

THE LOBBY KING RETURNS.

EDWARD R. PHELPS, THE OWNER OF THE LEGISLATURE, AGAIN IN ALBANY.

He Listens to the Reports of His Mentals and Rubs His Hands at the Thought of His Ill-Gotten Gains—The Investigation Still Further Delayed, as the Committee Lacks Instructions.

(SPECIAL TO THE WORLD.)

ALBANY, April 10. —Edward R. Phelps, king of the lobby, swung into Albany to-night as fresh as a two-year-old colt, and took possession of his old quarters at the Kenmore. He lifted a shiny new crown of brass out of his gripsack and placed it on his head and waited for his mentals to bring in their reports. The first to arrive brought him cheering news. The Western Union \$162,000 restitution bill will be reported from the Senate Judiciary Committee on the morrow.

"How about the Hudson River Bridge bill?" asked the king, anxiously.

"Ordered to a third reading," replied the mental.

"Good!" exclaimed the king. "Did our vassals do their duty?"

"All of them; but some are objecting to the low figure. They all demand that we must put up more swag to pass the bill in the face of the strong public sentiment that is being worked up against it."

"We will have it on its final passage and will be capable of taking care of all of them. Then the outlook for the session is good?"

"It is, Your Highness. You have no reason to apprehend any trouble from this Legislature. It has neither backbone, brains or courage enough to prosecute an investigation against you."

Other mentals came and went. As time goes on the chances of bringing this boss of legislation to terms seem to grow less. There is no disposition to push the grave charges against him. The Republican party does not seem inclined to take up a matter that is likely to prove a boomerang. They are beginning to realize that it will not do to enter a Presidential campaign with a scandal that might deprive them of a few hundred votes. Phelps's pickets have done noble work since his temporary departure from the city. Caulfield and Reilly have pitched their tents in the Assembly parlor and have there received cold comfort and information from their ever faithful informers of the lower house. In this manner Phelps himself has been able to keep thoroughly informed of all that was going on—so well, in fact, that the moment all danger of his incarceration and indictment had passed he returned as undisturbed as if nothing had happened.

The session is now reaching that funnel shaped point where the bills weighted heaviest with gold will drop out soonest. Phelps knows it. Now is his harvest time. He cannot afford to leave Albany and his business to roll in the hands of hated rivals. All the swag which he will capture must come to his net within the next four weeks. All the measures that carry money with them are yet to be pushed, and Phelps has shown in the past that he is a good pusher. He is here to look after his interests and those of his clients in and out of the Legislature. He realizes that the Legislature will protect him, and that in the event of undue prosecution by a Republican Legislature he can withhold from the Republican campaign fund next fall many thousands of dollars.

The Assembly Judiciary Committee is still coquetting with the lobby. It was expected that the investigation would proceed to-morrow. At the session of the committee this afternoon, however, it was discovered that whereas the journal told the members they must, according to the Husted resolution, confine their inquiry to the cases of the six members whom Phelps boasted he could out, the legislative record warranted them in prosecuting a thorough investigation into the practices of bill-brokers for years back. Chairman Saxton was therefore requested to report the situation back to the House and ask an interpretation of instructions. It was decided to-night to go by direction of the journal, and to-morrow, Mr. Saxton says, the committee will meet again for the purpose of perfecting plans and the issue of subpoenas. He said further that the first sitting would be held Thursday afternoon probably.