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Custom House Frauds in New York.

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Shortly after the inauguration of President Hayes, information was communicated to the Treasury Department, to the effect that dishonest practices existed in the Custom House of New York. Among the many charges was one that large amounts of silk had been permitted to pay duty at a rate very far below its real value, the effect of which was to enrich dishonest dealers at the expense of honest men, and various officials of the Custom House were implicated. With the least possible delay, a Commission for investigating these charges was appointed, and the President deemed it of such importance, that he requested Mr. John Jay, formerly Minister to Austria, to accept the Chairmanship of the Commission. They commenced their labors in New York near the close of April, and as their

inquiries have taken a wide range, it is impossible to say when they will be able to adjourn, or what will be the final result. In the mean time, the following are some of the facts which have been proven by competent witnesses:

That, for many years past, about 90 per cent of the officials had been appointed on mere political considerations;

That 20 per cent of the force employed could and ought to be dispensed with;

That goods were often left on the docks for forty eight hours, before being taken to the Custom House;

That various fees were constantly paid without reason and contrary to law, - amounting to \$200,000 per month but costing the merchants \$1,000,000 in time and expense;

That large amounts of money were
uselessly wasted in the weighers department;

That heavy assessments were annually made
for electioneering purposes;— and

That with the connivance of inspectors a
large and regular business of smuggling had
long been practiced.

The investigations of this Commission
have thus far attracted very much of
the public attention, and the probabilities
are that they will end in the removal
of many officials, and a complete
reorganization of the Custom House
Affairs of New York.

Since the foregoing was written the New York Commissioners have made a preliminary report, in which they state that the Custom House has, for many years past, been wholly controlled by politicians, and recommend the removal of a large number of incompetent Clerks. The President has sanctioned the recommendations of the Commission and in that particular, there will be a thorough re-organization of the Custom House by the first of July. In the mean time the investigation of other abuses will continue.

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