

tion of that interest, as under lien to the United States, and what evidence have you that, by your personal attention and a judicious management of the same, the said interest can be so advanced as eventually to secure or indemnify the United States against all losses on your account?

“Answer. My interest in the coal and iron mines in Maryland was originally *one-half*, but subsequently the property was divided into 6,000 shares, 1,000 of which were assigned to the secretary of the treasury, on my account; 1,800 or 2,000 were given as a bonus to lenders and others in England; and the residue belongs to Messrs. Howell, myself, and William Young, in the proportion of five-elevenths to each of the two former, and one-eleventh to William Young. But, as a large proportion of a loan of £120,000 sterling was lost by the failure of the bank of the Messrs. Wright, in London, in November, a further amount must be raised, and more shares given as a bonus therefor. It is on this account that I am anxious to proceed to Cumberland, in order that prompt action there may place the property in a condition to be available as soon as possible.”

In the answers subjoining the different interrogatories in this examination there is no evidence that the ex-collector had found it necessary for his self-defence to resort to any convenient subterfuges or ambiguities of speech, nor did he betray a vindictive purpose to criminate either Henry Ogden or Joshua Phillips, or any other person who had served him as an employé while he had held the office of collector of customs. Neither do his answers show that he had any inclination to evade or absolve himself from any of the responsibilities which he had assumed when he accepted the collectorship. His high sense of personal rectitude was such that he could not be tempted to dishonor his individual pride and manliness. Therefore he made no sacrifice of his integrity to win the favor of the national government or to modify the prejudices of opinionated men.

As a consequence of the frank and dispassionate statements of the ex-collector, two of the commissioners subscribed their names to the following communication sent by them to the solicitor of the treasury:

“New York, August 7, 1841.

“Dear Sir:—Your communication of the 5th instant has just come to hand. The case of the bonds of Fehers had before come to our knowledge. We have taken measures to obtain a list of the bonds contained in the abstract made out by the auditor of the custom-house, and that furnished by J. Phillips, assistant cashier, on which he acknowledges that money was received in the cashier’s department; in other words, a list of the bonds which constitute the discrepancy between the two accounts. Having obtained this list, we can call on some of the obligors, and ascertain whether these bonds were paid, and to