

## THE FREEDMEN'S BANK.

Among all the revelations of fraud at Washington, nothing meaner or more disgraceful has come to light than the swindle of the so-called Freedmen's Bank in that city. It should henceforth be known as the Bank for Swindling Freedmen. Under the pretence of philanthropy a ring of white men have been robbing the emancipated slave, and the colored people of the country generally, of their hard earnings.

Besides various speculators who preyed upon the funds of the emancipated slaves, the notorious District of Columbia government ring came in for a large share of the stealing. The bank had intimate relations with the District real estate "pool," and Vandenburg, a contractor, who was in collusion with the members of the "pool," borrowed money from the bank on absolutely worthless securities; the actuary of the bank himself, D. L. Eaton, was persuaded to accept as a gratuity from Vandenburg a half interest in a \$100,000 contract for sewer pipes. Eaton put in no money of his own, incurred no risk or responsibility, and had no trouble except to sign receipts for his share of the profits. He used his position to pass Vandenburg's paper at the bank counter, and the money thus obtained was used to carry out the contract in which he was interested as a beneficiary. Vandenburg still owes to the bank \$144,164 83, which, however, he disputes on the ground that some \$40,000 or \$50,000 of his securities have been disposed of and no credit given him. By means of the Seneca Sandstone enterprise \$62,000 was drawn from the bank on worthless securities.

The report says: "Every one of the survivors in this gross fraud and conspiracy—namely, Henry D. Cooke, Lewis Clephane, Hallett Kilbourn and Jo. Evans—should be indicted, tried and punished to the extent of the law, while those who are pecuniarily responsible should be sued for the recovery of the money or good securities, consisting in part of \$20,000 first mortgage bonds of the Maryland Freestone Mining and Manufacturing Company, of which the bank was robbed by the conspirators."

The report was signed by all the members of the committee (five Democrats and Rainey, colored Republican) except Mr. Frost (Rep., Mass.), who, however, agrees with the main conclusions.