

this one cent tax for a park—Mr. Wood offered a substitute; I offered the Brooks bill as a substitute for that; it was voted down. Then the Travers bill was passed, and I voted against it. I have been asked to state all I know upon this subject, and I am very glad of the opportunity of repeating the acknowledgements which have been made to me by parties themselves. About the time of the assembling of the present Legislature—

*Mr. Alexander.* Mr. Browning has nothing to do with us; he is out of the assignment.

*The Witness.* I asked the privilege to make a statement.

By *Mr. Gordon.* Question. Who is Mr. Browning?

Answer. One of the grantees.

Question. What is it in relation to?

Answer. In relation to his connection with Mr. Brock before it passed.

*Mr. Alexander.* He is summoned as one of the witnesses.

*The Chairman.* We can hear you, Mr. Montague, after Mr. Browning has made his statement.

*The Witness.* I can give a conversation that occurred between Mr. Wood and myself.

*Mr. Alexander* objected to it.

*Mr. Blakistone* argued in favor of allowing the witness to proceed.

*Mr. Gordon.* If you can show that Mr Wood was acting as agent for these parties, that would be evidence.

*The Witness.* I understood it to be so. I had a conversation with him a very short time after the assignment, when all this was made public, and at a period when the public mind was much excited upon the subject of this assignment. Wood complimented me in his peculiar way for the efforts I had made for the bill I was interested in. I had displayed, he said, great skill in my advocacy of the bill I had presented and argued before the Council, and he remarked,—and to those who know Wood the expression will at once strike them as a very natural one,—he said, “Billy, old fellow, you were arguing against a forlorn hope; it was a foregone conclusion. I knew in advance of the passage of this bill that it was to be assigned to Brock & Co., and we were determined at all hazards to pass that bill.”

*Gov. Pratt.* Mr. Wood in his testimony stated that it was to go to Philadelphia capitalists.

*Mr. Blakistone.* Let the witness go on.

*The Witness.* I met Gardiner after the assignment was made, and after expressing to me his regrets that I was not with them in the measure, I stated to him that I regretted very much the personalities that had been introduced into that debate; that I had provoked none myself, but had been strongly provoked, but I had preferred to confine myself to the merits of the sole question of the interests of the people of Baltimore. His answer to me, as nearly as I can recollect, is as follows:—“You could hardly expect less from such men; for when this matter was undertaken for Brock, a list of the members of the Council whose votes could be secured for it, with the consideration set opposite their names, was made out.” I did not understand Mr.