

# LUCIUS W. POND PARDONED

*LIBERATED AFTER SERVING SEVEN YEARS.*

RESULT OF APPEALS TO GOV. LONG—THE CRIME FORGIVEN BY HIS CREDITORS—A SKETCH OF POND'S DOINGS.

Boston, Dec. 25.—Lucius W. Pond, the ex-State Senator and prominent manufacturer, of Worcester, whose financial irregularities, exposed in the Autumn of 1875, occasioned such a commotion in this State, especially in the community where he lived and was so much respected, and for which he was sentenced in January, 1876, to 15 years imprisonment in the State prison, was to-day pardoned by the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, in response to a strong appeal for Executive clemency. His pardon has been urged by many of the most prominent men of Worcester, among them a majority of his creditors. The petition for his pardon, recently presented to the Governor and Council, was signed by 150 of the 187 creditors whose claims against him had been proved, and of the 37 whose signatures were not obtained 8 are dead and 6 are corporations whose signatures could not be authoritatively given, but many of whose Directors or officers were said to be not opposed to the pardon. Sixteen other creditors could not be found, and seven only utterly refused to sign. At the hearing of the case, about ten days ago, nearly 300 Worcester people appeared, including the Mayor-elect, several ex-Mayors, some of them heavy losers by Pond's irregularities, and many other creditors.

The Mayor-elect of Worcester, S. E. Hildreth, was formerly an apprentice with Pond and later Superintendent of his business concern, and ex-Mayor Pratt, who was among the most strenuous pleaders for the pardon, was one of the chief sufferers. The plea for pardon was mainly on the ground that up to the time of the crime Pond had been one of the best citizens in the community, and a man generally beloved by the people; that the money irregularly obtained by him was never used for speculative purposes, but to carry on the business in which he took pride, and to overcome difficulties into which he had been led by his good nature and disposition to help his friends, and that while undergoing his sentence he has been an exceptionally good prisoner, winning the praise of the prison officials.

The irregularities of Mr. Pond were brought to light by his sudden disappearance. It was announced early in October that he had disappeared under mysterious circumstances, and it was reported that a man, supposed to be he, was last seen in the state-room of the steamer Providence, of the Fall River Line, on her trip to New-York, where, on the morning of her arrival, a coat, hat, and pair of shoes were found, which were afterward identified as his. The theory that he had been "foully dealt with" was advanced, and found credence. It was several days after before his forgeries were detected. It was found that the faces of notes had been removed and re-written with larger amounts than the original, while the indorsements were genuine. The original notes were generally made payable at Mr. Pond's office, so that when they were paid they remained in his possession without any marks of cancellation, or anything to show that they were dead paper. It was then a tolerably easy matter to remove the writing on the face with an acid and write in fresh dates and amounts and add Mr. Pond's own signature, while the indorsements were allowed to remain. The arrest of Pond was made in San Francisco.

Pond was sentenced on the very day of the disappearance of the Rev. Ezra D. Winslow, of this city, also an ex-State Senator, whose irregularities here caused so much commotion at the time. The two had been warm friends, and Pond had been on Winslow's paper, but there was no business connection between the two. Twelve indictments were found against Pond, and when brought before the Superior Court he at first pleaded not guilty, but four days after, when brought before the court a second time, he withdrew, through his counsel, his former plea of not guilty on three of the indictments, and the District Attorney moved for immediate sentence. It appeared in the course of the proceedings that the forged notes which were the subject of the judicial investigation amounted to about \$40,000, while no note dated back of May, 1875, or forward of the middle of October, of the same year, thus bringing all within the space of four or five months. The Chief-Justice (Brigham) sentenced the prisoner to six years' imprisonment on the first indictment for uttering forged promissory notes, five years on the second indictment, and four on the third. The other indictments were not pressed against the prisoner.

Mr. Pond was released this morning and went direct to the home of his wife and daughter in Worcester, where a few of his friends, who had so signally proved the genuineness of their friendship, called quietly upon him and welcomed him back.

Pond's pardon was granted on Wednesday last, and Gov. Long informed ex-Mayor Pratt, of Worcester, of the action last Saturday when he was returning from New-York, and while the train halted at Worcester. The Council is said to have been unanimous in its decision toward Pond, and the members were inclined to the opinion that his sentence was rather excessive, while Stickney was only sentenced for five years and Hathaway and Chase for ten years each for a similar offense.