

BALTIMORE, July 5, 1861.

The Committee met. Present Messrs. Ford and Sangston.

*Mr. John H. Duvall, sworn and examined.*

*By Mr. Gill.—Question.* What was the first direction and order received by you in relation to the employment on Sundays of any persons acting for you, and when and by whom? What was the second order, and from whom and when? And what was done after each of these orders?

*Answer.* Some time prior to the accident by which I was shot, on the 21st of April, 1861, I received an order from Mr. Evans, the Warden of the Penitentiary, that no more work should be done in my shops on Sunday, at the Penitentiary, such as firing the dry houses, &c. Some time prior to the fire, I do not know how long, the Deputy, Mr. Roberts, told me he was instructed by the Committee to say to me that any watchman or any of my men must not be about there on Sundays. I directed the firing of dry houses to be discontinued on Sundays. It was discontinued. After the second order from Mr. Roberts, I directed the watchman, Mr. Gambrill, not to be there on Sundays until the hour of going on duty at evening, which was obeyed to the best of my knowledge.

*Question.* Did you employ a watchman to take care of the property in the shops carried on by you in the Penitentiary, and especially on Sundays, and when did he cease to do that duty, and why?

*Answer.* I did employ a watchman; the first one, Mr. Lamb, who continued until about the first of May, 1860, when the fire of Mr. Murdock's shops occurred; that one of the Directors, Mr. Bryson, I think, sent by Mr. Howard when I was confined to bed, that Mr. Lamb ought to be discharged; he was accordingly discharged, and Mr. Gambrill appointed in his stead, at the solicitation of Mr. Bryson. Gambrill continued in my employment until the 23d of December, 1860, when the fire took place, it may have been a little later. Gambrill's duty was to watch the place at night and on Sundays, and attend to the dry houses. The duty was performed until the order was given herein before stated, as given by Mr. Roberts. After which order Gambrill ceased to be there on Sunday in the day time.

*Question.* At what time on Sunday, the 23d of December, did the fire at your shop occur, and to what cause do you attribute the same, and if your watchman had been on duty as before the order was given by Mr. Roberts, would or would not the fire have been prevented in your judgment?

*Answer.* The fire occurred on Sunday, 23d December, about half-past two to three o'clock, the cause I attribute