

Answer. Yes sir, and if you will allow me, I will state the circumstances.

Question. Had it been opened when you received it?

Answer. Yes, sir.

Question. Who brought it to you?

Answer. The telegraph boy brought it to me. I noticed that the envelope in which it was, had been opened, and asked how that occurred. He said he had made a mistake and taken it to a Mr. Talbot in one of the Courts.

Question. Have you that dispatch?

Answer. I have not. I was in town here for another purpose, and not for anything in regard to this matter. I can state the contents of it, and send down a duplicate, if necessary.

By the Chairman. Question. Where did you get the duplicate?

Answer. I telegraphed to Philadelphia for it.

Did they retain a duplicate of it in Philadelphia?

Answer. I went to the Baltimore Telegraph office and asked if they retained copies of the dispatches received there, and they said they only retained the copies of those sent from the office, that is, they kept the originals on file. I told them I wanted a copy of a dispatch sent from Philadelphia, and they said the original was on file there, and I could get a copy from there.

Question. Did you ever receive more than one telegraphic dispatch?

Answer. I do not know as I ever received more than one from Philadelphia, certainly not more than this from John Ely.

By Mr. Whyte. Question. What was the date?

Answer. The 10th of April. I was a member of the City Council, and voted for Travers bill. After that bill passed, for a week or two there was sort of a lull in the matter; no efforts were visible towards laying down the track, and a number of persons, supposing I might have some influence, stopped me upon the street and asked for my influence to get them contracts, and situations on the road, &c. I was acquainted with Mr. Brock, and wrote on to Philadelphia, asking him when he intended to commence this road, stating how I was annoyed about the matter. I learned afterwards that he was out of the city. His business partner telegraphed to me as follows:

"Brock is in Harrisburg, he will be in Baltimore (naming a certain day, we will say Wednesday) on Wednesday. We are ready, and intend commencing the work forthwith."

Signed,

JOHN ELY.

By the Chairman. Question. Is that the wording of the dispatch?

Answer. As near as I can recollect it—it is literally so. It is certainly the substance of it. Some months afterwards I heard it rumored that I had received some questionable dispatch from Philadelphia about this matter. I went with Mr. Hinds to the Telegraph office, and asked about the dispatch. I told them what I wanted, as near as I could, the time I received it, and as I had received but one telegraphic dispatch from that party. I telegraphed for it, and they sent it on to me *verbatim et literatim*, and it came on to me some three or four months