

letter mentioning
Stephens about
Condon (Massey)

New York Oct 20th 1866

Sir,

Your particular attention is directed to a man calling himself Colonel Patrick Condon lately from New Orleans, and who is now engaged in speech making through this State on behalf of our holy Cause.

This man arrived in N. Orleans a little over a year ago. He wormed himself into the Confidence of some of our Brethren down there, & made himself conspicuous in the Cause by addressing meetings, giving lectures, newspaper writing &c. He was altogether unknown to any person in N. Orleans. He represented himself as a paroled Confederate officer & said he was Lt. Col. of one of the Virginia Cavalry Regiments. He put himself in Communication with Mr John O'Mahoney & rec'd a Commission from him as Southern agent of the F. B. and also rec'd a large number of Bonds which for five or six months he sold in N. Orleans, Mobile & other points. The leaders of the movement in the mean time began to suspect that all was not right with Condon. When he ~~first arrived in~~ N. Orleans he said he was penniless & pretended to be seeking employment as Clerk &c., but as far as could be seen he always seemed to have plenty of money to spend. It was also ascertained that he had never been in the Confederate or Federal armies, & that he was not more than six or eight months from Ireland. Condon was taken to task upon these matters & admitted that he was not a Colonel & never belonged to the army, but that he had certain objects in view - that he had explained everything about himself to Mr O'Mahoney in N. York & that he (Mr O'M) was satisfied & approved his course. Capt. John Breck who was at the time Chief of Police in N. Orleans & State Centre of the F. B. of Louisiana was informed by several of the Brethren of their suspicions relative to Condon. Capt. B. set his officers & detectives to watch Condon - wrote to several prominent Confederate officers & to the officers of the Regt to which C. said he belonged, and ascertained positively

W. Anne

that Gordon was an impostor - that he was lately from Ireland & never had been in either of the American armies. From his observations Capt B. said he was positive that the man Gordon was an English Detective. At the request of the Brotherhood in N.O. Capt. B. wrote to Mr John O'Mahony detailing what had been ascertained about Gordon & requesting that immediate measures be taken by H² Quarters on the Subject - asking for further advice & instructions in the matter &c.

The reply of Mr O'Mahony was a gross insult to Capt B. & the Brotherhood of N. Orleans & it was the opinion of the brothers who read it that Mr O'M. was either drunk or crazy when he wrote it or caused it to be written. From that day the honest & manly portion of the Brotherhood lost all faith in it & the organization began to decline in N.O. Capt. Burk, one of the oldest Fenians in the South, who was sworn in to the organization by yourself at the house of Mch^d Nolan at the time of your visit to N. Orleans before the war broke out, immediately resigned his office of State Centre & withdrew from the organization. Through his Detective's Capt B. ascertained many things about Gordon & he is positive, & has often said so, that G. is a British Spy.

Capt B. has removed from N.O. He was in this City a month ago & is expected back here next week. All who know him, know him to be ~~_____~~ a good man & a true Irishman. Gordon has been living in Clover for the past year in N.O. although he never earned a dollar. He is a wily, polished fellow, a good talker & got married a few weeks ago in N.O. to a girl who is said to be rich. This man's record should be at once investigated & he should be looked to. He is a dangerous fellow. —

~~_____~~
"Southern Fenian"

an Ex. United States military
Detective

you can have my name if necessary

To

James Stephens Esqr

C. O. I. R. B.

New York

Mr Jas Stephens Esqr of the Mitchell Esqr of N. Orleans, now living at corner Third Avenue & 60th St. in this city was on the Detective staff in N. Orleans & can give you information about Gordon & Burk. See him first do not say where you got your information from.