

the investigation, to make the fullest inquiry into this serious accusation, and for that purpose summoned the editors of those journals before it.

The editor of the Cumberland Times stated, upon oath, that the charge made by him in his journal was founded upon public rumor, and that he had no knowledge of any fact tending to confirm it, except a statement made to him some years since by a Director of the Canal Company, that some compensation or consideration had been paid by the preferred bondholders to the President and Directors of the Canal or some of them.

Upon being interrogated he refused absolutely to give the name of the Director, from whom he received this information.

Your Committee could perceive no reason why the Editor of the Cumberland Times, should decline to disclose the name of any person cognizant of such a fact; and, if it had possessed the power, would have punished the witness for his refusal to answer; but being advised that it was doubtful whether the Senate had any power to order his imprisonment, and it appearing by the testimony of the Editors of the Baltimore American and of the Hagerstown Mail that the statements made in those journals were based altogether upon the statements in the Cumberland Times, and that they had no knowledge whatever of the matter. Your Committee proceeded to test the truth of the allegations by other means.

They summoned before them the preferred bondholders of the Canal Company, the Directors of the Company, and Geo. S. Brown, of the firm of Alex. Brown & Sons, the financial agents of the Company. The preferred bondholders who were examined, viz: Mr. W. W. Corcoran, Mr. Riggs, Mr. Wilson, of the firm of Wilson, Colston & Co., Mr. Burke, of the firm of Burke & Herbert, Mr. A. Bowie Davis, Mr. Neilson Poe, Mr. John P. Poe, Mr. John S. Gittings and Mr. John Purdy, all holders in their own right, or as agents, of large amounts of the preferred bonds, testified clearly and conclusively that they had never, directly or indirectly, paid or given any compensation or consideration whatever to the President, or to any Director of the Company, and Mr. George S. Brown the financial agent of the Company, through whose banking house the preferred bondholders receive payment of their coupons, proved conclusively that no officer, or Director of the Canal Company derived or could derive any pecuniary advantage from such payments.

It was scarcely necessary, after this testimony, to examine