Col.Samuel Simmons on Fremont.

(Statement of Col.Samuel Simmons,ofSt.Louis, Mo., to J.McCan Davis, Dec.2, 1898.)

After the battle of Wilson's Creek,while Commissary at the arsenal here, I sought an interview with Fremont,carrying an important letter to him. I was stopped at the gate with crossed swords thrust in front of me. Zagonyi, the Captain of the Body Guard, appeared and inquired my business.

"I want to see Gen.Fremont", I replied.

"Vy do you want to see ze General?" Zagonyi persisted.

"I have a letter for him."

"Give me ze letter".

"No", I replied, "I won't give you the letter. I must have a personal interview with the General."

I had on my uniform and stood firm. Finally, I chanced to think of Ike Cook, Fremont's military secretary, whom I knew. I sent for him,and he admitted me. He took the letter to Fremont,and after waiting awhile I was invited upstairs. In the long parlor, stretching from end to end upon a long table, was a map, that seemed to reach from New Orleans to the undiscovered North. There,beside the table,gazing at the map, stood Fremont, arms folded, a la Napoleon.

The time of the three months men was expiring and I was anxious that they be paid so that they would reenlist. I wanted to impress the importance of the matter on Fremont. "There is plenty of money here", said I, "if you can only get at it. This sub-treasury is full of money".

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Fremont came near giving me an order to go down and get the money. He appeared to think he could do anything by an order.

A body guard was something unknown in our military service, and when Zagonyi,with his hundred men, went down to the paymaster to get their pay, Tim Andrews, the paymaster, refused to pay them. Zagonyi, bursting with rage, hurried back to headquarters and soon returned with a peremptory order from Fremont to pay the body guard.

"You see what ze General has done", said Zagonyi,triumphantly. "I give you five minutes to pay ze roll, and if you don't pay ze roll I take you to ze calabooze."

Whereupon the paymaster "paid ze roll" without further parley.

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