

The ground selected for the meeting of the principals was a grassy terrace, two and a half miles north of Hoboken, in New Jersey, and, about twenty feet above the water-line of the Hudson River, on the rocky face of the Palisades, which rise at that point to a perpendicular height of about one hundred and fifty feet.

"Agreeably to the preceding preliminaries," as related by Colonel Smith, "the respective gentlemen attended as agreed upon, and left the city at five o'clock, and passed to the point proposed—arriving as nearly together as the current would admit; one boat obliquely ascending and the other descending the stream.

"The ground being correctly measured, and the intermediate questions adjusted, the gentlemen took their stations and were each presented with a pistol, and by order faced to the right and fired, ineffectively.

"At the request of Mr. Riker, I asked Mr. Swartwout, 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He answered, 'I am not.' The pistols then being exchanged and the positions of the principals resumed, by order the gentlemen again faced to the right and fired a second time without effect.

"At the request of Mr. Riker, I again addressed Mr. Swartwout, 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He answered strongly in the negative; and we proceeded, and a third shot was exchanged without injury to the principals.

"At the request of Mr. Riker, I again asked Mr. Swartwout, 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He answered, 'I am not, neither shall I be until the apology is made which I have demanded; until then, we must proceed.' I then presented a paper to Mr. Riker containing the apology demanded, for Mr. Clinton's signature, observing that we could not spend our time in conversation, and that the paper must be signed or we must proceed.

"Mr. Clinton declared he would not sign any paper on the subject, that he had no animosity against Mr. Swartwout, and that he would willingly shake hands with him, and agree to meet each other thereafter amicably on the score of former friendships. Mr. Swartwout having persisted in insisting on the subscription of Mr. Clinton's signature to the apology, and Mr. Clinton declining, they again stood at their posts, and fired a fourth shot. Mr. Clinton's ball struck Mr. Swartwout's left leg about five inches below the knee; but he stood steady and collected.

"At the request of Mr. Riker, I again addressed Mr. Swartwout, 'Are you satisfied, sir?' He answered, 'It is useless to repeat the question, my determination is fixed, and I beg that we may proceed.' Mr. Clinton declared that he had no animosity against Mr. Swartwout, that he was sorry for what had passed, and proposed to advance and shake hands with him, and to bury the matter forever.