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Dayton (M. L.) U.S. Minister to France
To Wm. H. Seward Attorney General W. J.

Paris December 17th 1861.

Sir

It is right perhaps to inform you, though you know deep and want that two days since I detected a man, named James Tate, formerly of Buffalo, but late of New York City, a lawyer as he says, who visited in fraud or forgery, and may turn out -

He represented himself here in Paris as a Captain Charles R. Lawrence of the 12th Regiment of United States Infantry detached from service, and sent to Europe, as an agent for the purchase of arms and equipments. His Credentials were brought to me, without his knowledge, by a merchant for examination. Upon an examination of the Seal of the War Department, the Comptroller and London, the signature of Mr. Cameron, and his Vice Chief Clerk Mr. Ledy in connection with the general appearance of the entire papers. I was satisfied they were fraudulent, a forgery attempt. I therefore requested the merchant

to be by calling on

William H. Seward -

to hold

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to hold on to the papers, and arrest the party, which was done last night he was brought to the Bureau of the Legation. The Police had found false copper coins in his possession, these he had ^{had} manufactured here in Paris, and with them the stamps on the wax were made, an examination of the specifications connected with the Commissions order it appeared that he was to buy of the particular kinds therein specified-

125,000.	Rifle-kits
65,000.	Flaversacks
45,000.	Knap-sacks-
35,000.	Revolvers-
80,000.	Mine Rifles
15,000	Canteens
275,000.	Tobacs-
40,000.	Shoes-

There was very considerable particularity and detail in the form of the order and specifications, for passing to be signed by Mr Comman, with a seal of the new Department and countersigned by the Chief Clerk to -

He admitted at the Legation / when

had -

had before since his arrest) that the whole were Spanish, but that he only intended them as vouchers of his respectability and consideration at home; On the strength of them however the Merchant said he had endeavored to buy Jewels of some to the extent of 10,000 francs. He has been in Paris about three weeks I think and living at the same Hotel. A very considerable portion of this time he must have been occupied in getting up these Spanish papers. He is now in prison and will doubtless in due time be brought to answer for his offence

With much respect.

Shame the honor to be

Your Obedient Servant

"Spain" W L Keyton

To the Excellency

William M Howard

Secretary of State -