

Some rivals may have had as liberal souls as his was; but none of them had as much soil to give.

President Hayes is charged with loving his enemies better than his friends. Being sure of friends, he used patronage to make sure of enemies. This policy has an awkward resemblance to that of a certain religious sect, the Yezidees, who worship only Satan, and that to disarm his enmity. Doty lived before the reign of Hayes, and probably knew nothing about the devil-worshippers; but he instinctively worked upon their system. He lavished everything not to reward friends—he was sure of them—but to win over foes, believing, with Walpole, that they had their price. His advances were rebuffed by Gen. Dodge; but perhaps not by the general's son. At all events they were in general graciously received. Accordingly the majority took the Doty lots, and did his bidding. They were well paid, one of them receiving the whole block on which the State Bank stands.

If disturbed by compunctious visitings from within or from without, our Solons may have defended themselves like Lord Bacon, who, when convicted of taking bribes, cried out, "I have sold justice—not injustice." So our bribe-bought legislators might plead that they fixed our capital in the best possible place, and that the wisdom of their choice is demonstrated by a half century of experience. The profit which they found while making the best choice would have lain in their path whatever choice they had made; and they may have compared that streak of luck to the strange good fortune of the mother of Moses, when she was paid wages for nursing her own child by Pharaoh's daughter.¹

It was on the 28th of November, 1836, that the final vote

¹ The facts regarding the location of the Wisconsin seat of government at Madison, I have endeavored to state as I find them in histories, as Durrie, p. 46, and the Western Historical Company's, p. 666, as well as in the stories of some lookers-on in Belmont who still survive. I would like to believe that Doty in his lobbying, while daring to do all that might become a man and a statesman, dared do nothing more. Whether he did or did not, is a question on which it would be idle to hope that partisans can ever agree.