only offense was, that he had been in the Union army.

I saw another man who lives near Humbolt, that told me he saw nearly a regiment of Ku Klux at that place; they were going about whipping and abusing colored people generally. This was last Friday.

When I got to Humbolt, two white men tried to get me out of the cars. I refused to go, and they then wanted to know if I was going to the Nashville Convention. I am satisfied that they meant no good, as the Ku Klux interfere with everybody that they suspect of being Republicans.

J. M. DAVIS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this day and date, August 7, 1868.

W. J. SMITH,

Chairman Committee.

Evidence of Barclay Martin.

Barclay Martin, being called as a witness and duly sworn, deposed:

Question. State whether or not you know anything of the Ku Klux being in Shelbyville, and if so, what do you know, and did you see John Dunlap on that night, and afterwards; and how was he whipped, and what was his condition?

Answer. I saw eight of them in Shelbyville on the night of the 4th of July last—say near 12 o'clock. I understood that there had been a good many more, but only saw eight of them. I was in Shelbyville on the north of town. I saw them as they went into town. I did not see them go out.

I saw Dunlap on the Monday following. He was the worst whipped man I ever saw. I have seen negroes whipped, and badly, too, in the days of slavery, but he was the worst whipped man I ever saw.

Q. [By committee.] State what is your opinion of the organization, and what effect public opinion would have on it, if properly directed.

A. I think it would die out. In illustration: before the war

when vigilant committees assumed to take the law into their own hands, and punish such persons as they supposed, or believed, were guilty of offenses, the better portion of the community would frown them down, and they met with no encouragement; and, consequently, would die out. So, I believe it would be in the case of the Ku Klux Klan. I was a Confederate soldier, but am opposed to such organization, and have made speeches in which I have taken ground openly against it.

Q. [By committee.] State whether any of them have visited Woodbury; if so, when, and what did they do, if you know?

A. I did not see them, but they were in Woodbury on the night of the 4th of July last; and I am informed, that they shot at a colored man by the name of Work Woods. They had been in Woodbury before that time. They were masked. The shooting at Wood was on their visit before the 4th of July. It was reported that Governor Brownlow was dead, and they came into town. They told a man by the name of Swape that they had heard of Brownlow's death, and wanted to know what he would charge them for eleven hundred cords of wood, that they wanted to make "hell hotter for him."

BARCLAY MARTIN.

Evidence of Prince Griffis.

Mr. Prince Griffis was called, and after being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he is fifty-one years of age, is a resident of Lincoln county, Tennessee; has been there the principal part of his life; is by occupation a farmer.

Question. Do you know anything of an organization known as the Ku Klux; if so, state all you know of them?

Answer. I know that there is an organization which is passing through Lincoln county in mask and armed. I saw about five of this Klan at my house some four weeks ago. They opened my door before I got out of my bed. They ordered me to get up, and make up a light, which I did, and gave them some water, which they called for. They left my house and went to my son's, who lived some one hundred yards from me. They came back to my house, and ordered me to close my door and go to bed.

I was in Mr. Suge's shop some weeks ago, and there was Mr. Jones, Bogs, John Hase, and others, there. They said that if Mr. William Wyatt, Senator of that district, did not be careful, he would not get to Nashville. Remarking that it had been said he would not go, and if he did and reported what the Ku Klux had

done to him, he would go up. Sure Jones said the first time they went to Mr. Wyatt's they turned him on his right side and told him to stay. The next time they cudgled him over his old house with a pistol. He said it was the best thing that was ever in the county. Better than a jail or patrols; for when they (colored people) done anything which they did not like, that they would then take them out and hang them. I have seen two men and one woman who had been whipped by them, as they say to me. This is all I know about them.

his

PRINCE ✕ GRIFFIS.
mark.

Witness—W. D. GARNER.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 7th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Walter Scott.

Walter Scott, called by the committee:

Question. State your name, age, residence, and business life.

Answer. My name is Walter Scott, I am twenty-eight years of age, I formerly resided in —, South Alabama, and my business is farming.

Q. [By committee.] State what you may know of an organization known as the Ku Klux Klan, and whether they have done anything to you, and what was it? State all you may know about them. When did you first see or know them?

A. Last April, just about the adjournment of the Legislature, or before its adjournment, some thirty or more of them came to my house. Fifteen of them came into the house. They took me, and said they would hang me. They had a rope. They stepped to the door, and asked, saying, "Captain Ku Klux, shall we hang him?" He replied, "No; spare him this time." They replied, all right. They passed out, and went over to Mrs. Hardy's, and asked for George Cultindon and James Buck, and told him to open immediately, and then broke open his door, and took from him (Buck) a six-shooter pistol. They had taken two guns from me. They took from Cultindon two pistols. Mrs. Mary Gordon, who saw them, says she would swear to two or three of them, and that the pistols belonged to George Cultindon—that is, those that were taken from him were his. She saw the pistols in the room of Mr. Sair the next morning. Know that Mr. Sair, Ned Gordon and Bob Gordon belong to the organization, and were along that night. When at my house, they put the rope around my neck, and I know the man who

put it around. His name is Robert Woollimen. The latter lived in Marshall county.

They asked me how I had voted. I told them I had voted for Brownlow. It would be the last time I would ever vote for him. They said if I would vote for the Conservatives that the Ku Klux would protect me. Before leaving, they swore me, my wife, and three or four others, that we would never report them, stating that if we ever did report them "Hell would be our portion."

They passed by my house afterwards, (say, some six weeks,) and called, saying, "Hello! Mr. Radical." I heard them, and ran off, and they did not get down. After this I left, and have not been at home openly, since. I have a crop growing of some fifty acres, and have been compelled to leave it.

The man whose land I am cultivating, after the first visit to me, and my guns taken, gave me a gun, as he said, to enable me to defend myself. Shortly before the last call they went to his house in the night, and had a friendly talk with him; and on the night before their last call, and after their visit to him, he came and got his gun. When they holloosed a sham, I ran off. They seen me, for the moon was shining very brightly. They killed on the night of the 4th of July, a colored man by the name of Mint Bucks, and nobody has been taken up for it. They killed him on the farm of — Marchbanks; and after he was killed, they said to Marchbanks, "we have killed that damned negro; go nad have him buried."

I know numbers of persons here from Giles county, who have been compelled to leave for nothing more, so far as I know, than I have been guilty of. I was in the Confederate army as a servant to my then master.

They are much worse towards Union soldiers than others. They have told, within the last five months, all the colored preachers in that neighborhood, to quit preaching, and they have done so. They have broken up all colored schools, and have forbidden them to attend preaching, and white men from preaching to colored people. They attend, and seem to have head-quarters, at Mrs. Mary Gordon's, about four miles from Cornersville, on the pike towards Pulaski.

his
WALTER D SCOTT.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to, this 7th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of John Lawson.

Question. What is your name, age, residence, occupation? Do you know anything of an organization known as the Ku Klux; if so state all you know about them?

Answer. My name is John Lawson, I am eighteen years of age, was born and raised in Maury county, Tennessee, in Williamsport; I reside in Williamson county; two months was in the employ of one Pat Harvey, of said county; I am a farmer by occupation, was farming for Mr. Harvey. Mr. Harvey lives near Thompson's Station. I called upon Mr. Harvey last Friday to pay me, and I told him that I wanted to go to Nashville to get some clothing. He told me that I wanted to join the damned militia. I told him that I did not. He paid me \$7.00, half what he owed me, and then left. I staid till night. He came home that night, and two Ku Klux came about the same time. They came to the cabin where I was, and came in the cabin, after breaking open the door. They were in the cabin, when I slipped out. It being dark, one of them said to the other to come and let us kill this damned negro. They followed me up, and fired four shots at me. I got away, and hid. The next morning I started for Nashville, and within about one quarter of a mile from where I started, I found a man hanging up by the feet. He had been skinned, His skin was hanging over his neck, and his privates had been cut off and put in his mouth. I did not know who he was. I had heard of no such a thing before. It looked as if it had been done that night. I was close to him, so that I could see distinctly. I came direct to Nashville, and am here for safety.

his

JOHN X LAWSON.

mark.

Witness—W. A. GARNER.

Sworn and subscribed to before Military Committee, this August 5th, 1868.

A. M. CATE,

Ch'm. *pro tem.*, Mil. Com.*Evidence of Mat. Winson.*

Question. What is your name, age, residence, and occupation?

Answer. My name is Mat Winson; my age is about thirty-five years; I live in Maury county, Tennessee, near Calleoka; have lived there about three years, with Mr. Richard Foster, on the Pulaski pike; my occupation is farming.

Q. Have you been molested by a band known as the Ku Klux Klan?

A. I was taken out of the house at Mr. Foster's, in May last, by a band of masked and armed men, who walked to the place, and whipped by them. There was a band ten in number of them. Mr. Foster had told me before that time, that he would have them whip me. I know the men. Their names are James Hickman, Jackson Hickman, James Brown, Samuel Neally, George Neally, William Belifor, Joseph Belifor, Henry Scott, Harry Scott, and Polk Thomas. After they whipped me, they told me and another man by the name of George Jourdon, to go and report to the Yankees, and they would kill me the next time.

This is all I know of the Klan, which is known as the Ku Klux Klan. I left there soon after they whipped me. I left to save my life, and am yet here for that purpose.

his
MAT ✂ WINSON.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 4th day of August, 1868.
W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

H. O. Hoffman, being called and sworn, testifies as follows:

My name is H. O. Hoffman; I am a citizen of Shelbyville, Tennessee; have resided there two years; and by occupation a Minister of the Gospel, and have charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Shelbyville.

Question. Do you know anything of a secret order known as the Ku Klux Klan, and if so, have you been molested or threatened by them, or do you know of others having been harmed by them?

Answer. From personal observation, I know nothing of such a Klan. I have never seen them; but that there is such a Klan, and that its existence is a great evil to the State, no one doubts. Said Klan has never injured me, in any material sense. To my personal knowledge, however, others have been seriously harmed by the secret order known as the Ku Klux Klan.

Question. Who were these injured parties, how, and when, and where were they molested or harmed?

A. At Shelbyville, Tennessee, on the night of July 4th, 1868, Mr. Dunlap, a quiet and unobtrusive man, in connection with a colored man by the name of Jeff, was most unmercifully whipped. His person was cut in great gashes from the middle of the back to the knee. I saw the scars but a few hours after they were made.

Q. Do you know why they whipped Mr. Dunlap and this colored man?

A. I do not, other than by the statement of Mr. Dunlap, himself. He was doubtless objectionable to the Klan, because he was engaged in the colored school in Shelbyville. As to the colored man, I cannot say why they whipped him, other than that it was to gratify a natural and educated instinct in them for "walloping a nigger."

Q. Have you been personally threatened by this Klan?

A. I really cannot say. I have been threatened, more than once. I have been told to my face, by parties who knew me, but did not address the remark to me, that "the Ku Klux had the name of every d—d Northern man and nigger-teacher and preacher on their list, and they would all be driven from the State in less than a month." I have also been threatened if I dared to go to such and such places, as for instance, Lewisburg, Tennessee, about 20, or 22 miles from Shelbyville.

Q. Who was it that made these threats?

A. One of the parties lives but a short distance from Wartrace, whom I can identify, but will not give the name, because I have no absolute assurance that I have it right. The other party is unknown to me, and lives in Marshall County.

Question. Have you ever received any notices to leave the State? If so, was the reason stated?

A. I have received what I deemed equivalent to a notice to leave.

Q. How, and where did you receive it?

A. I found it in my yard, put in front of my gate, and the following is a *verbatim* copy of such notice:

"IN KU KLUX COUNCIL, July 24, 1868.

"REV. MR. HOFFMAN:

"Your name is before the Council—Heaven!!—We will attend to you—shall not call us villains—d—n you.

"KU KLUX."

Q. Have you felt intimidated by these threats and notices?

A. No sir. I look upon the Klan as in a most contemptible sense, cowardly. I have thought if they could catch me off my guard, and away from home, where no personal danger could possibly come of such bravery as they might exhibit, they might perchance, do me some harm.

Q. What do you believe to be the object of this lawless Klan?

A. To whip unarmed negroes; scare timid white men; break up elections; interfere with the State Government, and steal and plunder the goods of the people.

H. O. HOFFMAN.

August 4th, 1868:

Evidence of Idel Brite.

Idel Brite being duly sworn, deposes and says:

Question. What is your name, your age, residence and occupation? Have you been molested by a band known as the Ku Klux Klan? If so state all you know about them.

Answer. My name is Idel Brite; I am 22 years of age; I live the 10th district, Giles County, Tennessee; farming is my occupation. I have seen some men masked and in arms, who told me that they were Ku Klux. The first time I saw them was sometime in June, I think about the 15th; they came to my house at night, about 12 o'clock, there were about 12 or 15 in number. Father opened the door for them. They took me out of my bed, and out of the house, having placed a rope or string, around my neck. They asked me if I knew who I was talking to, when I asked who was at the door, before it was opened. I told them I did not. They then told me that they were the Ku Klux Klan, and they would come back, which would be a few nights from that time. I saw no more of them until about the last of June, 1868, but was told by an old colored lady, that a white lady by the name of Mrs. Moore Smith said that I had better look out; the lady sent me the word as a friend. I got this word Monday evening, and Tuesday night they called for me at my house, about 12 in number, armed and masked. I was watching for them, and a colored man who was there, told them where I was. When I saw them, I was awoke by the shot of a pistol. They were surrounding the barn where I was. I attempted to get away, but was shot by one of them; the shot struck me in the left side. I succeeded in getting away, but was fired at about 18 times. I then succeed in getting to Pulaski, where I stopped about two weeks, to get able to get away. I saw on the night of the 4th of July, 1868, in the town of Pulaski, Tennessee, about 240 of these Ku Klux. I one day saw five men some distance off, running from towards Mr. Bell's. When the firing had commenced, Mr. Bell and a friend of his was firing at them. They lost two hats and masked faces close by Mr. Bell's. Mr. Bell informed me that he had expected something of the kind, and was waiting for them. As they came to his house, he saw them and stepped out

behind his house. When they came to his house they called for him and his wife told them that he had left the house some ten minutes ago. They then came close to the door and continued their enquiry for Bell, and also asked for some water, which was gave to them by Mrs. Bell. They again called for Bell. Mr. Bell then stepped from behind his house, and fired on them. They broke and run, firing off one time at Mr. Bell. I saw one of Mr. Edward's sons who keeps Bune Vista Ferry, last Friday evening. He was wounded, and report says about that time. I know nothing more of them.

his

: IDEL ✕ BRITE.

Witness—W. A. GARNER.

mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 6th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Chairman Com.

Evidence of William Wolaver.

Mr. William Wolaver being called, and after being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That his name is William Wolaver; that he is 53 years of age; that he was born in Greene County, Tennessee, and that he lived in that county until about three years ago, when he moved to Giles County, Tennessee; that he is by occupation a farmer.

Question. Do you know anything of an organization in Giles County, Tennessee, commonly known by the name of the Ku Klux Klan?

Answer. I do not. I have seen disguised people peeping at my house. The first time I saw them was about three months ago; the last time, was, as near as I can recollect, about three weeks after. There was, as well as I could estimate, about 25 or 30, the first time; about 12, the next. I do not know whether they were armed or not. They called on me for something to drink. I offered them some water, when they told me they wanted whiskey. I gave them some whiskey; they then left.

Q. What is the general impression which is created in your settlement by this Klan?

A. It created some excitement. Some think it is for good; others do not.

Q. Have you, since you have lived where you now live, seen any necessity for an organization of any kind to keep the peace and enforce the laws?

A. I have not; but believed that the civil officers were able to enforce the laws. I believe they still are.

Q. Do you know anything about the designs or plans of this organization?

A. I do not.

Q. Has there been any depredations committed by persons in mask, anywhere in your settlement, that you have seen or heard of, from a reliable source?

A. I have seen nothing myself of this kind, but have been told by good authority, that on the night of the 4th of July, 1868, there was a man by the name of Burks shot in his own house, and killed. I have also been told, that some pistols have been taken from some colored men in the settlement.

Q. Do you believe, from what you see and hear, that there can be an election held there in November next, without something more than ordinary protection?

A. I do not believe that there would be any interruption now, but cannot say what about the future.

WILLIAM WOLAVER.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this August 13th, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Chairman Com.

Evidence of N. Harsh.

Mr. N. Harsh being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he is 42 years of age; has been living in Tennessee about twenty-seven years; by occupation, a merchant; keeps firearms for sale; has sold a good many more pistols for the last month or two than formerly; has sold for the last month or six weeks, something near or about 250 pistols; sold mostly to white men. The parties who purchase, when they have expressed themselves, say they purchase for self-defense.

N. HARSH.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs, this August 21st, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of George Harsh.

Mr. George Harsh being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he is 41 years of age; has lived in this State about twenty-eight years; is by occupation a merchant; keeps firearms for sale; has sold about 250 pistols in the last six or seven weeks; sold mostly to white men; sales in pistols have been greater for the last

six or seven weeks than usual. Parties who purchase, who express themselves, say they buy in self-defense. GEORGE HARSH.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs, this August the 21st, 1868. W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Mr. Joseph T. Burt.

Mr. Joseph T. Burt being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am 24 years of age—raised here; occupation, salesman in hardware store of Macey & Brown; been doing business in said house about two years; have pistols and guns for sale—sold more than usual number of pistols in time of peace, but do not know the exact number. Sold different kinds of pistols—dont know for what purpose they have been sold—have been sold to both colored and white. I was absent from the house from the 18th of July to the 6th of August. JOSEPH T. BURT.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate of Tennessee, this 19th day of August, 1868. W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of John F. Fall.

Mr. John F. Fall being called, and duly sworn, as directed by law, deposes and says:

That he is about 23 years of age—was born and raised in Tennessee; that he is by occupation a hardware merchant—keeps fire-arms for sale. Sales in pistols have been greater for the last two or three months than usual; have sold more in the last four weeks than in any four weeks before, since the war; have sold in that time about twenty-five dozen pistols—the most of the number sold to country merchants. Sales at retail, to white and colored, have been about equal. There are about five stores in the city which keep pistols for sale; expect we sell more than any other house. I asked one man what he was buying pistols for,—this man was of Murfreesboro,—he said, to sell. JOHN F. FALL.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Military Committee, this August 22d, 1868. W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Samuel McCall.

Mr. Samuel McCall being called, and duly sworn as directed by law, deposes and says, that he is twenty-eight years of age; has been here since the 3d day of Dec., 1867; by occupation a sales-

man in the house of Hamilton & Cunningham. The house keeps fire-arms for sale. Left the house on business, July 14th, 1868. Came back the 17th of this month. Sales in fire-arms were small for the last month before I left. Have sold one revolver since coming back.

SAMUEL MCCALL.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military, this August 20th, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Charles Brown.

Charles Brown being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says, that he is eighteen years of age, and a salesman in the hardware establishment of Hamilton & Cunningham since the 14th of last October, past.

Question. Mr. Brown have you any idea of the number of arms sold in said establishment during the last month or six weeks?

Answer. No, sir; I have no idea.

Q. Have you sold any pistols by the box, or by wholesale?

A. No, sir; I have only sold by retail.

Q. Have you sold a greater number of revolvers in the past two months than you did the two months previous to that?

A. I cannot tell whether there was or not.

Q. Has sales been good for the last two months?

A. About the same that it was previous to that.

CHARLES BROWN.

Sworn and subscribed before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, August 20th, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm Com.

Evidence of Thomas Moore.

Mr. Thomas Moore, being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

My age twenty, last April; was raised here; occupation, book-keeper, and sometimes, salesman, at Macey & Brown's. Keep fire-arms. Have sold very few revolvers lately. Sold differnt kinds—to both white and colored. Don't know for what purpose.

THOS. H. MOORE.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate of Tennessee, this 19th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'n Com.

Evidence of Mr. A. Setliff.

Mr. A. Setliff being duly sworn as required by law, deposes and says: He is twenty-five years of age; that he has resided in the city of Nashville since the close of the war; and is, by occupation, a

bookseller and stationer; and does business at the Commercial Hotel.

Question. [By committee.] Mr. Setliff, have you been engaged in the sale of fire-arms?

A. Yes, sir; to some extent.

Q. [By committee.] About what time did you commence the sale of fire-arms?

A. About four weeks ago.

Q. Have you been selling fire-arms for yourself, or for some one else?

A. I have been selling for myself. I bought and sold the same as any other merchant.

Q. Were they new or old?

A. They were new.

Q. Have you any idea about what number you have sold?

A. About five.

Q. Have you sold any other kind of arms?

A. I have not.

Q. Who were these arms sold to?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know any of the men, or are you acquainted with the parties you have sold these arms to, and do you know for what purpose they were bought?

A. I am acquainted with one of the men who I sold to, but do not know for what purpose they were bought.

A. SETLIFF.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs, the 18th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Mr. Lewis Prowell.

Mr. Lewis Prowell, of Hickman County, being called and duly sworn, as directed by law, deposes and says:

He lives in the 4th district of Hickman County, Tennessee; is about 45 years of age; was born and raised in Williamson County, Tennessee; has been living where he now lives, three years; that there is a band of armed and masked men in that section of the county, who have for some time, been taking by force, from the colored people, their arms. That said band of men came to his house last Wednesday night, six in number, and entered his house, first calling for corn, and then something for six men to eat. My wife began to make preparation to cook for them. They asked her her

name, being told, they said to her: "You are the head of this damned Union League," and at once shot two balls through her. She died instantly. They left for some time, and went to the house of R. Sleightor and stayed for a short time, and then came back to my house and examined my wife, to see if she was dead. I was gone out to get some help to arrest them, but could not get any one to help me. I am sure that no Union man is any longer safe in that county, without some further protection is given. The rebels say that on the day of the election they intend to buckle on their revolvers and go to the polls, and when the negro comes to vote, they intend to tell him to stand back, and if he does not do this they will shoot him at once. Mr. John Ragsdale, of my county, said to me that this is the programme all over the State. That on that day, the war will begin throughout the State. I have not had any difficulty since living there, and know no cause but my loyalty, which could have produced such conduct toward my family.

his

LEWIS ✕ PROWELL.

mark.

Attest—W. A. GARNER.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 18th day of Aug., 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Richard Moore.

Mr. Richard Moore, of Lincoln County, being called and duly sworn as directed by law, deposes and says:

He is 22 years of age; that he lives in the 12th district, Lincoln County, Tennessee: has lived in that settlement all of his life; is, by occupation a farmer. That there is an organization of masked and armed men in that county, whipping, shooting, and driving from their homes, the colored people of the county, and also Union white men. This Klan began to operate some time last Spring, and has been kept up ever since, but with more violence for the last two months. On Saturday night last, two weeks ago, sixteen of this Klan came to my house and knocked me down with sticks and their pistols, beating me severely; and after they had cut my head to the skull in several places, took me from the house and stripped me, and whipped me with a strap of leather, with a buckle on its end, striking me 175 licks. This Klan asked me if I was a Radical. They called on me for my certificate of registration, which I did not give them. They called upon me for my pistol, and I told them that I had sold it. I was with the Union army

during the late war, in Government employ. They told me that I nor no other colored man, should vote in the Presidential election. I have been told by rebels in the county, that negroes should not vote with the Radical party in that county. That they, and all the Radicals of the county, should be killed first. But that when the colored men would vote for them all would be right, and the country would then have peace, but not till then; that if I would join them and be a good Conservative, I might do anything I pleased to the Radicals, and should not be hurt for it. I do not believe that any colored or white Union man is safe in that county, or will be until there is better protection given.

The Klan which whipped me told me to take my shirt and do like old Bill Wyatt did, "carry it to Brownlow's Legislature;" and if I did this they would kill me certain; and that if "old Bill Wyatt came back there they would kill him, certain." This is Senator William Wyatt, of which they were speaking.

I know some of the Klan—Capt. Tucker, James Bennett, John Clark, L. Anderson, and son, Richard Anderson, Andrew Tait, John Steverson and Mr. Hill.

All my near neighbors, and all rebels, are for Seymour and Blair.

RICHARD X MOORE.
his
mark.

Attest—W. A. GARNER.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs, this 18th day of August, 1868. W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Charles Marchbanks.

Mr. Charles Marchbanks being called and duly sworn, deposes and says, that he was born and raised in Warren county, Tennessee; is thirty-one years of age; that he has been living within about two miles and a half of Cornersville, Tennessee, for about three years; and is by occupation a farmer.

Question. Do you know anything of an organization in that county known as the Ku Klux, or Night Errants; if so, state all you know about said Klan.

Answer. I have seen some people in mask at my house and on the pike near my house. The first time I saw any of this Klan in mask, as well as I remember, was in the last days of March, 1868. There were some five or eight in number. I don't know whether they were armed or not, but think I saw as they passed me, a pistol in one man's hand, but am not sure this was so. I have seen them some four or five times. They came to my house some

two or three times. They talked to me friendly, and called upon me to visit them. When I asked them where I should come, they said Den No. 10. On or about the night of the 4th of July, 1868, they came to a colored man's house on my place, and killed him by shooting him through the cracks in the house. Two balls hit him. They then came to my house, and told me that they had killed him. I had a Coroner's Jury held over him myself, and it was decided that he was shot by unknown parties in mask. This is the only murder which has been committed in that community by the Klan, which I have heard of. It is reported that they took some pistols from some colored men in adjoining settlements. I have not seen any of this Klan since, except four, which I saw in Cornersville, some four weeks ago. I know nothing of the plans or designs of the organization, with the exception of what I have heard its members say, whilst in mask. They said that they did not intend to disturb any one who would behave themselves, be they white or black. They requested me to say to the colored men who were working with me, that they were not their enemies. There has been some colored people left my settlement. Some were under bad character. All is quiet in that section of the country now. I think that the organization, as before referred to, has been a splendid thing for the county where I live. I think that the organization may be composed in part of the citizens of the county in which I live, but do not know this to be a fact.

There was some goods brought to my house and left, with orders for my wife to make it up into suits.

Q. Suppose you had refused to have these goods made up, do you think that you would have been compelled to have done it?

A. I don't know; but have been told that there were some goods left at one man's house, who had declared that he would not have it made, before it was left; that he was ordered to have it made by a certain time.

Q. Was you in the late army as a Confederate soldier?

A. I was.

Q. Do you think that there can be any election held in November next without any extraordinary force?

A. It could be done now; but what could be done in November, I cannot tell.

C. MARCHBANKS.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs, this August 13th, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Mr. T. J. Gaskins, of Obion County, Tennessee:

Mr. T. J. Gaskins being called and duly sworn, deposes and says: He is a citizen of Obion county, Tennessee, and has been for about two years; that he is about thirty-two years of age; is by occupation a farmer. That he was elected a Constable of the 13th Civil District of Obion county at the election in March last, and was regularly qualified as provided by law. That he served as a soldier in the Union Armies during the late war, and has been honorably discharged from said service.

Question. Do you know anything of an organization in Obion county, Tennessee, known as the Ku Klux Klan, or Knight Errants; if so, state all you know of said organization.

A. I know that there is an organization in said county which is passing through the county committing depredations of various kinds; whipping the colored people, killing of some, and taking from them their arms and certificates of registration, and ordering Union white men to quit the country.

This Klan is generally known by the name of Ku Klux. I saw six men last Wednesday night was a week ago, in mask, near Union City. They were armed and well mounted. I received orders from some unknown persons. These orders were handed me by the post-master at Union City.

I left my home to keep from being killed by the Ku Klux, as I am fully of opinion that they intended to kill me.

Q. What do the people in general in your county think of said organization?

A. As far as I have been able to learn, the rebels, or a majority of them, speak of it in favorable terms; and I think that they encourage it, and belong to the Klan. The Union men are againts it, and believe that it is gotten up to drive them out of the country, and to pull down and overthrow the State Government. I have frequently been told by rebels in the county, that they intended to pull down and destroy the present State Government.

The rebels, in general, are very unfriendly towards Union men, and some of them have went so far as to say that their children should not associate with the children of Union men.

They say they are determined to vote whether they have certificates or not, in the Presidential election; and if any colored man attempts to vote, they will kill him, or the white man that protects him. These expressions are general among rebels. They go fur-

ther: they say that they intend to carry this election or die in the attempt. Other Union men have left the county to save their life, and unless there is some relief, I think that they will all be forced to leave.

T. J. GASKINS.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs, this, August 14th, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Sumner A. Cunningham.

Sumner A. Cunningham, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

Question. What is your name, where do you reside, how old are you?

Answer. My name is Sumner A. Cunningham; I reside in Shelbyville, Tennessee; my age is twenty-five years; I am by occupation a merchant; I am a native of the county.

Q. Do you know anything of the organization known as the Ku Klux Klan; and if so, tell us all you know about them.

A. I know I have seen a company, of men or persons in disguise—some forty-eight in one company, and eight in another. Their faces were covered. This was on the night of the 4th of July, 1868. I think some of their horses were covered. I did not pay particular attention. It was said they carried a man out of Shelbyville, and whipped him severely, which act I earnestly disapproved.

I am in favor of order and law; and believing such conduct would oppose the peace and harmony of the country, I would have been glad to prevent it if I could.

S. A. CUNNINGHAM.

Sworn and subscribed to, this day and date, August 11th, 1868, before me.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Arthur A. Breast.

Arthur A. Breast being duly sworn, deposes and says: He is twenty-eight years of age; by occupation wholesale hardware merchant; store is 45 Public Square, Nashville, Tennessee.

Question. Do you keep fire-arms for sale?

Answer. Yes, sir; we do. I should think we have sold in the last sixty days seventy pistols. These arms are sold by us to merchants—our business being wholesale. This is an increase on previous sales in the same time.

ARTHUR A. BREAST.

Sworn and subscribed to, this 26th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Jo. H. Van Leer.

Mr. Jo. Van Leer, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

He is about 32 years of age, by occupation Hardware Merchant clerk, business house, 49 North College street, Nashville, Tenn.

Question. Do you keep fire-arms for sale?

Answer. Yes sir.

Q. What number of fire-arms have you sold in the last two months?

A. I think we must have sold some three dozen pistols, and eight or ten shot guns. The sales has been greater for the last two months than formerly. I have sold more to colored, than white citizens.

JO. H. VAN LEER.

Sworn and subscribed to, before me, this 26th day of Aug., 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Chairman Com.

Evidence of T. J. Treppard.

Mr. T. J. Treppard, being called, and duly sworn, deposes and says:

He is about 32 years of age; by occupation a Hardware Merchant; store Nos. 19 and 21, North College street, Nashville Tennessee. Keep fire-arms for sale. Purchased some \$200 worth of pistols some two months ago, and have sold about half of them. Sold principally to white men. About the time I purchased, the demand for pistols was greater than they are now.

T. J. TREPPARD.

Sworn and subscribed to, this 26th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Chairman Com.

Evidence of McClaugherty.

Mr. McClaugherty, being called and duly sworn, as directed by law, deposes and says:

He is 33 years of age; is, by occupation, a Hardware Merchant; has his store on Public Square, Nashville, Tennessee; keeps fire-arms for sale. His sales in pistols has been greater for the last two or three months than before that time, during this year. Does not know the number sold.

M. A. McCLAUGHERTY.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs.

W. J. SMITH, Chirman Com.

Evidence of J. W. Smith

Mr. J. W. Smith, being called and duly sworn as directed by law, deposes and says:

He is 35 years of age: by occupation a Hardware clerk in the house of Gray & Kirkman, Nashville, Tennessee. The firm keeps fire-arms for sale. There has been an increase in the sale of pistols for the last two months. From the first of July last, to the present time, the house has sold from 130 to 140 pistols. Have sold to both black and white, but principally to white. Some to country merchants.

J. W. SMITH.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 26th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Chairman Com.

Evidence of J. M. Gray.

Mr. J. M. Gray, being called, and duly sworn as directed by law, deposes and says:

He is about 32 years of age; is, by occupation, a Hardware Merchant; business house 53 College Street, Nashville, Tennessee; keeps fire-arms for sale; has sold a greater number of pistols for the last six weeks than usual; does not know what number sold; to both white and colored. Parties, in general, make no expression as to why they buy.

J. M. GRAY.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Committee on Military Affairs, this 26th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Chairman Committee.

Evidence of Tom Butler.

Question. What is your name, age and occupation, and where do you live?

Answer. My name is Thomas Butler; I am going on twenty-five years old; I am a laboring man; I live in Pulaski, and was born and raised in Giles County, Tennessee.

Q. Do you know anything of an organization known as a Ku Klux Klan; if so, tell all you know about them.

I saw ten or fifteen footmen on Monday night last, dressed in disguise, inquiring for Tom Butler. When I answered, Mr. Porter, one of the men with me, got up and started out, when the men in disguise halloed out shoot him. They shot several times—one of which took effect in Porter's hip. Dr. Simpson, of Pulaski, took the ball out.

When the shooting commenced, I started to run; and made my escape through a fire of ten or fifteen shots, following me only about thirty yards, when they soon after disappeared. Next morning I returned to the lime furnace, when the Mayor, Town Constable,

and quite a number of others were present, and expressed great opposition to such conduct, and a determination to put it down if
his

THOMAS X BUTLER.

Witness—W. A. GARNER.

mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 27th day of August, 1868

W. J. SMITH,

Ch'm. Com. on Military.

Stephen Medon's Statement.

I, Stephen Midon, state on oath, I am about sixty-three years of age; that I was a slave; and that I was so faithful, that, although a slave, and held in bondage until I obtained my freedom during the war, by the action of the people of Tennessee, I never had any difficulty with my former owners. None of them ever gave me a lick in my life, unless whilst I was a child, and I always had their confidence in everything, so far as I know, believe, or remember. I am now living in Marshall County, Tennessee, where I was raised and am known in that neighborhood; and if I had an enemy on earth I did not know it. I have been a member of the Church for fifty years, and have, so far as I know, or believe, lived up to the requirements of the same; and never heard from any member thereof, any complaint as to morals or conduct.

I am, and have been, since I obtained my freedom, a Republican, or Radical, and have voted that ticket all the time.

On or about the 10th of July last, about one o'clock at night, a parcel of men disguised in masks, with high conical hats on, and all dressed alike, came to my house. They asked if I would tell the truth. I said I would. They then said tell it. They then asked me where my son, David was. I told them he was there about an hour by sun. They then asked me where he went. I told them he went out at the south gate. They then said if my son and myself should vote the Radical ticket they would hang me. They said I had voted the Radical ticket before, and I must hereafter vote the Conservative ticket, if I voted at all, or they would hang me. They came to my house in the night and knocked at the door, attempting to break it open, and I opened it. They were dressed in red garments. They searched the house for my son, but, of course, they did not find him, for he was not there. They shot a dog in the yard for barking. They had a pistol pointed at me all the time they were in the house. The moment they entered the

door a pistol was pointed at me. They said if I let my son come back to my house to stay, they would kill me. They said they had heard that my son was raising, or trying to raise, a company to fight them. I thought I knew some of them, who were near neighbors, and all of them lived in the county, so far as I knew them. My son had done nothing towards raising a company. He had had a personal difficulty with a colored man, and this was the only foundation for the report. They threatened to kill my son, saying they intended to kill him whenever they found him.

On Friday night and Saturday night, they whipped a colored man and his wife very badly in Marshall county, near where I live. They also whipped on the same night, another colored man, his son, and son-in-law, near the same place. They choked one of them, who had been in the Federal Army, and hung him three times until nearly dead, each of them. They are taking guns from every colored man who has one. This is a part of their plan of operation, so far as I can learn. They uniformly take guns or pistols wherever they find them in the hands of colored people. They never disturb anybody except Republicans or radicals. White men who are radicals, are generally afraid to speak out their principles.

They are traveling almost every week at night, sometimes visiting one radical, and sometimes another.

My son, with many others—nearly all who can leave—have left the neighborhood and gone. Most radicals, when they go to bed, have apprehensions of personal violence before day. The state of society is alarming. No one who differs with them is safe, and their numbers are increasing.

his
STEPHEN X MEDON.
mark.

Evidence of Spencer Griffin.

Mr. Spencer Griffin, being called and duly sworn, deposes and says: He is fifty-four or fifty-five years of age, and that he now resides in Sumner county, Tennessee, within three miles of Gallatin; has been living there since March last; is by occupation a farmer.

Question. Do you know anything of an organization known as Ku Klux, in your county?

Answer. There was a band of armed masked men came to my house on Saturday night, some four weeks ago. Came to the door with a rail, pushed open the door, and came into my house; and

when I called to know who was there, one man answered to me, saying, "come here, I want you." I asked to know what they wanted with me, when they seized me, tied me, and ordered me to come with them, which I did. After carrying me a short distance, they asked me if I had heard of the Ku Klux. I told them I had. They then said that they were the men, and they were going around stationing off the county, and that we all thought we were all free; that we could vote; but we will stop all of that. They then stripped and whipped me with a leather strap some one hundred and fifty lashes; telling me that they first whipped, and when they came the second time, they came shooting down and hanging up. After they had whipped me, they again told me that we all thought we were free, but what we had to do just we were to told to do, right or wrong.

his
SPENCER X GRIFFIN.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this day, August 27th, 1868.
W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Charles E. Robert.

Charles E. Robert, being duly sworn according to law, deposes as follows: My name is Charles E. Robert; I am about twenty years of age; by occupation City Editor of *Union and American* and a native of Davidson county, Tennessee.

Question. Do you know anything of an organization known as the Ku Klux Klan; if so tell all you know about them.

Answer. I do not know of such an organization. I have seen men in costume, disguised—I do not know whether they were Ku Klux—at Decatur, Alabama. Their uniform consisted of a red gown, trimmed with white braid; pants of the same; high hat, with veil over the face; holes for the eyes and mouth; five or six in number.

Q. Have you printed at any time in your office, any orders, handbill, or other paper, for the Ku Klux Klan, an organized body of armed masked, men.

A. About the time the organization appeared in the Spring, an anonymous communication reached me, through the post-office, which was evidently a burlesque on the order of the supposed Klan. This is the only communication I have ever caused to be published. This was in early Spring. I do not remember the post-marks.

CHARLES E. ROBERT.

Sworn and subscribed to before the Military Committee, this 28th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH,
Ch'm. Com. on Military.

Evidence of S. C. Mercer.

Mr. S. C. Mercer, being duly sworn according to law, deposes as follows:

My name is S. C. Mercer; I am Editor of the *Press and Times*, the State journal; am 36 years of age; have lived in Davidson County since April, 1862.

Question. Did you ever receive a letter, or dispatch, or any communication whatever, from Beirfield, or his friends, of Franklin, Tennessee?

Answer. I did not. I never heard of Beirfield before his death. I did not deny the statement until I went to everybody connected with our office, and made the enquiry as to whether such communication had been received in regard to the character of Miss Ezell, as published in the Nashville *Banner*, and other Democratic papers.

Q. Do you know of an organization known as the Ku Klux Klan? If so tell us all you know about them.

A. I have received communications that satisfies me of the existence of such an Order. Its general operations appears to be to overawe Union men, both black and white.

S. C. MERCER.

Sworn and subscribed to, before me, this 28th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Henry Heiss.

Henry Heiss, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

My name is Henry Heiss; I am Assistant Editor of the *Nashville Banner*; my age is 28 years; am a native of the County of Davidson, Tennessee.

Q. Tell what you know about a paragraph that appeared in your paper of August 26th, purporting to a knowledge of arms and munitions of war being sent to Franklin.

The following is the paragraph:

“AMONG THE BLACKS—GUNS AND AMMUNITION SECRETLY SHIPPED TO
FRANKLIN.

“While the Committee on Military Affairs are pursuing their sham investigation as to how many arms and how much ammunition have been sold to the whites of this city, within a recent period, we think they had better keep an eye on the malcontents of their

own party. For what purpose, let the committee inquire, was a wagon-load of munitions of war sent to Franklin last Monday? Were they to be put into the hands of loyal blacks for the perpetration of another Ezell tragedy? Is this the Legislature's idea of 'peace?'

"That the guns, cartridges and caps referred to, are now somewhere in Williamson County, and that they were secretly sent there on Monday, from the Radical head-quarters in this city, we have most positive proof, having received our information from a gentleman who stopped the wagon and examined its contents."

A. I wrote the article above. I got the information from a gentleman I had confidence in. After enquiry, I am satisfied that he was mistaken. I got my information from Mr. Rains, the book-keeper in the *Banner* office. Mr. Rains says he got his information from Mr. Robinson, of South Nashville.

Q. Do you know of any demonstration of violence in the State, for the last six months?

A. I know nothing of my own knowledge; only know what I see in the papers.

Q. Do you know anything of an armed, masked organization, known as the Ku Klux Klan?

A. I know nothing personally, but believe that there is such an organization. I formed my opinion on the general opinion of the people.

Q. Did you see a letter which was published in the *Republican Banner*, bearing date Aug. 9th, 1868, published about the 18th of Aug., 1868, said to have been written by Israel Brown, of Nashville, Tennessee, and directed to John Nolin, Franklin, Tennessee?

A. I did. I had it in my possession. I gave it to Representative McFall.

Q. Who gave you the letter?

A. I found it on the office desk, in Colonel House's office, in Franklin, Tennessee, on or about the 17th of August, 1868. Do not know who placed it there. There was a party of gentlemen in Colonel House's office, when he and I went from his office to learn something of the former history of the gentleman, Mr. Bierfield, who had been killed there, a few days before; and when we returned, I found the parties in his office still, and the letter, which was not there when I left, was on the desk, as before stated.

Q. Did any one in Franklin, Tennessee, state to you that they knew, with their own knowledge, that Bierfield had had anything to do with the assassination of Mr. Ezell?

A. They did not.

Q. Have you, at any time, heard any threats to assassinate any of the members of the Legislature, or any of the State officers?

A. I have not.

Q. Did you hear, at any time, any Northern or Southern man, ask why the people of Tennessee did not assassinate Gov. Brownlow?

A. This question was repeatedly asked me while I was in the North, some time in last days of June, and first days of July.

HENRY HEISS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 28th day of Aug., 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Mr. J. O. Griffith.

Mr. J. O. Griffith, being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

He is about 50 years of age; is a resident of Davidson County, Tennessee; by occupation a Publisher in the office of the *Union and American*, Nashville, Tennessee.

Question. How long have you been engaged in that office?

Answer. I purchased an interest in the *Union and Dispatch* about two weeks ago; and since that time, the *Union and Dispatch* and *Nashville Gazette* have been consolidated, and now form the *Union and American*. We have published but two copies. I take no part in the transaction of the business of the *Union and Dispatch*, except as to knowing the consolidation of the two papers.

Q. Do you know of an organization known as the Ku Klux Klan. I do not. My honest conviction is, that there is no such an organization—as a general organization; but I believe, from what general rumor says, as published in the papers, that there are organized bands in some localities, of masked, armed men. Of my personal knowledge, or direct specific information, I know nothing of them, and hence cannot believe that the organization has any general extent.

Q. What impression do you think that these local organizations make upon the minds of the people?

Judging from the exaggerated reports, as made through the papers and public speakers and correspondents, I would say, that they, like all other secret political associations, have a deleterious influence upon the sentiment and passions of the people, tending ultimately, to the ruin of the best interest of society and our common country; destroying all order, moral and civil, and ending only in

anarchy and ruin; and they are a disgrace to the age in which we live, and should be discountenanced by every person having any self-respect or love for the best interests of society.

J. O. GRIFFITH.

Evidence of H. H. Aynett.

Mr. H. H. Aynett, of Pulaski, Tennessee, being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

His name is H. H. Aynett; that he is 43 years old, resides in Pulaski, Tennessee, and is, and has been for the last 18 months, the police officer of said town of Pulaski, Tennessee.

Question. Do you know anything of an organization in your county of Giles, commonly known as the Ku Klux Klan?

Answer. I do not, of my own knowledge.

Q. Have you seen any masked men, mounted or dismounted, for the last 12 months, in the town of Pulaski, Tennessee?

A. I have. I saw small squads of masked men in Pulaski, on or before the night of the 4th of July, 1868, at different times. On the night of the 4th of July, 1868, I saw some two or three hundred masked and mounted men in the town of Pulaski, Tennessee, and some on foot.

Q. Were they armed?

A. I think that I saw some pistols among them.

Q. Did you know any one of them?

A. I did not recognize any of them.

Q. Did you not discover that some of the young gentlemen of the town was missing, if not in the party of masked men?

A. I noticed carefully, and think that I saw the most of the young men of the town, and they were not among the masked party. The party did not harm any one.

Q. Has there been any offences or violations of law, committed in Pulaski for the last twelve months, by masked men?

A. Mr. Richardson was taken from jail forcibly—it is reported by the jailer, himself—by masked men. Also, a colored man was taken from the jail and shot dead, in Pulaski, by a masked party, so the jailer said. I had a jury of inquest held over him, myself. I summoned the jury. On last Monday night, there were parties in mask, armed, or said to be, went to the house of Mrs. T. Butler, a colored Union woman, who lives near the corporation of Pulaski, Tennessee, and called for her son, telling her that they desired to see him about having whipped her. She informed them that he

had whipped her; and told them that he was at the lime kiln, some half mile from there. They went to the lime-kiln and called for Thomas Butler, and he broke to run, when the party fired upon him, and accidentally shot another colored man, who was near by. Butler did not get hurt. I have diligently enquired to learn who the parties were, but have not been able to learn, but the majority of white and colored people, believe that it was colored men.

Q. Please state all you know about the shooting of a colored man who worked at the office of the *Pulaski Citizen*, Giles County, Tennessee, by some of the citizens of Lincoln County, Tennessee, some days ago.

A. I don't know that he works at the office, but think he works for Mr. McCord, the publisher of the *Citizen*.

Some of the citizens of Lincoln, was at Pulaski, Tennessee, on the 18th of this month, and left there intoxicated; and it was reported that they met and shot the man about one-and-a-half miles from town, on the Fayetteville road. Some two days after, there was a *capias* directed by the Court, to the Sheriff of Lincoln County. It was placed in my hands, and I proceeded to the County of Lincoln, to have the parties legally arrested, as directed by law, which was done, and the parties were placed under bonds, for their appearance at Court—December Term.

Q. Do you believe that the law will be enforced in your county without extraordinary force?

A. I do.

H. H. AYMETT.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 29th day of August, 1868.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of J. B. Hobdy.

Mr. J. B. Hobdy, being called and duly sworn, deposes and says:

His name is J. B. Hobdy, that he is the Sheriff of Sumner County, Tennessee; that he is about 44 years of age.

Question. Do you know anything of an armed and masked organization in your county, commonly known as the Ku Klux Klan?

Answer. I do not, of my own personal knowledge; but from what I learn from other people in my county, I believe that there is such an organization, and that it is strong. In some settlements, or neighborhoods, it is reported by the citizens, that at least two-thirds of the white citizens belong to said organization.

Q. Have you heard of said organization committing any violence in your settlement, or county?

A. I have. It was reported to me that said organization took a colored man from his house and whipped him severely, some weeks ago, near Gallatin, Tennessee, and some of the citizens appear to indorse said conduct, whilst others appear to condemn it.

Q. When was you elected as Sheriff of said County?

A. At the regular election in March last, and was qualified about the first of June last.

Q. Have you been interfered with in the discharge of your duties as Sheriff?

A. I have not.

Q. What appears to be the feeling of the people as to the Presidential election; do they speak of voting any how, or of keeping others who are voters, from the polls?

A. Some of them frequently declare they will vote any how. I have heard but one speak of driving off others from the polls. The people have been counceled by some lawyers and public speakers, to vote, if they had to constitute seperate polls from those constituted by law.

Q. From what you can learn about the Ku Klux organization what appears to be its objects?

A. I have concluded, from what I can hear, that its objects are to keep the colored people from voting in the Presidential election.

Q. What party does this Order belong to?

A. It appears to be composed of men who were in sympathy with the rebellion. I do not think that the regular Confederate soldiers, many of them, belong to said Order, in my county.

Q. Was you in Gallatin on the 28th of March last, when the election was held for Chancellor?

A. I was.

Q. Did the citizens turn out in arms that day?

A. Many of them did. They said after the election was over, that they thought that they had about 500 armed men in town. I saw some of them standing at the windows, at different times, with pistols in their hands, on that day. On the following Monday, there was a great number in the town, armed. They said they came there to whip out Captain Phillips, who was in command of the police forces.

Q. From all of the lights before you, do you think that the election can be held there in your county, for President, without the employment of extraordinary force, in November next?

A. Not if the United States troops were moved from there. I have been told by some of the colored voters, that they had been forced to vote contrary to their sentiments, under fear of being molested if they did not. I do not believe that a free and fair election can be held in all the districts; without more than ordinary protection. I heard one J. P. declare that a negro should not vote at an election where he was.

J. B. HOBODY.

Sworn and subscribed to before me in Senate Military Committee room, this 29th day of August, 1868.

J. F. LAUCK, Chancellor 7th Div.

Evidence of W. A. Kelly, of Maury County, Tennessee.

Mr. W. A. Kelly, being called and duly sworn as directed by law, deposes and says:

His name is W. A. Kelly; that he resides about five miles West of Mount Pleasant, Maury County, Tennessee; that he is, by occupation, a farmer, and made a crop there this year; that he is about 28 years of age.

Q. Was you a soldier during the late war?

A. I was.

Q. In what army?

A. Federal army; 1st Florida Regiment of Cavalry, Co. D., commanded by Captain Rowlin Rumber.

Q. Was you honorably discharged the service?

A. I was, about the 3d of Sept., 1865.

Q. How long have you lived where you now live?

A. About two years.

Q. Are you a voter there?

A. I am.

Q. Did you vote there in the Spring election for county officers?

A. I did, at Mount Pleasant.

Q. Was there any disturbance at the polls; or did any one try to keep the voters from voting as they desired, by threats?

A. There was some disturbance, and I heard some men making threats against the voters if they did not vote against the Union ticket. I saw one man present his pistol at a colored voter, and say to him that if he did not vote as he wished, he should not vote at all.

Q. Did any one try to prevent this in your presence?

A. They did.

Q. Have you, at any time, since you have lived there, been interrupted?

A. Not till Tuesday night last. Then a band of men masked and armed, about 14 in number, came to my house about ten or eleven o'clock at night, and violently broke down my doors, and came into my house and called for me. I had left the house, getting out at the window. My wife told them I was out. They fired at me as I left my house, and swore they would kill me. They presented a pistol at my wife's head, and told her if she did not get my money for them, that they would kill her. She refused to get it for them, when they broke open my trunk and took \$160 out of it, and carried it away, and tore up my army discharge, and my certificate of registration, and turned the stock into my fields. They stayed about the place till a short time before daylight, and then left, after breaking up my shot-gun.

Q. Did you or your wife, recognize any of them?

A. We did not.

Q. Did you leave home, for fear of being killed?

A. I did, as the Klan swore they would have me, if I remained on the land.

Q. Have you heard the rebels say anything as regards the election for President, in November next?

A. I have heard them say that if they were not allowed to vote, that they would not allow any one else to vote in said election.

Q. From what you can see and learn, is this generally the feelings of the rebels, or the Democratic party, there?

A. It is the conclusion that I have come to from all of the actions of said parties, as lately revealed.

Q. When this party was at your house, did they say anything about you having been in the Federal army?

A. They said that no damned Union soldier or Abolitionist should live in the county.

Q. Did the party call any names when they were at your house?

A. They did call names. Some of the party cried out, "shoot him, Knox, Tom Brown, and Oliver Williams!" I heard this distinctly.

Q. Who did you think these names represented?

A. I thought the name "Knox," represented Knox Canidy, who lives near me. The name "Tom Brown," such a man lives in about a mile of my house, and I think that he is the man. "Oliver

Williams," lives in about one-half mile of my house. I am of the opinion, that he was the man whose name was called, and who was there.

Q. Do you think that any Union man, who is free to speak, and advocate the cause of the Republican party, as Whigs and Democrats used to do, would he allowed to live in that county without being molested?

A. I do not. I believe the he would be killed.

his

W. A. ✕ KELLY.

mark.

Witness—W. A. GARNER.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this day.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Moses Boddy.

Mr. Moses Boddy, being called and duly sworn, deposes and says :

He is 28 years of age; is, by occupation, a farmer; resides in about three miles of Cornersville, Tennessee; has lived there about three years.

Question. Was you a soldier during the late war?

A. I was not.

Q. Do you know anything of an organization commonly known as the Ku Klux organization?

A. I do. I saw some thirty men, masked and armed, in April last. They came to my house at night, called for my pistols and gun. I did not let them in my house. They asked for my certificate of registration, and said that they were going to have them. I saw them some time in May, again, they came back to my house. I was hid. They called for me—told my wife that I had as well come and give myself up, for they would have me if I stayed in the State.

They came to my house again about the first of July, 1868; and rode around the house, about ten in number; cocked their pistols; called for me again. I then left home, and went and lived with Mr. Braider, and Doctor Boid, on the Nashville & Decatur Railroad, near Lynnvile, Giles County, Tennessee. I worked for them for about three weeks, during which time, four armed, masked men came to where I was at work. I went to see Mr. John Braiden about it, and he told me if I had a pistol, I had better give it up, and that quick; that if I did not, I would not be living two hours

from that time; that I had no business with a revolver. I went and got my clothing, and left for home. When I got there, I was informed by my wife, that they had been to my house after me. I kept myself concealed until a few days ago, when I suffered it to be known that I was at home, when the Ku Klux came again after me, and I left and came to Nashville, to keep from being killed by them.

Q. Did you make a crop this year?

A. I did; and am not able to gather it, unless I can be protected there.

Witness—W. A. GARNER.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this day.

his
MOSES X BODDY.
mark.

W. J. SMITH, Ch'm. Com.

Evidence of Thomas Harrell.

Mr. Thomas Harrell, being called and duly sworn, deposes and says: He is about twenty-five years of age; resides in Giles county, Tennessee; has lived there for more than a year; is by occupation a farmer; made a crop this year with Mr. Brite Bearges, for a part of the crop.

Question. Have you seen, at any time, any parties in your settlement in disguise or mask?

Answer. I have.

Q. When was the first time you saw such parties?

A. In July last—about the first days. There were some sixteen in number.

Q. Were they armed?

A. They were.

Q. What did they say to you, or in your hearing?

A. They said that they were going to kill us.

Q. Did they come in the house?

A. They did not. I refused to let them in the house. They got a rail to break down the door, and I, and Mr. Moses Boddy, who was in the house with me, told them that he would kill any man that broke down the door, and they left.

Q. Have you seen them since?

A. I have, often.

Q. When were they at your house last?

A. I was at home some three weeks ago, and my wife told me that they had been there the night before, four in number, and took her and forcibly violated her person.

Q. Do you know any of the men who belong to this organization.

A. I do.

Q. Do they live in that county?

A. They do.

Q. Were they rebels or Union men.

A. Rebels.

Q. Are you afraid to stay at home?

A. I am; and lay out all or a good part of the Summer, to keep from being killed.

Q. Was any other person violated in your settlement?

A. There has been others.

Q. Who by?

A. I do not know.

Q. Have you heard any one say anything about the election for President?

A. I have heard the rebels say often, that if they did not vote in the Presidential election that no one else should. These remarks are general and common there.

Q. Can the voters there who are in favor of General Grant express themselves without being in danger?

A. They cannot.

his

THOMAS X HARRELL.

mark.

Attest—W. A. GARNER.

Sworn and subscribed to before me,

W. J. SMITH,

Ch'm. Com. on Military.

OBION COUNTY, TENNESSEE,

August 17th, 1868.

MR. R. A. HEWATT:—

Dear Sir: Yours of the 7th came to hand, and I am sorry to tell you that the Ku Klux have raided this county over. They have visited almost every negro cabin in the county, and taken every pistol and gun from the negroes they could get their hands on; and if they gave any offense they got knocked and kicked very unmercifully. They beat Nath and Jim, the two negroes that belonged to Gid Fox, for refusing to give up their guns. They threaten the negroes with certain death, if they ever attempt to vote or carry arms again. They have visited some Union men's houses, but have not done serious damage yet. Some of, and I might say almost all the rebels are elated with the prospect of soon getting the government into their hands. They say they intend to vote, if

there is any voting done; and if Brownlow goes to organize any militia here they will break it up. There has not been such a rejoicing here since the fall of Fort Pillow, or the death of Senator Case, as there is over the triumph of the Ku Klux. There will be no election here without soldiers, sure. They have got up petitions to the Legislature to give them the franchise, and induced some weak-kneed Union men to sign them; and at the same time had the bloody Ku Klux prowling the country over, and robbing the negroes of everything they wanted.

Yours, respectfully. ———

Such, Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Senate, is the evidence adduced before your committee, of outrages committed by the Ku Klux Klan.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. J. SMITH,
Ch'm. Senate Committee.

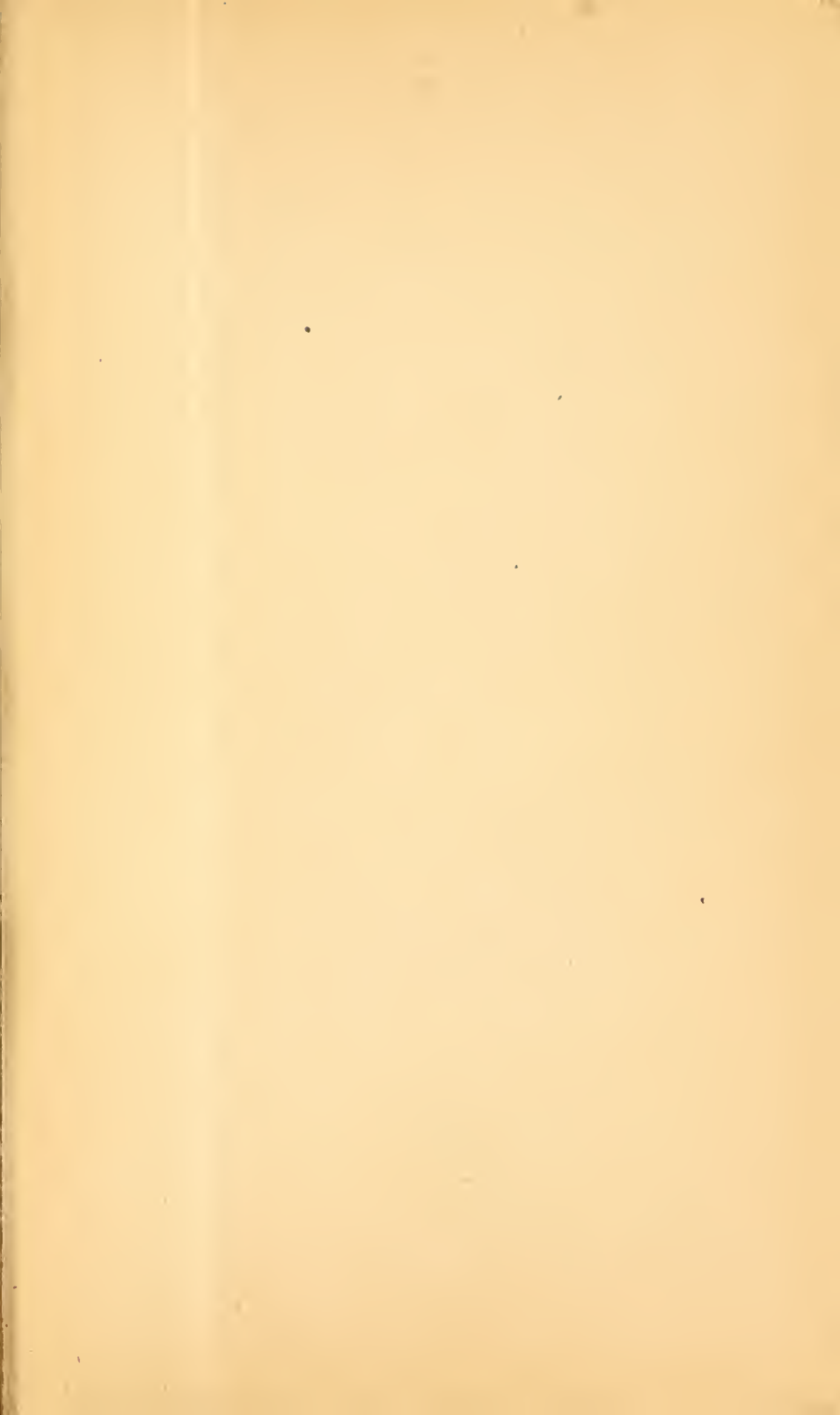
W. F. PROSSER,
Ch'm. House Committee.

Ordered to be printed September 2d, 1868.









LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 005 494 112 2