

NOT A MILLIONAIRE

**General Van Wyck "Contradicts a Lie"—
He Makes an Inventory of His
Possessions—No Bank
Nor Railroad
Stock.**

**His House at Washington—One-Tenth
of a Million Will Purchase
All He Has—Doesn't
Use a Pass.**

**A Ringing Letter That Will Put
Slanderers to Shame.**

General Van Wyck has addressed the following open letter to C. H. Gere, the editor of the Nebraska State Journal:

You have published so often the charge that I was a millionaire that probably you are believing it yourself, and before that calamity overcomes you, I have concluded to do what I seldom do, stop and contradict a lie.

This falsehood is made of whole cloth. I am neither a millionaire, nor the one-tenth of a millionaire. What property I have is open to public view. No one may be mistaken unless for a malicious purpose, for the records will show every dollar. I do not now, nor have I ever owned a dollar in railroad stocks or bonds. I do not now own stock in a bank, although some twenty years ago I owned stock in a national bank which, by the wrecking of the bank was lost and more, because an assessment of an amount equal to the stock was collected—rather an expensive experience. Some eight or ten years ago was organized the Farmers' bank of Nebraska City. I was solicited to subscribe and did subscribe \$500, which about two years ago I agreed to sell, and did in fact sell.

Neither do I own any stock or bonds in any corporation or partnership, syndicate, trust or any species of consolidated property, except that a year ago or more, to help secure an enterprise for the benefit of Nebraska City. I did subscribe to the starch factory some trust funds then in my hands. The investment has yet paid no interest. Hope it may in the near future. If it does not, as I took it in my own name, I am responsible to the trust for any loss.

You have often alluded to the house I built in Washington. That, also, is plain and open. At the beginning of my term, before the first regular session, and during the extra session in March, after consultation with friends, my wife and self concluded it would be more comfortable and economical to buy a lot and build, and then at the end of six years have something to show for it, than pay it out at a Washington hotel. We bought a desirable lot in a fine location for \$2 per square foot, then built a house for about \$15,000, making the whole amount near \$20,000. This is the house partisan patriots say cost over \$100,000. One object was to secure the most of comfort and enjoyment at the least of outlay. Did we then know what Providence had in store for us we would never have made the venture. At the beginning was a happy wife and mother and two happy children—little girls—and I was only too happy to make a cheerful home for them, as it was evident we could buy and build and cost us no more than hotel life. Unfortunately in less than

one short year, and before the earthly house was finished, the two darling girls by almost a single stroke were taken from us and laid together in one grave, and their spirits went to mansions not made by hands. But the earthly house had to be finished, and we had necessarily to put a mortgage of \$10,000 upon it. We furnished the house, but that which was to have been its life and joy were gone. Still we occupied it, and our greatest pleasure was to enjoy friends from Nebraska who came to see us. The latch string was always out.

I don't believe you ever stooped so low, but some hyena wretch stated that I spent thousands in entertainments at Washington, when Mrs. Van Wyck, in more than four of the six years, was in deep mourning.

First her cherub girls, then a father, then a sister, then a brother, and again another sister were taken from her, and year by year she passed through the dark shadows. She had no heart for entertainments, and she gave none. Those years were full of sorrow, not joy; except during two of the six years, on two or three occasions, inexpensive ones, without ceremony, and when some Nebraska friends were with us, in whose honor the entertainments were given.

Then you have said much about a carriage we used at Washington. It was one we owned in the state of New York, used it in Nebraska, took it to Washington, then fifteen years old, with it a span of horses from the farm; of course, must have a driver—never liveried

We were fortunate in the location of the house. The land increased in value. We made some improvements, changing the front door, and adding a dining room. These were necessary to make it more desirable for renting. As the real estate had increased in value I was able to secure a larger loan—\$16,000—which is still unpaid, and a lien on the property. I know the people of this state do not require of me this inventory. I may be too sensitive to this—the meanest kind of falsehood.

However, those who claim they know the extent and value of my property, and who may be desirous for a venture, I stand ready to transfer all my possessions—every dollar I own on earth, real, personal and mixed—if they will give me in cash one dollar for every ten they say I am worth, they, of course, to pay my debts, so I may have the one tenth in cash. This is a sample of the many groundless charges that from time to time appear in some of the opposition papers.

They have dished up in poetry and prose, what they should have known was untrue—that I was supplied with passes on the different roads, and "good all over the world." For the past six years I had, for a portion of the time only, one on one road, and that confined to Nebraska, and that I have no longer.

The roads, principally those with whom your relations are intimate, often furnish you with copies, photograph copies, of passes issued.

Why do the roads fight me so bitterly, if, as you sometimes profess, my relations are so warm, and I receive favors at their hands? They or their friends strike at me whenever they can do so and they will cheerfully furnish you proof to confute this statement, if in their power.

August 27. C. H. VAN WYCK.

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Notice of Adoption.

Whereas, on the 12th day of August, 1892 there was submitted to the legal voters of the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, by the mayor and council of said city, the following questions and propositions, that is to say:

"Shall the city of Lincoln issue its bonds to the amount of \$47,000 with interest coupons thereto attached, payable and redeemable at the option of the city at any time after ten years from their date, and draw interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum from their date, payable semi-annually, said bonds to be dated October 1st, 1892, and the interest and principal to be payable at the fiscal agency of the state of Nebraska, in the city of New York, for the purpose of constructing extensions of the water works of said city; and shall the city council of said city levy a tax on all taxable property of said city, in addition to all other taxes, sufficient to pay the interest and the principal upon said bonds as the same may become due and payable."

"Shall the mayor and council of the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, have the power to vote and borrow money and pledge the property of said city upon its negotiable bonds to an amount not exceeding \$50,000, to be used to defray the costs of paving, repaving, or macadamizing the intersections of streets or space opposite alleys in said city, and to levy a tax upon the taxable property of said city in addition to all other taxes sufficient to pay the interest and principal of said bonds as the same may become due."

"Shall the mayor and council of the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, have the power to borrow money and pledge the property of said city upon its negotiable bonds to an amount not exceeding \$118,000, to be used for the purpose of funding the outstanding indebtedness of said city, and to levy a tax upon all taxable property in said city, in addition to all other taxes sufficient to pay the interest and principal of said bonds as the same may become due."

And whereas, the special election was duly held on said 12th day of August, 1892, and a canvass of the votes cast at said special election was duly made by the mayor and council of said city on the 16th day of August, 1892, and said mayor and council declared said proposition carried by more than a majority of the votes cast at said election in said city, and the same is therefore declared adopted.

By order of the mayor and council this 16th day of August, 1892.

[SEAL] D. C. VAN DUYN, City Clerk.

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