

Question. Then you acted on an effusion of your own brain?

Answer. That is the way I generally act.

Question. Had there not been various charges made against you gentlemen—newspaper rumors?

Answer. No direct charges.

Question. Not direct; but you understood the comments made by the press?

Answer. Yes; and that is going on yet.

Question. Did you or not feel enough interest in your private character to go before that Committee.

Answer. I concluded we were exonerating ourselves by letter just as much as by testimony—our testimony was read before the Committee.

Question. Suppose you had been on that Committee, would you have considered it as satisfactory to have received a communication as to have the parties come in person?

Answer. I do not know what I would consider; there is a great difference between a judge and a witness.

Question. Do you say, upon your oath, that you considered you were discharging your duty to the Committee when you refused to go, but sent them a written communication?

Answer. I do not say so; it may be I did not do my duty, as I said before.

Question. Then state what reason induced you to absent yourself?

Answer. We met together—the five grantees—and concluded to send our testimony in writing. I have said that three times; I hope you will not ask me any more.

Question. Who made the proposition?

Answer. Some of the grantees. It did not come from me. I acceded to it and signed the communication.

Question. You never went before the Committee?

Answer. I never went; I may have failed in my duty in that respect.

Question. Did you ever consult with any body else but the associates about going before the Committee?

Answer. I don't remember that I ever did.

Question. Were you summoned more than once?

Answer. Now really I cannot say, but it seems to me there was a second summons.

Question. Were you not aware of the fact that the City Council had not the power to compel your attendance.

Answer. I do not know that I was at the time. I do not think I was. We concluded to send our answer, which we did, and they accepted and read it.

Question. Did you ever have any conversation with Mr. Wood in relation to that matter?

Answer. I think I have.

Question. Can you give us an idea of what it was?

Answer. Indeed I cannot. It was a desultory conversation; not about any point in particular. I met him in Browning's office, and we conversed about the probability of the passage of the bill. That was all.