

*Answer.* I was on the Committee; it is the duty of the wall guard to be on duty when ever the prisoners are not in their cells, and it is not expected that the officer who has charge of the men cleaning the dormitory to follow every man as he goes to the filth pen, but that they are under the supervision of the wall guards. That although there was no proof against the guard named Wills, I thought proper to suspend him for three days. Mr. Suter was a substitute, acting as a wall guard, at the time of the fire. I dismissed him, believing it would increase the efficiency of the officers.

Mr. Gill here files an extract from the proceedings of the Board of January 17, 1861, marked (D.)

(D)

*Copy from Proceedings of the Board,*

*January 17th, 1861.*

Your Committee ordered a thorough examination into the cause of the fire, and placed the examination in the hands of the Warden and Deputy-Warden, which was conducted in a manner so skilful as to meet our warm approbation, and resulted in the fact, that the place was set on fire by four prisoners, all colored, viz: Joseph Wheatly, John Madison, — Butler, Samuel Green and E. Perry, who have all acknowledged their guilt. We are indebted to prisoners Burkhiser and Offutt for valuable information.

In this connection, we have suspended officers Wills and dismissed substitute Suter for inattention and neglect of duty while on the wall the morning of the fire.

In connection with Col. Chesnut, appointed by the Board, and with the assistance of Messrs. Middleton and Hilbert, we have settled all differences existing between the State and Messrs. Murdock and Duvalls by first calling to our aid the professional advice and assistance of F. W. Brune, Esq., of the firm of Brown & Brune, Attorneys-at-Law. With Mr. Murdock we have agreed to terminate his old contract of one hundred men, and to make a new one for the same number of hands from the 1st January, 1861, for four years, giving Mr. Murdock power to terminate the same on the 1st of July, 1861, or the 1st of January, 1862, by his giving us the three-months' notice of the same.

We have made two propositions to Mr. J. H. Duvall, to which he promptly acceded, but he has not yet informed us which one he would select; we to terminate the