

TousVoslivres.com présente...

LE CHIFFRE DE BEALE

(The Beale Papers)

© 2019

Le chiffre de Beale est un célèbre **code irrésolu depuis plus d'un siècle**. C'est un code dictionnaire, c'est-à-dire que la clef qui permet de décrypter le chiffre est fournie par un texte. Il est composé de 3 papiers, que j'appellerai C1, C2 et C3. Seul C2 a été résolu : le texte clef est la Déclaration d'Indépendance des Etats-Unis (1776). Il existe un programme simple qui attaque le chiffre par essai systématique avec une liste de textes clefs.

Cette analyse est originale pour deux raisons ; premièrement les textes clef proviennent d'Internet et largement du [Projet Gutenberg](#), qui fournit une grande quantité de textes libres ; deuxièmement un algorithme permet de détecter les mots clairs dans un texte décrypté, pour remplacer l'aptitude d'un lecteur humain à discriminer entre un texte aléatoire et un texte compréhensible. Ainsi C2, qui comporte des fautes de retranscription, est compris à environ 60 % par l'algorithme; en comparaison un texte aléatoire est compris à 33 % et un texte compréhensible à 90%. La totalité du processus reproduit le mécanisme de recherche d'une personne voulant s'attaquer au code par essai avec tous les textes à sa disposition et en contrôlant que le texte obtenu possède un sens.

Cette recherche fastidieuse, qui prenait des mois et des mois en 1900, prend aujourd'hui quelques heures. Pour l'instant, plus de 8000 textes intégraux de langue anglaise [issus d'internet](#) et [du Projet Gutenberg](#)) ont été essayés sur C1 et C3, sans résultats positifs. Il est très probable que le texte clef ne soit pas un texte courant ou publié. Malgré les fortes présomptions de se trouver face à un canular, cette recherche est justifiée par les travaux de Carl Hammer qui concluent que les chiffres C1 et C3 ont toutes les caractéristiques d'un *vrai* chiffre.

Histoire du Chiffre de Beale

L'histoire commença en avril 1817, en Virginie. Un dénommé Thomas Jefferson Beale rassembla une compagnie de gentilshommes de l'Ouest pour partir à l'aventure. Soudés par l'appât du gain, ils quittèrent la Virginie pour affronter les grizzlys, les buffles et les indiens. Beale est décrit comme un gentleman courageux, bien éduqué, possédant de bonnes manières, à l'évidence de bonne famille.

Il a une taille de six pieds (1,80 m) et possède des yeux noirs. Il a les cheveux noirs plus longs que la mode de l'époque. Il montre une grande force et a la peau mate. C'est un modèle de beauté, favori des femmes et envié des hommes.

Le 19 mai 1817, la compagnie quitta Saint Louis (dans le Missouri) pour deux ans et rejoignit Santa Fe le premier décembre. Beale fut choisi comme chef de la bande, qui suivit alors un régime quasi-militaire. A 250 ou 300 miles de Santa Fe (environ 400 km), Beale et ses associés découvrirent un affleurement d'or dans une petite ravine. Après des mois de travail, il fut décidé de transférer le magot vers un endroit plus sûr. Beale choisit une grotte près de la taverne de Buford, dans le Comté de Bedford, en Virginie (aujourd'hui la ville de Montvale).

La cachette se trouverait à environ 4 miles de Buford. En novembre 1819 Beale fit un premier dépôt de 1014 livres d'or et 3812 livres d'argent. C'est en s'arrêtant dans l'auberge du coin que Beale rencontra Robert Morriss, qui tenait alors l'hôtel, en 1820. Les deux hommes, d'un caractère profondément sociable, devinrent aussitôt amis. Morriss attira ainsi les confidences de Beale. Morriss est né en 1778 dans le Maryland mais il vint jeune en Virginie dans le Comté de Loudoun. Il y trouva sa femme, Mademoiselle Sarah Mitchell qu'il épousa en 1803. Peu après il déménagea pour Lynchburg où il fit bonne fortune dans le commerce. Il érigea ainsi le premier bâtiment en briques de la ville. Mais il subit des revers de fortune. Il loua alors l'Hôtel Washington, connu aussi comme l'Hôtel Arlington, et devint gardien d'hôtel où il acquit une bonne réputation.

Après cette rencontre, Beale retourna à Santa Fe, et il revint en décembre 1821 déposer 1907 livres d'or, 1288 livres d'argent et des bijoux d'une valeur de 13000 dollars échangés contre de l'argent. Il réapparut à l'auberge en 1822, harassé et la mine sombre. Au printemps suivant, il laissa une boîte à Morriss puis disparut sans jamais revenir, et nul ne sut ce qui était arrivé aux trente hommes de l'expédition. La boîte contenait deux lettres datées du 4 et 5 janvier 1822, ainsi que trois papiers couverts de nombres et marqués des chiffres 1 à 3. Dans les deux lettres, Beale racontait son aventure et donne la nature des trois textes cryptés : le contenu du trésor, sa localisation exacte et les personnes de la bande.

Ces personnes sont au nombre de 31 (dont Beale lui-même), leur nom et leur lieu de résidence est précisé et il est trouvable sans aucune difficulté. Quelques temps après, le 9 mai 1822, une lettre parvint de Saint Louis. Dans cette missive, Beale raconte qu'il a laissé les textes clefs à un ami, qui devra les envoyer en juin 1832 à Morriss. En effet les papiers couverts de nombres sont codés grâce à la méthode du dictionnaire. [\[LEIGHTON1984\]](#) Chaque nombre est associé à la première lettre d'un mot, ce mot étant à la position du nombre dans le texte.

Il s'avère qu'un des textes clefs est la Déclaration d'Indépendance des Etats-Unis ; mais si ces textes clefs ont été rédigés par Beale lui-même, on peut craindre que le trésor soit introuvable. Morriss avait donc ordre de ne l'ouvrir que 10 ans plus tard, c'est-à-dire en 1832, mais il l'ouvrit seulement en 1845. Il livra le secret à un ami en 1862. Robert Morriss mourut l'année suivante, en 1863, suivant de 2 ans la mort de son épouse. L'ami anonyme, pour se soulager d'un secret si laborieux, dont seul un cercle restreint était au courant, décida de publier l'histoire avec l'aide de James .B

Ward en 1885 sous la forme d'un pamphlet de quelques pages. Beaucoup pensent que cet ami anonyme et James B. Ward ne font qu'un.

Peu de temps après, le stock de publications fut détruit par un incendie. Ward ne prit aucune peine pour les réimprimer ; et à l'heure actuelle il n'existe plus aucun papier original. Entre 1898 et 1903 Ward vendit aux frères Hart, Georges L. et Clayton, une copie du document. Les frères Hart sont les deux premiers chercheurs officiels du trésor. Ils ont écrit et présenté l'histoire de Beale à la bibliothèque publique de Roanoke en 1952 [[HART1952](#)]. Ils questionnèrent Ward et son fils, et enquêtèrent sur Morriss avec la confirmation qu'il avait été propriétaire de l'Hôtel Washington de 1819 à 1862. Ils essayèrent les livres de la bibliothèque de Montvale en numérotant les mots dans un sens puis dans l'autre, puis en commençant par le second mot, le troisième, etc. Ils tentèrent de trouver le trésor grâce à l'hypnose.

Georges cessa de s'intéresser au trésor en 1912, année de la mort de Ward, tandis que son frère Clayton s'y intéressa jusqu'à sa mort, le 6 septembre 1949. En 1925 Georges Hart envoya sa copie au colonel Georges Fabyan des Laboratoires Riverbank à Geneva dans l'Illinois, qui s'était illustré pendant la Première Guerre Mondiale. Les papiers de Fabyan atterrirent chez William Friedman, le fameux cryptanalyste de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale. C'est ainsi que Carl Nelson découvrit les papiers de Hart parmi ceux de Friedman, et que le chiffre de Beale retrouva la lumière.

L'histoire de Beale apparut pour la première fois dans la presse, de manière romancée, dans le numéro de juin 1958 de Climax magazine. L'histoire avait pour titre "La caverne d'or de Tom Beale" [[CLIMAX1958](#)]. La vraie histoire fut ensuite publiée à plusieurs reprises dans différents magazines ([[INNIS1964](#)], [[MASTERS1968](#)], [[MASTERS1970](#)]). La promotion de ce chiffre est assurée par la "Beale Cypher Association" qui a été formée par un petit groupe de chasseurs en 1968 [[REMLINGTON1989](#)] [[AUTRES](#)]. Vingt ans plus tard ils étaient une centaine, mais leurs efforts pour découvrir le trésor restent vains, d'autant qu'un tel enjeu ne favorise pas les confidences. Des solutions étranges circulent sur Internet [[DALLAS2005](#)], voire payantes (!).

Habile canular ou véritable trésor ?

Une telle histoire semble invraisemblable, et soulève une multitude de questions. [[JOLTES2003](#)] Pourquoi les heureux découvreurs d'un filon précieux ne sont pas allés déposer leur part dans des banques de la région, plutôt que de traverser tous les Etats-Unis pour aller la cacher ? Pourquoi tout cacher dans un même lieu et mettre en danger l'ensemble du trésor si la cache venait à être découverte ?

Un tel tas devrait laisser une large surface de terre retournée, ou au moins un sentier menant de la taverne au lieu. La quantité d'argent et d'or représente quelques tonnes, et il est difficile de transporter une telle masse, alors qu'il n'existait pas de routes. Un secret est toujours difficile à garder, et un des 30 compagnons aurait pu craquer dans le contexte de la Ruée vers l'Or (rappelons qu'elle sévissait dans les années 1848-49 en Californie et en 1858 dans le Colorado, soit 20 ans après les faits).

Pourquoi un des 30 amis, dont quelques-uns connaissaient le lieu et le nom de Morriss, ne sont pas venus réclamer les fonds ? [\[MRAZ2003\]](#) Selon Joe Mraz, un géologue du Nouveau Mexique interrogé par Richard Joltes, il est possible qu'une mine ait pu être implantée au nord de Santa Fe, entre les villes de Buena Vista et Alma. [\[KELLER2003\]](#) Selon John Keller, un géologue du Colorado, la zone est encore riche en dépôts d'or et d'argent. Alma est une partie extrêmement riche de la "Ceinture Minérale du Colorado". Des sondages et des carotages eurent lieu ici, commençant vers 1858 et continuant jusque dans les années 1960. Ainsi, la Mine de Londres, mine qui appartient à l'Alma, ferma en 1991.

Le code a résisté au plus grands cryptanalystes et à la foule des chercheurs. [\[KRUH1982\]](#) 1. Selon Frank Rowlett, des personnes du Service d'Intelligence du Signal se servent du chiffre de Beale dans un programme d'entraînement. Ils ont conclu que c'était un canular. 2. Le conservateur de la Collection Friedman à la Fondation pour la Recherche George C. Marshall rapporte que les requêtes sur le chiffre de Beale surpassent toutes les autres demandes. 3. Kruh reçut d'un ami un déchiffrement du chiffre de Beale qui paraissait sans ambiguïté, légitime et systématique.

D'après le Colonel George Fabyan, propriétaire des fameux Laboratoires Riverbank, il semble improbable qu'un novice comme Ward puisse déchiffrer un tel code sans la clef, même en y passant 20 ou 40 ans.

Les papiers eux-mêmes contiennent des informations paradoxales. Par exemple la renumérotation des papiers, en fonction de la taille des chiffres, ne correspond pas avec les numéros donnés par l'auteur lui-même. De plus, selon Ohaver et Yardley, il est impossible que le troisième papier puisse contenir les noms et adresses de 31 personnes. Enfin, fait troublant, d'après Solomon Kullback, une analyse stylistique révèle que l'auteur du pamphlet et Beale sont les mêmes personnes. [\[NICKELL1982\]](#) Nickell demanda à un collègue de l'Université du Kentucky, Jean G. Pival, spécialiste en linguistique et rhétorique anglaise, d'examiner le texte.

Il conclut que "bien que deux écrivains doivent avoir des caractéristiques idiosyncrasiques, la répartition de plusieurs comportements extraordinaires constitue l'évidente conclusion que la même main écrivit à la fois les deux documents." De plus il existe trois mots dans le récit de Beale qui étaient inexistantes (sinon d'usage très peu courant) dans les années 1820 : *stampede*, *appliance* et *improvised*. [\[GRAMBILHER2002\]](#) Grambilher a relevé les erreurs entre le véritable décryptage et le texte du pamphlet. Elles proviennent de 14 différences entre le DOI publié et le DOI original, ainsi que d'erreurs dans le comptage. [\[WARD2006\]](#) Selon R. Ward il existerait des connections entre l'écrivain américain Edgard Allan Poe et les papiers de Beale. La suspicion provient de la célèbre nouvelle "Le Scarabée d'Or" dans laquelle Poe raconte une histoire du même type. Dans ce récit le code est une simple substitution entre des symboles et des lettres, le héros parvient à le décrypter par analyse fréquentielle.

L'existence de l'individu T. Beale n'est pas remise en cause même si son vrai rôle dans la vie de Ward n'est pas clair. Beale étant un nom plutôt commun, les chercheurs ont eu du travail pour enquêter sur les homonymes. L'enquête de Viemeister à ce sujet semble être la plus convaincante et la plus complète. [\[VIEMEISTER1998\]](#). Il a identifié un Beale et son fils illégitime qui vivaient près de la taverne de Buford entre 1800 et

1820. Le père blessa dans un duel un homme appelé James B. Risque, identifié comme le grand-père de J.B. Ward. De plus Ward travailla dans la zone où il prétend que le trésor est enterré.

Le chiffre C2 ayant été décrypté, il était normal qu'on s'intéresse aux papiers C1 et C3. Carl Hammer conclue que ces codes semblent cacher un message.

Sa conclusion optimiste tient en trois points : [\[HAMMER1971\]](#) **1.** Les chiffres de Beale 1 et 3 sont "vraisemblables". Ce ne sont pas des griffonnages aléatoires mais ils contiennent une certaine intelligence ou des messages d'une telle sorte. **2.** La méthode utilisée pour encoder les chiffres 1 et 3 est similaire à celle utilisée pour le chiffre 2. Il est très probable qu'un comptage de lettres plutôt qu'un comptage de mots ait été employé. Si c'est vraiment un comptage de lettres, les espaces entre les lettres et la ponctuation n'ont pas été inclus dans le comptage. **3.** Le texte de base utilisé pour coder les chiffres 1 et 3 n'est pas le latin.

Il y a assez d'évidences pour assurer que c'est de l'anglais. D'autres langages n'ont pas été assujettis au type d'analyse indiquée dans le papier de Hammer. [\[GILLOGLY1980\]](#) Pour Gillogly le décryptage de C1 avec la DOI donne des séquences de lettres dont la probabilité d'apparition est très faible. Il relève ainsi l'apparition de la séquence "ABFDEFGHIIJKLMMNOHPP". Ce serait une indication laissée par l'auteur du chiffre. [\[WILLIAMS2005\]](#) Robert N. Williams, intrigué par les frères Lafitte, tomba par hasard sur un document les liant à Beale. Pour lui, Thomas Beale et Jean Lafitte sont la même personne.

La description physique des deux individus est semblable. Selon la légende Lafitte enterra un trésor dans l'île de Galveston. Les trente hommes qui accompagnaient Beale seraient l'équipage d'un navire. L'histoire de l'expédition au nord de Santa Fe serait donc une couverture. La trace de 30 hommes n'est indiquée dans aucune archive, et l'extraction et le raffinage de métaux précieux ne sont pas pour les amateurs.

ANNEXES

ANNEXE 1 - Le trésor aujourd'hui

Estimation de la valeur actuelle du trésor de Beale ainsi que du volume occupé par l'ensemble du magot :

1er dépôt (novembre 1819) :

- OR : 1014 livres = 378 kg = 3.646.000 euros = 19 dm³
- ARGENT : 3812 livres = 1422 kg = 230.000 euros = 135 dm³

2e dépôt (décembre 1821) :

- OR : 1907 livres = 711 kg = 6.857.790 euros = 37 dm³
- ARGENT : 1288 livres = 480 kg = 77.000 euros = 46 dm³
- plus des bijoux d'une valeur de 13000 dollars échangés contre de l'argent.

Somme totale = 11 millions d'euros
Poids total = 3 tonnes
Volume total = 237³
(ne pas oublier le poids d'argent échangé contre les bijoux)

ANNEXE 2 - L'algorithme de détection du texte clair

Une fois décrypté grâce au texte clef, le texte obtenu est analysé. Un algorithme détecte les mots clairs. La longueur de la chaîne formée par une suite de mots issus d'un dictionnaire anglais donne le pourcentage de texte compréhensible. Les mots de moins de quatre lettres ne sont pas comptabilisés. Ainsi C2 est compris à environ 60 % par cet algorithme simple ; en comparaison un texte aléatoire est compris à 33 % et un texte clair à environ 90%. Pour parcourir un dictionnaire anglais j'utilise un algorithme en arbre, plus performant et moins gourmand en mémoire qu'une simple liste. Le lexique anglais est donc chargé au préalable dans un arbre : cet algorithme est une liste chaînée de pointeurs dont chaque noeud possède 26 fils.

ANNEXE 3 - Les sources des textes clefs

Les textes clefs sont rassemblés en deux catégories : la première catégorie est constituée par des textes divers de première importance dans le contexte de l'époque de Thomas Beale, la deuxième catégorie est constituée par les textes du projet Gutenberg.

I. Les textes primordiaux (vous pourrez découvrir le texte original plus loin dans cet ebook)

Ce groupe de textes de référence comporte des documents officiels, la bible, des ouvrages d'auteurs américains, l'oeuvre complète de William Shakespeare et la Magna Carta.

Les titres des textes sont précédés d'une combinaison de plusieurs lettres qui marque leur provenance :

(AP) Avalon Project, (BAR) Les traités barbares (Avalon Project, <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/barbary/barmenu.htm>), (BCA) Beale Cipher Analysis (Les textes proposés par le logiciel BealeProject), (bib) La bible 'King James Version', (BP) The Beale Papers, (CO) Fenimore Cooper, (drb) Bible de Douhay-Reims, (EAP) Edgard Allan Poe, (FED) The Federalist Papers, (HA) Nathaniel Hawthorne, (HJ) Henri James, (IR) Washington Irving, (IT) Indian Treaties, (LO) Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, (ME) Melville, (SH) William Shakespeare, (ST) Harriet Beacher Stowe, (TH) Henry David Thoreau, (TR) Traités divers (Wikipédia), (TRCAN) Traités entre les Etats-Unis et le Canada (http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/ca_us/description.en.html), (TW) Mark Twain, (USC) US Constitution, (USHD) United States Historical Documents (The University of Oklahoma), (WH) Walt Whitman, (WJ) William James

ANNEXE 4 - Les décryptages

La Déclaration d'Indépendance des Etats-Unis :

(DIE)

Séquence de lettres formées par les initiales de la Déclaration d'Indépendance des Etats-Unis :

witcoheibnfoptdtpbwhctwaataatpotetsaestwtlonaongetadrtoomrt
tsdtcwiittswhttbsetamacettaebtcwcurtatalatpohittstrgaiamdj
pftcotgtwafogbdoteiitrotptaotaiatinglifospaopisfattssmltets
ahpiwdtglesnbcflatcaaaehstmamdtsweasttrtbatftwaabwaltoaaupi
tsoeadtrtuadiitriitdtosgatpngftfsshbtpstcasintnwcttatfsogt
hotpkogbiahoriauahidoteoaatotstptlfbstacwhhrhatltmwanftpgghf
hgtploiapiusitohasboawsshuntatthrtpolftaoldoputpwrtroritl
arittafttohhctlbapuuadftdotprftspofticwhmhdrhrfowmfhiotrop
hhrfaltasdtcotbewtlpioahrtpalftetsritmetatdoifwacwhhetptpot
sftpotlfnofrtpotetmhartconaolhhotaobjrhatlfejhphmjdothwaftot
oataapotshheamonoashsoothopaeotshhkautopsawtcoolhhatrtmioas
ttcphhcwotsutajftocaubolghattaoplqlboataufptbamfppfamwtscot
iotsfcootwapotwfitouwocfduimcotbotbjftubstb

Le chiffre C2 comporte 763 nombres, la valeur la plus haute est 1005 :

115, 73, 24, 807, 37, 52, 49, 17, 31, 62, 647, 22, 7, 15, 140, 47, 29, 107, 79, 84, 56,
239, 10, 26, 811, 5, 196, 308, 85, 52, 160, 136, 59, 211, 36, 9, 46, 316, 554, 122, 106,
95, 53, 58, 2, 42, 7, 35, 122, 53, 31, 82, 77, 250, 196, 56, 96, 118, 71, 140, 287, 28,
353, 37, 1005, 65, 147, 807, 24, 3, 8, 12, 47, 43, 59, 807, 45, 316, 101, 41, 78, 154,
1005, 122, 138, 191, 16, 77, 49, 102, 57, 72, 34, 73, 85, 35, 371, 59, 196, 81, 92, 191,
106, 273, 60, 394, 620, 270, 220, 106, 388, 287, 63, 3, 6, 191, 122, 43, 234, 400, 106,
290, 314, 47, 48, 81, 96, 26, 115, 92, 158, 191, 110, 77, 85, 197, 46, 10, 113, 140,
353, 48, 120, 106, 2, 607, 61, 420, 811, 29, 125, 14, 20, 37, 105, 28, 248, 16, 159, 7,
35, 19, 301, 125, 110, 486, 287, 98, 117, 511, 62, 51, 220, 37, 113, 140, 807, 138,
540, 8, 44, 287, 388, 117, 18, 79, 344, 34, 20, 59, 511, 548, 107, 603, 220, 7, 66, 154,
41, 20, 50, 6, 575, 122, 154, 248, 110, 61, 52, 33, 30, 5, 38, 8, 14, 84, 57, 540, 217,
115, 71, 29, 84, 63, 43, 131, 29, 138, 47, 73, 239, 540, 52, 53, 79, 118, 51, 44, 63,
196, 12, 239, 112, 3, 49, 79, 353, 105, 56, 371, 557, 211, 505, 125, 360, 133, 143,
101, 15, 284, 540, 252, 14, 205, 140, 344, 26, 811, 138, 115, 48, 73, 34, 205, 316,
607, 63, 220, 7, 52, 150, 44, 52, 16, 40, 37, 158, 807, 37, 121, 12, 95, 10, 15, 35, 12,
131, 62, 115, 102, 807, 49, 53, 135, 138, 30, 31, 62, 67, 41, 85, 63, 10, 106, 807, 138,
8, 113, 20, 32, 33, 37, 353, 287, 140, 47, 85, 50, 37, 49, 47, 64, 6, 7, 71, 33, 4, 43, 47,
63, 1, 27, 600, 208, 230, 15, 191, 246, 85, 94, 511, 2, 270, 20, 39, 7, 33, 44, 22, 40, 7,
10, 3, 811, 106, 44, 486, 230, 353, 211, 200, 31, 10, 38, 140, 297, 61, 603, 320, 302,
666, 287, 2, 44, 33, 32, 511, 548, 10, 6, 250, 557, 246, 53, 37, 52, 83, 47, 320, 38, 33,
807, 7, 44, 30, 31, 250, 10, 15, 35, 106, 160, 113, 31, 102, 406, 230, 540, 320, 29, 66,
33, 101, 807, 138, 301, 316, 353, 320, 220, 37, 52, 28, 540, 320, 33, 8, 48, 107, 50,
811, 7, 2, 113, 73, 16, 125, 11, 110, 67, 102, 807, 33, 59, 81, 158, 38, 43, 581, 138,
19, 85, 400, 38, 43, 77, 14, 27, 8, 47, 138, 63, 140, 44, 35, 22, 177, 106, 250, 314,
217, 2, 10, 7, 1005, 4, 20, 25, 44, 48, 7, 26, 46, 110, 230, 807, 191, 34, 112, 147, 44,

110, 121, 125, 96, 41, 51, 50, 140, 56, 47, 152, 540, 63, 807, 28, 42, 250, 138, 582, 98, 643, 32, 107, 140, 112, 26, 85, 138, 540, 53, 20, 125, 371, 38, 36, 10, 52, 118, 136, 102, 420, 150, 112, 71, 14, 20, 7, 24, 18, 12, 807, 37, 67, 110, 62, 33, 21, 95, 220, 511, 102, 811, 30, 83, 84, 305, 620, 15, 2, 10, 8, 220, 106, 353, 105, 106, 60, 275, 72, 8, 50, 205, 185, 112, 125, 540, 65, 106, 807, 138, 96, 110, 16, 73, 33, 807, 150, 409, 400, 50, 154, 285, 96, 106, 316, 270, 205, 101, 811, 400, 8, 44, 37, 52, 40, 241, 34, 205, 38, 16, 46, 47, 85, 24, 44, 15, 64, 73, 138, 807, 85, 78, 110, 33, 420, 505, 53, 37, 38, 22, 31, 10, 110, 106, 101, 140, 15, 38, 3, 5, 44, 7, 98, 287, 135, 150, 96, 33, 84, 125, 807, 191, 96, 511, 118, 40, 370, 643, 466, 106, 41, 107, 603, 220, 275, 30, 150, 105, 49, 53, 287, 250, 208, 134, 7, 53, 12, 47, 85, 63, 138, 110, 21, 112, 140, 485, 486, 505, 14, 73, 84, 575, 1005, 150, 200, 16, 42, 5, 4, 25, 42, 8, 16, 811, 125, 160, 32, 205, 603, 807, 81, 96, 405, 41, 600, 136, 14, 20, 28, 26, 353, 302, 246, 8, 131, 160, 140, 84, 440, 42, 16, 811, 40, 67, 101, 102, 194, 138, 205, 51, 63, 241, 540, 122, 8, 10, 63, 140, 47, 48, 140, 288.

Décryptage du chiffre C2 grâce à la DIE :

ihai edeposoted in the copnttolbedoor tabou four miles from bulordsi
nanepcaiationoriaults ipfest below the surlacsofthhg foundthsfol
owingarticissbeaongingjoiotlltothepartfeswhoslnamfsategiieti
nnumberthrffhtte withthofirstdepositcottistcdoftenhptdredandl
oprteenpouetrofgoldatdtsirteightsuodtedandtweiie pounds ofsil
ier depositednoieighteen ninteenthesecondwatabdsdecfighteentw
enttonlbntaonsisttdohnineffnhuedredandseienpoundsoogoldbtdt
welie hundtedatdeightteightofsilieraisotewelsobtainedinsttoui
tinepchange tosbistransportationatdialuelaathirteetrhousanddo
llarstheaboieissecutfltpackhdinitonpotswitswrotcoierstheiau
tisrougsltlinedwttstoneandtheiesselrrestonsolidstoneandarec
oisrfdwiahothtspapernuaberonedescrialrthcopaatlocalittootst
iarlltothatnodifoicultwillcesadttfindingit

Analyse par un algorithme de détection du texte clair :

.....epos.tedinthec.....door.abou.fourmilesfrom..lordsi
nane....ation...ault...festbelowthe...lacs.....|
owing...iciss....ngin.....tothepart.....sate...eti
nnumber.....tewit.thof....depositcotti....often...dred....
...rtee.....golda...sirteig.....teda...weii.pounds..sil
i..depositednoie...teennineteenth.second.....fight...w
ent.....onsi...dohn.....huedredan.....pounds..gold....
.eliehundt.....eightteig....sili.rais.tewel.obtainedinst....
tine.change.....stra.sportation..dial.....thirt....housanddo
llarstheaboie.....pack.dini...potswits.....erstheiau.
.....lined....stoneandthe.esse..restonsolidstoneandare.
.....hoth...papern.aberoned...rial...copa..local..tootst
iar..toth..nodi...culttwillcesa...finding..

Analyse par un algorithme de détection du texte clair :

i|h|a|i|e|d|7:epos|o|12:tedin|17:thec|o|p|n|t|t|o||b|e|30:door|t|
35:abou|p|40:four|44:miles|49:from|b|u|55:lords|60:inane|p|c|a|i|
69:ation|o|r|i|77:ault|s|i|p|84:fest|88:belowthe|s|u|r|99:lacs|o|f|
t|h|h|g|t|o|u|n|d|t|h|s|f|o|t|120:lowing|a|r|t|129:iciss|b|e|a|o|
138:ngin|g|i|o|i|o|t||t|150:tothe|155:part|f|e|s|w|h|o|s||n|a|m|f|171:sate|g|i|
i|178:etin|182:number|t|h|r|f|f|h|t|195:tewit|h|201:thof|i|r|s|t|
209:deposit|216:cotti|s|t|c|d|225:often|h|p|t|233:dred|a|n|d||o|
p|243:rtee|n|p|o|u|e|t|r|o|f|256:golda|t|d|t|264:sirt|268:teig|
h|t|s|u|o|d|278:teda|n|d|t|285:weii|e|290:pounds|o|f|298:sili|e|r|
304:deposited|313:noie|i|g|h|320:teen|324:nineteenth|e|335:second|
w|a|t|a|b|d|s|d|e|c|351:fight|e|e|n|t|360:went|t|o|n||b|n|t|
a|372:onsi|s|t|t|379:dohn|i|n|e|t|f|f|n|390:hued|394:redan|d|s|e|i|
e|n|405:pounds|o|o|413:gold|b|t|d|t|w|422:elie|426:hundt|e|d|a|t|d|
436:eight|441:teig|h|t|o|f|449:sili|e|454:rais|o|459:tewell|s|465:obtained|
473:inst|t|o|u|i|481:tine|p|486:change|t|o|s|b|i|497:stra|n|502:sport|
507:ation|a|t|514:dial|u|e||a|a|523:thirt|e|e|t|r|532:housand|
539:dollars|546:thea|550:boie|i|s|s|e|c|u|t|f||t|564:pack|h|569:dini|t|o|n|
576:pots|580:wits|w|r|o|t|c|o|i|591:erst|595:heiau||t|i|s|r|o|u|g|s||t|
611:lined|w|t|t|s|620:stone|625:andthe|i|632:esse||r|638:reston|
644:solids|650:tone|654:andare|c|o|i|s|r|f|d|w|i|a|670:hoth|t|t|
s|677:papern|u|684:aber|688:oned|e|s|c|695:rial|r|t|h|702:copa|a|t|
708:local|i|t|715:toots|720:tiar||t|726:toth|a|t|732:nodil|f|o|i|
739:cult|743:twill|748:cesa|d|t|t|755:finding|i|t|

Bilan final :

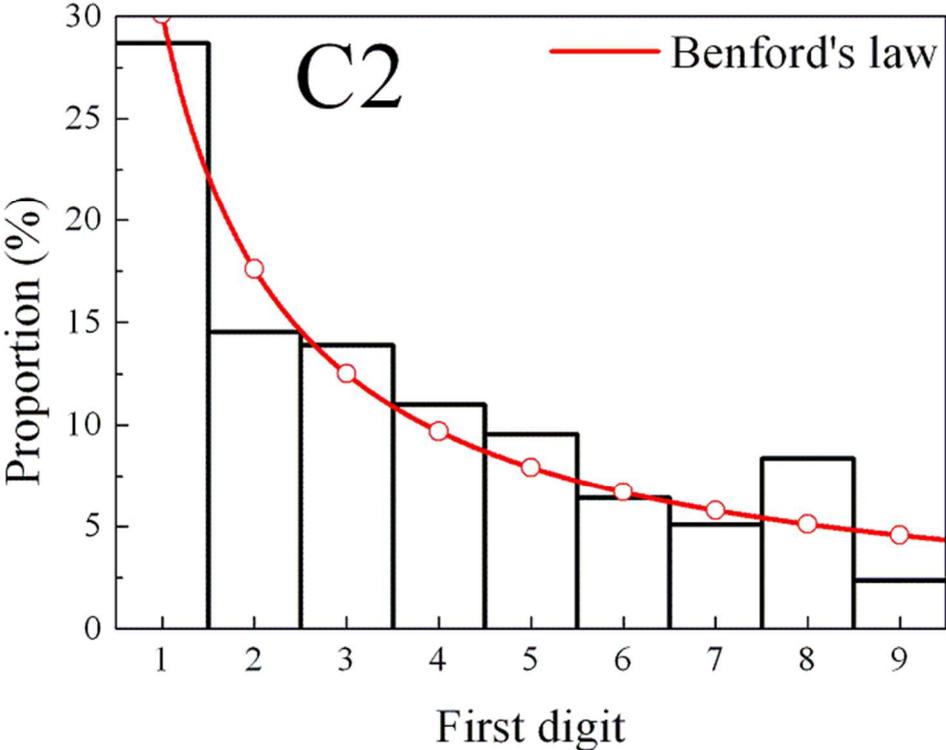
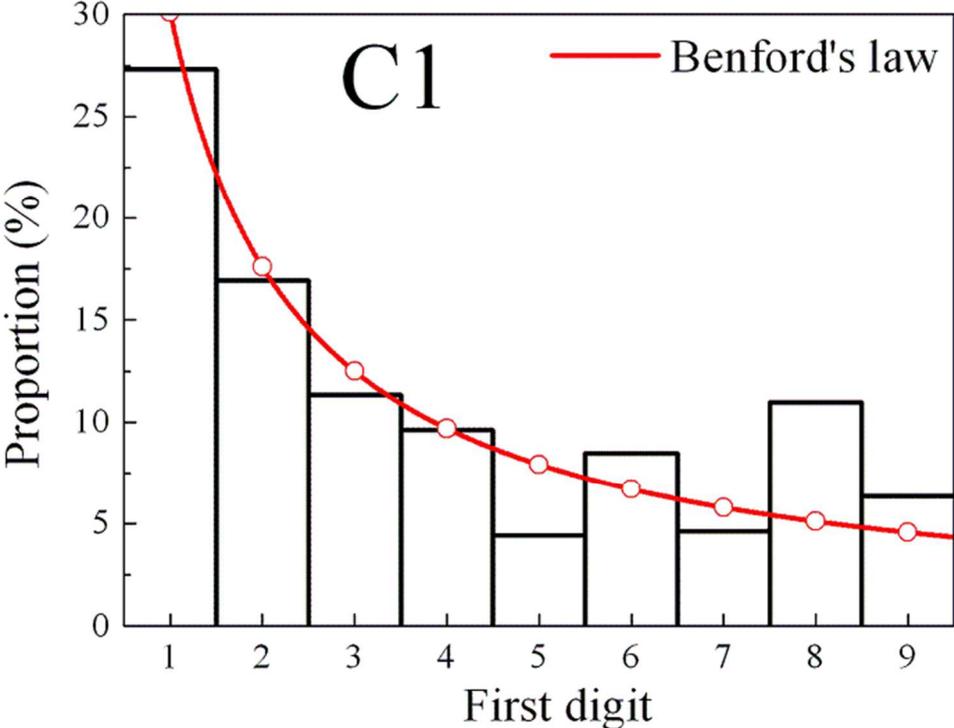
99 mots ont été trouvés ; le pourcentage de texte détecté est 62.12 % ; la longueur moyenne d'un mot clair est de 4.79 lettres.

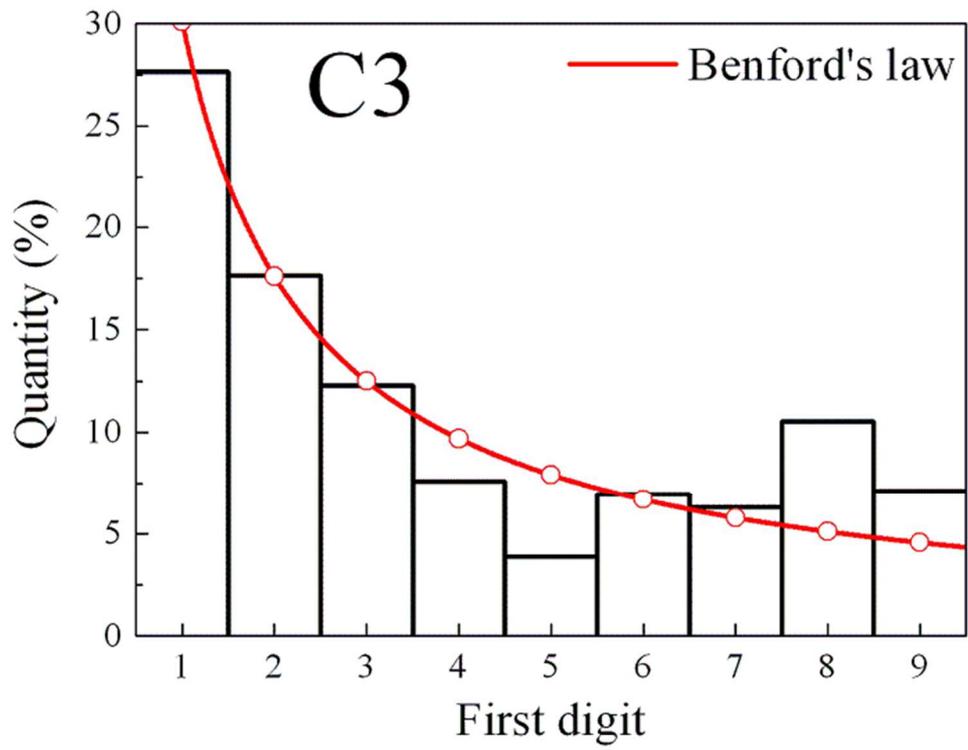
Décryptage du chiffre C1 grâce à la DIE (les chaînes suspectes de Gillogly sont soulignées, les ? notent les nombres de C1 qui dépassent la longueur de la DIE):

scs?etfa?gcdottucwotwtaaiwdbiidt?wttaabbplaaabwctltfiflkilp
eaabpwchotoappmmoralanhaabbccacddeaosdsfhntftatpocacbcddlber
ifebthifoehuub ttttthpaoaasataattomtapoaaarompjdra??tsbcobda
aacpnrb abdefghijklmnohppawtacmoblsoessoavisptaotbtfthfoa
oghwtenalcaasaattarosltawgfesauwaolttahhttasotteafaascstaifr
cabtotlhhdtnhwtsteaieoaastwttssoitsstaaopiwcpcwsottioiesittda
ttpiufsfrrfabptccoaitnattoststf??atdatwtattocwtompatsotecttto
tbsogcwcdrolitibhpwaae?btstafaewca?cbowltoactewtafoaithtttt
oshristetoecusc?raihrlwstrasnitpcbfaeft

ANNEXE 5 - La loi de Benford

Les chiffres présentent des différences remarquables par rapport à la loi de Benford.





Découvrez ci-après le texte original en anglais :

The Beale Papers

containing Authentic Statements regarding the

TREASURE BURIED in 1819 and 1821,

near Bufords, in Bedford County, Virginia,

and Which Has Never Been Recovered.

Lynchburg:

Virginian Book and Job Print 1885.

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1885, by J. B. Ward, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

The following details of an incident that happened many years ago, but which has lost none of its interest on that account, are now given to the public for the first time. Until now, for reasons which will be apparent to every one, all knowledge of this affair was confined to a very limited circle -- to the writer's immediate family, and to one old and valued friend, upon whose discretion he could always rely; nor was it ever intended that it should travel beyond that circle; but circumstances over which he has no control, pecuniary embarrassments of a pressing character, and duty to a dependent family requiring his undivided attention, force him to abandon a task to which he has devoted the best years of his life, but which seems as far from accomplishment as at the start. He is, therefore, compelled, however unwillingly, to relinquish to others the elucidation of the Beale papers, not doubting that of the many who will give the subject attention, some one, through fortune or accident, will speedily solve their mystery and secure the prize which has eluded him.

It can be readily imagined that this course was not determined upon all at once; regardless of the entreaties of his family and the persistent advice of his friend, who were formerly as sanguine as himself, he stubbornly continued his investigations, until absolute want stared him in the face and forced him to yield to their persuasions. Having now lost all hope of benefit from this source himself, he is not unwilling that others may receive it, and only hopes that the prize may fall to some poor, but honest man, who will use his discovery not solely for the promotion of his own enjoyment, but for the welfare of others.

Until the writer lost all hope of ultimate success, he toiled faithfully at his work; unlike any other pursuit with practical and natural results, a charm attended it, independent

of the ultimate benefit he expected, and the possibility of success lent an interest and excitement to the work not to be resisted. It would be difficult to portray the delight he experienced when accident revealed to him the explanation of the paper marked "2." Unmeaning, as this had hitherto been, it was now fully explained, and no difficulty was apprehended in mastering the others; but this accident, affording so much pleasure at the time, was a most unfortunate one for him, as it induced him to neglect family, friends, and all legitimate pursuits for what has proved, so far, the veriest illusion.

It will be seen by a perusal of Mr. Beale's letter to Mr. Morriss that he promised, under certain contingences, such as failure to see or communicate with him in a given time, to furnishing a key by which the papers would be fully explained. As the failure to do either actually occurred, and the promised explanation has never been received, it may possibly remain in the hands of some relative or friend of Beale's, or some other person engaged in the enterprise with him. That they would attach no importance to a seemingly unintelligible writing seems quite natural; but their attention being called to them by the publication of this narrative, may result in eventually bringing to light the missing paper.

Mr. Beale, who deposited with Mr. Morriss the papers which form the subject of this history, is described as being a gentleman well educated, evidently of good family, and with popular manners. What motives could have influenced him and so many others to risk their health and their lives in such an undertaking, except the natural love of daring adventure, with its consequent excitement, we can only conjecture. We may suppose, and indeed we have his word for so doing, that they were infatuated with the dangers, and with the wild and roving character of their lives, the charms of which lured them farther and farther from civilization, until their lives were sacrificed to their temerity. This was the opinion of Mr. Morriss, and in this way only can we account for the fact that the treasure for which they sacrificed so much, constituting almost fabulous wealth, lies abandoned and unclaimed for more than half a century. Should any of my readers be more fortunate than myself in discovering its place of concealment, I shall not only rejoice with them, but feel that I have at least accomplished something in contributing to the happiness of others.

THE LATE ROBERT MORRISS

Robert Morriss, the custodian of the Beale papers, was born in 1778, in the State of Maryland, but removed at an early age, with his family, to Loudoun county, Va., where, in 1803, he married Miss Sarah Mitchell, a fine looking and accomplished young lady of that county. In obtaining such a wife Mr. Morriss was peculiarly fortunate, as her subsequent career fully demonstrated. As a wife she was without reproach, as a generous and sympathizing woman she was without an equal; the poor will long remember her charities, and lament the friend they have lost. Shortly after his removal to Lynchburg, Mr. Morriss engaged in the mercantile business, and shortly thereafter he became a purchaser and shipper of tobacco to an extent hitherto unknown in this section. In these pursuits he was eminently successful for several years, and speedily accumulated a comfortable independence. It was during this

period of his success that he erected the first brick building of which the town could boast, and which still stands on Main street, a monument to his enterprise. His private residence, the house now owned and occupied by Max Guggenheimer, Esq., at the head of Main street, I think he also built. There the most unbounded hospitality reigned, and every facility for enjoyment was furnished. The elite of the town assembled there more frequently than elsewhere, and there are now living some whose most pleasant recollections are associated with that period.

The happiness of Mr. Morriss, however, was of short duration, and reverses came when they were least expected. Heavy purchases of tobacco, at ruinous figures, in anticipation of an upward market, which visions were never realized, swept from him in a moment the savings of years, and left him nothing save his honor and the sincere sympathy of the community with which to begin the battle anew.

It was at this time that Mrs. Morriss exhibited the loveliest traits of her character. Seemingly unmindful of her condition, with a smiling face and cheering words, she so encouraged her husband that he became almost reconciled to his fate. Thrown thus upon his own resources, by the advice of his wife, he leased for a term of years the Washington Hotel, known now as the Arlington, on Church street, and commenced the business of hotel keeping. His kind disposition, strict probity, excellent management, and well ordered household, soon rendered him famous as a host, and his reputation extended even to other States. His was the house par excellence of the town, and no fashionable assemblages met at any other. Finding, in a few years, that his experiment was successful and his business remunerative, he removed to the Franklin Hotel, now the Norvell House, the largest and best arranged in the city. This house he conducted for many years, enjoying the friendship and countenance of the first men of the country. Amongst his guests and devoted personal friends Jackson, Clay, Coles, Witcher, Chief Justice Marshall, and a host of others scarcely less distinguished, might be enumerated. But it was not the wealthy and distinguished alone who appreciated Mr. Morriss; the poor and lowly had blessings for the man who sympathized with their misfortunes, and was ever ready to relieve their distress. Many poor but worthy families, whose descendants are now in our midst, can remember the fact that his table supplied their daily food, not for days and weeks only, but for months at a time; and as a farther instance of his forbearance and unparalleled generosity, there are now living those who will testify to the fact that he permitted a boarder in no way connected with him, to remain in his house for more than twenty years, and until he died, without ever receiving the slightest remuneration, and that he was never made to feel otherwise than as a favored guest.

In manner Mr. Morriss was courteous and gentle; but when occasion demanded, could be stern and determined, too; he was emphatically the master of his house, and from his decision there was no appeal. As an "old Virginia gentleman," he was sans peur et sans reproche, and to a remarkable extent possessed the confidence and affection of his friends. After a chequered and eventful life of more than eighty years, passed mostly in business, which brought him in contact with all classes of people, he died, lamented by all, and leaving not an enemy behind. His death, which occurred in 1863, was just two years subsequent to that of his wife. It can be truly said that no persons

ever lived in a community for such a length of time who accomplished more good during their lives, or whose death was more universally regretted.

It was the unblemished character of the man, and the universal confidence reposed in him, that induced Beale to entrust him with his secret, and in certain contingencies select him for a most important trust; that his confidence was not misplaced, every one remembering Mr. Morriss will acknowledge.

It was in 1862, the second year of the Confederate war, that Mr. Morriss first intimated the possession of a secret that was destined to make some persons wealthy. At first he was not very communicative, nor did I press him to reveal what he seemed to speak of with reluctance; in a few weeks, however, his mind seemed changed, and he voluntarily proffered his confidence. Inviting me to his room, with no one to interrupt us, he gave me an outline of the matter, which soon enlisted my interest and created an intense longing to learn more. About this time, however, affairs of importance required my presence in Richmond, and prevented further communication between us until after my return, when I found him ready to resume the interesting subject. A private interview was soon arranged, and, after several preliminaries had been complied with, the papers upon which this history is based were delivered into my possession.

The reasons which influenced him in selecting me for the trust, he gave, and were in substance as follows: First: Friendship for myself and family, whom he would benefit if he could. Second: The knowledge that I was young and in circumstances to afford leisure for the task imposed; and finally, a confidence that I would regard his instructions, and carry out his wishes regarding his charge. These, and perhaps others, he gave during our frequent conversations upon the subject, and doubtless believed he was conferring a favor which would redound greatly to my advantage. That it has proved otherwise is a misfortune to me, but no fault of his. The conditions alluded to above were that I should devote as much time as was practicable to the papers he had given me; master, if possible, their contents, and if successful in deciphering their meaning and eventually finding the treasure, to appropriate one-half of his portion as a remuneration for my services; the other half to be distributed to certain relatives and connexions of his own, whose names he gave me; the remainder to be held by me in trust for the benefit of such claimants as might at any time appear, and be able to authenticate their claims. This latter amount, to be left intact, subject to such demands, for the space of twenty years, when, if still unclaimed, it should revert to myself or my heirs, as a legacy from himself.

As there was nothing objectionable in this, the required promise was given, and the box and the contents were placed in my possession.

When the writer recalls his anxious hours, his midnight vigils, his toils, his hopes and disappointments, all consequent upon this promise, he can only conclude that the legacy of Mr. Morriss was not as he designed it - a blessing in disguise.

Having assumed the responsibilities and consented to the requirements of Mr. Morriss, I determined to devote as much time to the accomplishment of the task as could be consistently spared from other duties. With this purpose in view, I requested from Mr. Morriss a statement of every particular connected with the affair, or having the slightest bearing upon it, together with such views and opinions of his own as might ultimately benefit me in my researches. In reply, he gave me the following, which I reduced to writing and filed with the papers for future reference:

"It was in the month of January, 1820, while keeping the Washington Hotel, that I first saw and became acquainted with Beale. In company with two others, he came to my house seeking entertainment for himself and friends. Being assured of a comfortable provision for themselves and their horses, Beale stated his intention of remaining for the winter, should nothing occur to alter his plans, but that the gentlemen accompanying him would leave in a few days for Richmond, near which place they resided, and that they were anxious to reach their homes, from which they had long been absent. They all appeared to be gentlemen, well born, and well educated, with refined and courteous manners and with a free and independent air, which rendered them peculiarly attractive. After remaining a week or ten days, the two left, after expressions of satisfaction with their visit. Beale, who remained, soon became a favored and popular guest; his social disposition and friendly demeanor rendered him extremely popular with every one, particularly the ladies, and a pleasant and friendly intercourse was quickly established between them.

"In person, he was about six feet in height, with jet black eyes and hair of the same color, worn longer than was the style at that time. His form was symmetrical, and gave evidence of unusual strength and activity; but his distinguishing feature was a dark and swarthy complexion, as if much exposure to the sun and weather had thoroughly tanned and discolored him; this, however, did not detract from his appearance, and I thought him the handsomest man I had ever seen. Altogether, he was a model of manly beauty, favored by the ladies and envied by men. To the first he was reverentially tender and polite; to the latter, affable and courteous, when they kept within bounds, but, if they were supercilious or presuming, the lion was aroused, and woe to the man who offended him. Instances of this character occurred more than once while he was my guest, and always resulted in his demanding and receiving an apology. His character soon became universally known, and he was no longer troubled by impertinence.

"Such a man was Thomas J. Beale, as he appeared in 1820, and in his subsequent visit to my house. He registered simply from Virginia, but I am of the impression he was from some western portion of the State. Curiously enough, he never adverted to his family or to his antecedents, nor did I question him concerning them, as I would have done had I dreamed of the interest that in the future would attach to his name.

"He remained with me until about the latter end of the following March, when he left, with the same friends who first accompanied him to my house, and who had returned some days before.

"After this I heard nothing from him until January, 1822, when he once more made his appearance, the same genial and popular gentleman as before, but, if possible, darker and swarthier than ever. His welcome was a genuine one, as all were delighted to see him.

"In the spring, at about the same time, he again left, but before doing so, handed me this box, as he said, contained papers of value and importance; and which he desired to leave in my charge until called for hereafter. Of course, I did not decline to receive them, but little imagined their importance until his letter from St. Louis was received. This letter I carefully preserved, and it will be given with these papers. The box was of iron, carefully locked, and of such weight as to render it a safe depository for articles of value. I placed it in a safe and secure place, where it could not be disturbed until such time as it should be demanded by its owner. The letter alluded to above was the last communication I ever received from Beale, and I never saw him again. I can only suppose that he was killed by Indians, afar from his home, though nothing was heard of his death. His companions, too, must all have shared his fate, as no one has ever demanded the box or claimed his effects. The box was left in my hands in the Spring of 1822, and by authority of his letter, I should have examined its contents in 1832, ten years thereafter, having heard nothing from Beale in the meantime; but it was not until 1845, some twenty-three years after it came into my possession, that I decided upon opening it. During that year I had the lock broken, and with the exception of the two letters addressed to myself, and some old receipts, found only some unintelligible papers, covered with figures, and totally incomprehensible to me.

"According to his letter, these papers convey all the information necessary to find the treasure he has concealed, and upon you devolves the responsibility of recovering it. Should you succeed you will be amply compensated for your work, and others near and dear to me will likewise be benefitted. The end is worth all your exertions, and I have every hope that success will reward your efforts."

Such, in substance, was the statement of Mr. Morriss in answer to the various interrogations propounded to him; and finding that I could elicit no further information, I resolved to do the best I could with the limited means at my disposal. I commenced by reading over and over again the letters to Mr. Morriss, endeavoring to impress each syllable they contained on my memory, and to extract from them, if possible, some meaning or allusion that might give, perhaps, a faint or barely perceptible hint as a guide; no such clue, however, could I find, and where or how to commence was a problem I found most difficult to solve. To systematize a plan for my work I arranged the papers in the order of their length, and numbered them, designing to commence with the first, and devote my whole attention to that until I had either unravelled its meaning or was convinced of its impossibility - afterwards to take up the others and proceed as before.

All of this I did in the course of time, but failed so completely that my hopes of solving the mystery were well nigh abandoned. My thoughts, however were constantly upon it, and the figures contained in each paper, in their regular order, were fixed in my memory. My impression was that each figure represented a letter, but as the numbers

so greatly exceeded the letters of the alphabet, that many different numbers represented the same letter. With this idea, a test was made of every book I could procure, by numbering its letters and comparing the numbers with those of the manuscript; all to no purpose, however, until the Declaration of Independence afforded the clue to one of the papers, and revived all my hopes. To enable my readers to better understand the explanation of this paper, the Declaration of Independence is given herewith, and will be of interest to those designing to follow up my investigations. When I first made this discovery, I thought I had the key to the whole, but soon ascertained that further work was necessary before my task was completed. The encouragement afforded, however, by this discovery enabled me to proceed, and I have persisted in my labors to the present time. Now, as I have already said, I am forced by circumstances to devote my time to other pursuits, and to abandon hopes which were destined never to be realized.

The following is the letter addressed to Mr. Morriss by Beale, and dated St. Louis, May, 1822, and was the latest communication ever received from him:

St. Louis, Mo., May 9th, 1822.

Robt. Morris, Esq.:

My Esteemed Friend: - Ever since leaving my comfortable quarters at your house I have been journeying to this place, and only succeeded in reaching it yesterday. I have had altogether a pleasant time, the weather being fine and the atmosphere bracing. I shall remain here a week or ten days longer, then "ho" for the plains, to hunt the buffalo and encounter the savage grizzlies. How long I may be absent I cannot now determine, certainly no less than two years, perhaps longer.

With regard to the box left in your charge, I have a few words to say, and, if you will permit me, give you some instructions concerning it. It contains papers vitally affecting the fortunes of myself and many others engaged in business with me, and in the event of my death, its loss might be irreparable. You will, therefore, see the necessity of guarding it with vigilance and care to prevent so great a catastrophe. It also contains some letters addressed to yourself, and which will be necessary to enlighten you concerning the business in which we are engaged. Should none of us ever return you will please preserve carefully the box for the period of ten years from the date of this letter, and if I, or no one with authority from me during that time demands its restoration, you will open it, which can be done by removing the lock. You will find, in addition to the papers addressed to you, other papers which will be unintelligible without the aid of a key to assist you. Such a key I have left in the hands of a friend in this place, sealed, addressed to yourself, and endorsed not to be delivered until June, 1832. By means of this you will understand fully all you will be required to do.

I know you will cheerfully comply with my request, thus adding to the many obligations under which you have already placed me. In the meantime, should death or sickness happen to you, to which all are liable, please select from among your friends some one worthy, and to him hand this letter, and to him delegate your authority. I have been thus particular in my instructions, in consequence of the somewhat perilous enterprise in which we are engaged, but trust we shall meet long ere the time expires, and so save you this trouble. Be the result what it may, however,

the game is worth the candle, and we will play it to the end. With kindest wishes for your most excellent wife, compliments to the ladies, a good word to enquiring friends, if there be any, and assurances of my highest esteem for yourself, I remain as ever,

Your sincere friend, T.J.B.

After the reception of this letter, Mr. Morriss states that he was particularly careful to see the box securely placed where it could remain in absolute safety, so long as the exigencies of the case might require; the letter, too, he was equally careful to preserve for future use, should it be needed. Having done all that was required of him, Mr. Morriss could only await Beale's return, or some communication from him. In either case, he was disappointed. He never saw Beale again, nor did a line or message ever reach him. The two years passed away during which he said he would be absent, then three, four, and so on to ten; still not a line or message to tell whether he were living or dead. Mr. Morriss felt much uneasiness about him, but had had no means of satisfying his doubts; ten years had passed; 1832 was at hand, and he was now at liberty to open the box, but he resolved to wait on, vainly hoping that something definite would reach him.

During this period rumors of Indian outrages and massacres were current, but no mention of Beale's name ever occurred. What became of him and his companions is left entirely to conjecture. Whether he was slain by Indians, or killed by the savage animals of the Rocky Mountains, or whether exposure, and perhaps privation, did its work can never be told. One thing at least is certain, that of the young and gallant band, whose buoyant spirits led them to seek such a life, and to forsake the comforts of home, with all its enjoyments, for the dangers and privations they must necessarily encounter, not a survivor remains.

Though Mr. Morriss was aware of the contents of the box in 1845, it was not until 1862, forty years after he received it, that he thought proper to mention its existence, and to myself alone did he then divulge it. He had become long since satisfied that the parties were no longer living, but his delicacy of feeling prevented his assuming as a fact a matter so pregnant with consequences. He frequently decided upon doing so, and as often delayed it for another time; and when at last he did speak of the matter it was with seeming reluctance, and as if he felt he was committing a wrong. But the story once told, he evinced up to the time of his death the greatest interest in my success, and in frequent interviews always encouraged me to proceed.

It is now more than twenty years since these papers came into my hands, and, with the exception of one of them, they are still as incomprehensible as ever. Much time was devoted to this one, and those who engage in the matter will be saved what has been consumed upon it by myself.

Before giving the papers to the public, I would say a word to those who may take an interest in them, and give them a little advice, acquired by bitter experience. It is, to devote only such time as can be spared from your legitimate business to the task, and if you can spare no time, let the matter alone. Should you disregard my advice, do not

hold me responsible that the poverty you have courted is more easily found than accomplishment of your wishes, and I would avoid the sight of another reduced to my condition. Nor is it necessary to devote the time that I did to this matter, as accident alone, without the promised key, will ever develop the mystery. If revealed by accident, a few hours devoted to the subject may accomplish results which were denied to years of patient toil. Again, never, as I have done, sacrifice your own and your family's interests to what may prove an illusion; but, as I have already said, when your day's work is done, and you are comfortably seated by your good fire, a short time devoted to the subject can injure no one, and may bring its reward.

By pursuing this policy, your interests will not suffer, your family will be cared for, and your thoughts will not be absorbed to the exclusion of other important affairs. With this admonition, I submit to my readers the papers upon which this narrative is founded.

The first in order is the letter from Beale to Mr. Morriss, which will give the reader a clearer conception of all the facts connected with the case, and enable him to understand as fully as I myself do, the present status of the affair. The letter is as follows:

Lynchburg, January 4th, 1822.

My Dear Friend Morriss: - You will, doubtless, be surprised when you discover, from a perusal of this letter, the importance of the trust confided to you, and the confidence reposed in your honor, by parties whom you have never seen, and whose names even you have never heard. The reasons are simple and easily told; it was imperative upon us that some one here should be selected to carry out our wishes in case of accident to ourselves, and your reputation as a man of the sternest integrity, unblemished honor, and business capacity, influenced them to select you in place of others better known, but perhaps, not so reliable as yourself. It was with this design that I first visited your house, two years since, that I might judge by personal observation if your reputation was merited. To enable me better to do so, I remained with you more than three months, and until I was fully satisfied as to your character. This visit was made by the request of my associates, and you can judge from their action whether my report was a favorable one.

I will now give you some idea of the enterprise in which we are engaged, and the duties which will be required of you in connection therewith; first assuring you, however, that your compensation for the trouble will be ample, as you have been unanimously made one of our association, and as such are entitled to share equally with the others.

Some five years since I, in connection with several friends, who, like myself, were fond of adventure, and if mixed with a little danger all the more acceptable, determined to visit the great Western plains and enjoy ourselves in hunting buffalo, grizzly bears, and such other game as the country would afford. This, at that time, was our sole object, and we at once proceeded to put it in execution. On account of Indians and other dangers incident to such an undertaking, we determined to raise a party of not less than thirty individuals, of good character and standing, who would be pleasant companions, and financially able to encounter the expense. With this object in view, each one of us suggested the matter to his several friends and

acquaintances, and in a few weeks the requisite number had signed the conditions, and were admitted as members of the party. Some few refused to join with us, being, doubtless, deterred by the dangers, but such men we did not want, and were glad of their refusal.

The company being formed, we forthwith commenced our preparations, and, early in April, 1817, left old Virginia for St. Louis, Mo., where we expected to purchase the necessary outfits, procure a guide and two or three servants, and obtain such information and advice as might be beneficial hereafter. All was done as intended, and we left St. Louis the 19th of May, to be absent two years, our objective point being Santa Fe, which we intended to reach in the ensuing Fall, and there establish ourselves in winter quarters.

After leaving St. Louis we were advised by our guide to form a regular military organization, with a captain, to be selected by the members, to whom should be given sole authority to manage our affairs, and, in cases of necessity, ensure united action. This was agreed to, and each member of the party bound himself by a solemn obligation to obey at all times, the orders of their captain, or, in the event of refusal, to leave the company at once. This arrangement was to remain in force for two years, or for the period of our expected absence. Tyranny, partiality, incompetency, or other improper conduct on the part of the captain, was to be punished by deposing him from his office, if a majority of the company desired his dismissal. All this being arranged, and a set of laws framed, by which the conduct of the members was to be regulated, the election was held, and resulted in choosing me as their leader.

It is not my purpose now to give you details of our wanderings, or of the pleasures or dangers we encountered. All this I will reserve until we meet again, when it will be a pleasure to recall incidents that will always be fresh in my memory.

About the first of December we reached our destination, Santa Fe, and prepared for a long and welcome rest from the fatigues of our journey. Nothing of interest occurred during the winter, and of this little Mexican town we soon became heartily tired. We longed for the advent of weather which would enable us to resume our wanderings and our exhilarating pursuits.

Early in March some of the party, to vary the monotony of their lives, determined upon a short excursion, for the purpose of hunting and examining the country around us. They expected to be only a few days absent, but days passed into weeks, and weeks into a month or more before we had any tidings of the party. We had become exceedingly uneasy, and were preparing to send out scouts to trace them, if possible, when two of the party arrived, and gave an explanation of their absence. It appears that when they left Santa Fe they pursued a northerly course for some days, being successful in finding an abundance of game, which they secured, and were on the eve of returning when they discovered on their left an immense herd of buffaloes, heading for a valley just perceptible in the distance. They determined to follow them, and secure as many as possible. Keeping well together, they followed their trail for two weeks or more, securing many and stampeding the rest.

One day, while following them, the party encamped in a small ravine, some 250 or 300 miles to the north of Santa Fe, and with their horses tethered, were preparing their evening meal, when one of the men discovered in a cleft of the rocks something that had the appearance of gold. Upon showing it to the others it was pronounced to be gold, and much excitement was the natural consequence. Messengers were at once dispatched to inform me of the facts, and request

my presence with the rest of the party, and with supplies for an indefinite time. All the pleasures and temptations which had lured them to the plains were now forgotten, and visions of boundless wealth and future grandeur were the only ideas entertained. Upon reaching the locality I found all as it had been represented, and the excitement intense. Every one was diligently at work with such tools and appliances as they had improvised, and quite a little pile had already accumulated. Though all were at work, there was nothing like order or method in their plans, and my first efforts were to systematize our operations, and reduce everything to order. With this object, an agreement was entered into to work in common as joint partners, the accumulations of each one to be placed in a common receptacle, and each be entitled to an equal share, whenever he chose to withdraw it - the whole to remain under my charge until some other disposition of it was agreed upon. Under this arrangement the work progressed favorable for eighteen months or more, and a great deal of gold had accumulated in my hands as well as silver, which had likewise been found. Everything necessary for our purposes and for the prosecution of the work had been obtained from Santa Fe, and no trouble was experienced in procuring assistance from the Indians in our labors. Matters went on thus until the summer of 1819, when the question of transferring our wealth to some secure place was frequently discussed. It was not considered advisable to retain so large an amount in so wild and dangerous a locality, where its very possession might endanger our lives; and to conceal it here would avail nothing, as we might at any time be forced to reveal its place of concealment. We were in a dilemma. Some advised one plan, some another. One recommended Santa Fe as the safest place to deposit it, while others objected, and advocated its shipment at once to the States, where it was ultimately bound to go, and where alone it would be safe. The idea seemed to prevail, and it was doubtless correct, that when outside parties ascertained, as they would do, that we kept nothing on hand to tempt their cupidity, our lives would be more secure than at present. It was finally decided that it should be sent to Virginia under my charge, and securely buried in a cave near Buford's tavern, in the county of Bedford, which all of us had visited, and which was considered a perfectly safe depository. This was acceptable to all, and I at once made preparations for my departure. The whole party were to accompany me for the first five hundred miles, when all but ten would return, these latter to remain with me to the end of the journey. All was carried out as arranged, and I arrived safely with my charge.

Stopping at Buford's, where we remained for a month, under pretense of hunting etc. we visited the cave, and found it unfit for our purpose. It was too frequently visited by the neighboring farmers, who used it as a receptacle for their sweet potatoes and other vegetables. We soon selected a better place, and to this the treasure was safely transferred.

Before leaving my companions on the plains it was suggested that, in case of an accident to ourselves, the treasure so concealed would be lost to their relatives, without some provision against such a contingency. I was, therefore instructed to select some perfectly reliable person, if such an one could be found, who should, in the event of his proving acceptable to the party, be confided in to carry out their wishes in regard to their respective shares, and upon my return report whether I had found such a person. It was in accordance with these instructions that I visited you, made your acquaintance, was satisfied that you would suit us, and so reported.

On my return I found the work still progressing favorably, and, by making large accessions to our force of laborers, I was ready to return last Fall with an increased supply of metal, which came through safely and was deposited with the other. It was at this time I handed you the box,

not disclosing the nature of its contents, but asking you to keep it safely till called for. I intend writing you, however, from St. Louis, and impress upon you its importance still more forcibly.

The papers enclosed herewith will be unintelligible without the key, which will reach you in time, and will be found merely to state the contents of our depository, with its exact location, and a list of the names of our party, with their places of residence, etc. I thought at first to give you their names in this letter, but reflecting that some one may read the letter, and thus be enabled to impose upon you by personating some member of the party, have decided the present plan is best. You will be aware from what I have written, that we are engaged in a perilous enterprise - one which promises glorious results if successful - but dangers intervene, and of the end no one can tell. We can only hope for the best, and persevere until our work is accomplished, and the sum secured for which we are striving.

As ten years must elapse before you will see this letter, you may well conclude by that time that the worst has happened, and that none of us are to be numbered with the living. In such an event, you will please visit the place of deposit and secure its contents, which you will divide into thirty-one equal parts; one of these parts you are to retain as your own, freely given to you for your services. The other shares to be distributed to the parties named in the accompanying paper. These legacies, so unexpectedly received, will at least serve to recall names that may still be cherished, though partially forgotten.

In conclusion, my dear friend, I beg that you will not allow any false or idle punctillio to prevent your receiving and appropriating the portion assigned to yourself. It is a gift not from myself alone, but from each and every member of our party, and will not be out of proportion to the services required of you.

I trust, my dear Mr. Morriss, that we may meet many times in the future, but if the Fates forbid, with my last communication I would assure you of the entire respect and confidence of

Your friend, T.J.B.

Lynchburg, Va., January 5th, 1822.

Dear Mr. Morriss. - You will find in one of the papers, written in cipher, the names of all my associates, who are each entitled to an equal part of our treasure, and opposite to the names of each one will be found the names and residences of the relatives and others, to whom they devise their respective portions. From this you will be enabled to carry out the wishes of all by distributing the portion of each to the parties designated. This will not be difficult, as their residences are given, and they can easily be found.

The two letters given above were all the box contained that were intelligible; the others, consisted of papers closely covered with figures, which were, of course, unmeaning until they could be deciphered. To do this was the task to which I now devoted myself, and with but partial success.

To enable my readers to understand the paper "No. 2," the only one I was ever able to decipher, I herewith give the Declaration of Independence, with the words numbered consecutively, by the assistance of which that paper's hidden meaning was made plain:

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

When(1) in(2) the(3) course(4) of(5) human(6) events(7) it(8) becomes(9) necessary(10) for(11) one(12) people(13) to(14) dissolve(15) the(16) political(17) bands(18) which(19) have(20) connected(21) them(22) with(23) another(24) and(25) to(26) assume(27) among(28) the(29) powers(30) of(31) the(32) earth(33) the(34) separate(35) and(36) equal(37) station(38) to(39) which(40) the(41) laws(42) of(43) nature(44) and(45) of(46) nature's(47) god(48) entitle(49) them(50) a(51) decent(52) respect(53) to(54) the(55) opinions(56) of(57) mankind(58) requires(59) that(60) they(61) should(62) declare(63) the(64) causes(65) which(66) impel(67) them(68) to(69) the(70) separation(71) we(72) hold(73) these(74) truths(75) to(76) be(77) self(78) evident(79) that(80) all(81) men(82) are(83) created(84) equal(85) that(86) they(87) are(88) endowed(89) by(90) their(91) creator(92) with(93) certain(94) unalienable(95) rights(96) that(97) among(98) these(99) are(100) life(101) liberty(102) and(103) the(104) pursuit(105) of(106) happiness(107) that(108) to(109) secure(110) these(111) rights(112) governments(113) are(114) instituted(115) among(116) men(117) deriving(118) their(119) just(120) powers(121) from(122) the(123) consent(124) of(125) the(126) governed(127) that(128) whenever(129) any(130) form(131) of(132) government(133) becomes(134) destructive(135) of(136) these(137) ends(138) it(139) is(140) the(141) right(142) of(143) the(144) people(145) to(146) alter(147) or(148) to(149) abolish(150) it(151) and(152) to(153) institute(154) new(155) government(156) laying(157) its(158) foundation(159) on(160) such(161) principles(162) and(163) organizing(164) its(165) powers(166) in(167) such(168) form(169) as(170) to(171) them(172) shall(173) seem(174) most(175) likely(176) to(177) effect(178) their(179) safety(180) and(181) happiness(182) prudence(183) indeed(184) will(185) dictate(186) that(187) governments(188) long(189) established(190) should(191) not(192) be(193) changed(194) for(195) light(196) and(197) transient(198) causes(199) and(200) accordingly(201) all(202) experience(203) hath(204) shown(205) that(206) mankind(207) are(208) more(209) disposed(210) to(211) suffer(212) while(213) evils(214) are(215) sufferable(216) than(217) to(218) right(219) themselves(220) by(221) abolishing(222) the(223) forms(224) to(225) which(226) they(227) are(228) accustomed(229) but(230) when(231) a(232) long(233) train(234) of(235) abuses(236) and(237) usurpations(238) pursuing(239) invariably(240) the(241) same(242) object(243) evinces(244) a(245) design(246) to(247) reduce(248) them(249) under(250) absolute(251) despotism(252) it(253) is(254) their(255) right(256) it(257) is(258) their(259) duty(260) to(261) throw(262) off(263) such(264) government(265) and(266) to(267) provide(268) new(269) guards(270) for(271) their(272) future(273) security(274) such(275) has(276) been(277) the(278) patient(279) sufferance(280) of(281) these(282) colonies(283) and(284) such(285) is(286) now(287) the(288) necessity(289) which(290) constrains(291) them(292) to(293) alter(294) their(295) former(296) systems(297) of(298) government(299) the(300) history(301) of(302) the(303) present(304) king(305) of(306) great(307) Britain(308) is(309) a(310) history(311) of(312) repeated(313) injuries(314) and(315) usurpations(316) all(317) having(318) in(319) direct(320) object(321) the(322) establishment(323) of(324) an(325) absolute(326) tyranny(327) over(328) these(329) states(330) to(331) prove(332) this(333) let(334) facts(335) be(336) submitted(337) to(338) a(339) candid(340) world(341) he(342) has(343) refused(344) his(345) assent(346) to(347) laws(348) the(349) most(350) wholesome(351) and(352)

necessary(353) for(354) the(355) public(356) good(357) he(358) has(359) forbidden(360) his(361) governors(362) to(363) pass(364) laws(365) of(366) immediate(367) and(368) pressing(369) importance(370) unless(371) suspended(372) in(373) their(374) operation(375) till(376) his(377) assent(378) should(379) be(380) obtained(381) and(382) when(383) so(384) suspended(385) he(386) has(387) utterly(388) neglected(389) to(390) attend(391) to(392) them(393) he(394) has(395) refused(396) to(397) pass(398) other(399) laws(400) for(401) the(402) accommodation(403) of(404) large(405) districts(406) of(407) people(408) unless(409) those(410) people(411) would(412) relinquish(413) the(414) right(415) of(416) representation(417) in(418) the(419) legislature(420) a(421) right(422) inestimable(423) to(424) them(425) and(426) formidable(427) to(428) tyrants(429) only(430) he(431) has(432) called(433) together(434) legislative(435) bodies(436) at(437) places(438) unusual(439) uncomfortable(440) and(441) distant(442) from(443) the(444) depository(445) of(446) their(447) public(448) records(449) for(450) the(451) sole(452) purpose(453) of(454) fatiguing(455) them(456) into(457) compliance(458) with(459) his(460) measures(461) he(462) has(463) dissolved(464) representative(465) houses(466) repeatedly(467) for(468) opposing(469) with(470) manly(471) firmness(472) his(473) invasions(474) on(475) the(476) rights(477) of(478) the(479) people(480) he(481) has(482) refused(483) for(484) a(485) long(486) time(487) after(488) such(489) dissolutions(490) to(491) cause(492) others(493) to(494) be(495) elected(496) whereby(497) the(498) legislative(499) powers(500) incapable(501) of(502) annihilation(503) have(504) returned(505) to(506) the(507) people(508) at(509) large(510) for(511) their(512) exercise(513) the(514) state(515) remaining(516) in(517) the(518) meantime(519) exposed(520) to(521) all(522) the(523) dangers(524) of(525) invasion(526) from(527) without(528) and(529) convulsions(530) within(531) he(532) has(533) endeavored(534) to(535) prevent(536) the(537) population(538) of(539) these(540) states(541) for(542) that(543) purpose(544) obstructing(545) the(546) laws(547) for(548) naturalization(549) of(550) foreigners(551) refusing(552) to(553) pass(554) others(555) to(556) encourage(557) their(558) migration(559) hither(560) and(561) raising(562) the(563) conditions(564) of(565) new(566) appropriations(567) of(568) lands(569) he(570) has(571) obstructed(572) the(573) administration(574) of(575) justice(576) by(577) refusing(578) his(579) assent(580) to(581) laws(582) for(583) establishing(584) judiciary(585) powers(586) he(587) has(588) made(589) judges(590) dependent(591) on(592) his(593) will(594) alone(595) for(596) the(597) tenure(598) of(599) their(600) offices(601) and(602) the(603) amount(604) and(605) payment(606) of(607) their(608) salaries(609) he(610) has(611) erected(612) a(613) multitude(614) of(615) new(616) offices(617) and(618) sent(619) hither(620) swarms(621) of(622) officers(623) to(624) harass(625) our(626) people(627) and(628) eat(629) out(630) their(631) substance(632) he(633) has(634) kept(635) among(636) us(637) in(638) times(639) of(640) peace(641) standing(642) armies(643) without(644) the(645) consent(646) of(647) our(648) legislatures(649) he(650) has(651) affected(652) to(653) render(654) the(655) military(656) independent(657) of(658) and(659) superior(660) to(661) the(662) civil(663) power(664) he(665) has(666) combined(667) with(668) others(669) to(670) subject(671) us(672) to(673) a(674) jurisdiction(675) foreign(676) to(677) our(678) constitution(679) and(680) unacknowledged(681) by(682) our(683) laws(684) giving(685) his(686) assent(687) to(688) their(689) acts(690) of(691) pretended(692)

legislation(693) for(694) quartering(695) large(696) bodies(697) of(698) armed(699) troops(700) among(701) us(702) for(703) protecting(704) them(705) by(706) a(707) mock(708) trial(709) from(710) punishment(711) for(712) any(713) murders(714) which(715) they(716) should(717) commit(718) on(719) the(720) inhabitants(721) of(722) these(723) states(724) for(725) cutting(726) off(727) our(728) trade(729) with(730) all(731) parts(732) of(733) the(734) world(735) for(736) imposing(737) taxes(738) on(739) us(740) without(741) our(742) consent(743) for(744) depriving(745) us(746) in(747) many(748) cases(749) of(750) the(751) benefits(752) of(753) trial(754) by(755) jury(756) for(757) transporting(758) us(759) beyond(760) seas(761) to(762) be(763) tried(764) for(765) pretended(766) offenses(767) for(768) abolishing(769) the(770) free(771) system(772) of(773) English(774) laws(775) in(776) a(777) neighboring(778) province(779) establishing(780) therein(781) an(782) arbitrary(783) government(784) and(785) enlarging(786) its(787) boundaries(788) so(789) as(790) to(791) render(792) it(793) at(794) once(795) an(796) example(797) and(798) fit(799) instrument(800) for(801) introducing(802) the(803) same(804) absolute(805) rule(806) into(807) these(808) colonies(809) for(810) taking(811) away(812) our(813) charters(814) abolishing(815) our(816) most(817) valuable(818) laws(819) and(820) altering(821) fundamentally(822) the(823) forms(824) of(825) our(826) governments(827) for(828) suspending(829) our(830) own(831) legislature(832) and(833) declaring(834) themselves(835) invested(836) with(837) power(838) to(839) legislate(840) for(841) us(842) in(843) all(844) cases(845) whatsoever(846) he(847) has(848) abdicated(849) government(850) here(851) by(852) declaring(853) us(854) out(855) of(856) his(857) protection(858) and(859) waging(860) war(861) against(862) us(863) he(864) has(865) plundered(866) our(867) seas(868) ravaged(869) our(870) coasts(871) burnt(872) our(873) towns(874) and(875) destroyed(876) the(877) lives(878) of(879) our(880) people(881) he(882) is(883) at(884) this(885) time(886) transporting(887) large(888) armies(889) of(890) foreign(891) mercenaries(892) to(893) complete(894) the(895) works(896) of(897) death(898) desolation(899) and(900) tyranny(901) already(902) begun(903) with(904) circumstances(905) of(906) cruelty(907) and(&)(908) perfidy(909) scarcely(910) paralleled(911) in(912) the(913) most(914) barbarous(915) ages(916) and(917) totally(918) unworthy(919) the(920) head(921) of(922) a(923) civilized(924) nation(925) he(926) has(927) constrained(928) our(929) fellow(930) citizens(931) taken(932) captive(933) on(934) the(935) high(936) seas(937) to(938) bear(939) arms(940) against(941) their(942) country(943) to(944) become(945) the(946) executioners(947) of(948) their(949) friends(950) and(951) brethren(952) or(953) to(954) fall(955) themselves(956) by(957) their(958) hands(959) he(960) has(961) excited(962) domestic(963) insurrections(964) amongst(965) us(966) and(967) has(968) endeavored(969) to(970) bring(971) on(972) the(973) inhabitants(974) of(975) our(976) frontiers(977) the(978) merciless(979) Indian(980) savages(981) whose(982) known(983) rule(984) of(985) warfare(986) is(987) an(988) undistinguished(989) destruction(990) of(991) all(992) ages(993) sexes(994) and(995) conditions(996) in(997) every(998) stage(999) of(1000) these(1001) oppressions(1002) we(1003) have(1004) petitioned(1005) for(1006) redress(1007) in(1008) the(1009) most(1010) humble(1011) terms(1012) our(1013) repeated(1014) petitions(1015) have(1016) been(1017) answered(1018) only(1019) by(1020) repeated(1021) injury(1022) a(1023) prince(1024) whole(1025) character(1026) is(1027) thus(1028)

marked(1029) by(1030) every(1031) act(1032) which(1033) may(1034) define(1035) a(1036) tyrant(1037) is(1038) unfit(1039) to(1040) be(1041) the(1042) ruler(1043) of(1044) a(1045) free(1046) people(1047) nor(1048) have(1049) we(1050) been(1051) wanting(1052) in(1053) attention(1054) to(1055) our(1056) British(1057) brethren(1058) we(1059) have(1060) warned(1061) them(1062) from(1063) time(1064) to(1065) time(1066) of(1067) attempts(1068) by(1069) their(1070) legislature(1071) to(1072) extend(1073) an(1074) unwarrantable(1075) jurisdiction(1076) over(1077) us(1078) we(1079) have(1080) reminded(1081) them(1082) of(1083) the(1084) circumstances(1085) of(1086) our(1087) emigration(1088) and(1089) settlement(1090) here(1091) we(1092) have(1093) appealed(1094) to(1095) their(1096) native(1097) justice(1098) and(1099) magnanimity(1100) and(1101) we(1102) have(1103) conjured(1104) them(1105) by(1106) the(1107) ties(1108) of(1109) our(1110) common(1111) kindred(1112) to(1113) disavow(1114) these(1115) usurpations(1116) which(1117) would(1118) inevitably(1119) interrupt(1120) our(1121) connections(1122) and(1123) correspondence(1124) they(1125) too(1126) have(1127) been(1128) deaf(1129) to(1130) the(1131) voice(1132) of(1133) justice(1134) and(1135) of(1136) consanguinity(1137) we(1138) must(1139) therefore(1140) acquiesce(1141) in(1142) the(1143) necessity(1144) which(1145) denounces(1146) our(1147) separation(1148) and(1149) hold(1150) them(1151) as(1152) we(1153) hold(1154) the(1155) rest(1156) of(1157) mankind(1158) enemies(1159) in(1160) war(1161) in(1162) peace(1163) friends(1164) we(1165) therefore(1166) the(1167) representatives(1168) of(1169) the(1170) united(1171) states(1172) of(1173) America(1174) in(1175) general(1176) congress(1177) assembled(1178) appealing(1179) to(1180) the(1181) supreme(1182) judge(1183) of(1184) the(1185) world(1186) for(1187) the(1188) rectitude(1189) of(1190) our(1191) intentions(1192) do(1193) in(1194) the(1195) name(1196) and(1197) by(1198) authority(1199) of(1200) the(1201) good(1202) people(1203) of(1204) these(1205) colonies(1206) solemnly(1207) publish(1208) and(1209) declare(1210) that(1211) these(1212) united(1213) colonies(1214) are(1215) and(1216) of(1217) right(1218) ought(1219) to(1220) be(1221) free(1222) and(1223) independent(1224) states(1225) that(1226) they(1227) are(1228) absolved(1229) from(1230) all(1231) allegiance(1232) to(1233) the(1234) British(1235) crown(1236) and(1237) that(1238) all(1239) political(1240) connection(1241) between(1242) them(1243) and(1244) the(1245) state(1246) of(1247) great(1248) Britain(1249) is(1250) and(1251) ought(1252) to(1253) be(1254) totally(1255) dissolved(1256) and(1257) that(1258) as(1259) free(1260) and(1261) independent(1262) states(1263) they(1264) have(1265) full(1266) power(1267) to(1268) levy(1269) war(1270) conclude(1271) peace(1272) contract(1273) alliances(1274) establish(1275) commerce(1276) and(1277) to(1278) do(1279) all(1280) other(1281) acts(1282) and(1283) things(1284) which(1285) independent(1286) states(1287) may(1288) of(1289) right(1290) do(1291) and(1292) for(1293) the(1294) support(1295) of(1296) this(1297) declaration(1298) with(1299) a(1300) firm(1301) reliance(1302) on(1303) the(1304) protection(1305) of(1306) divine(1307) providence(1308) we(1309) mutually(1310) pledge(1311) to(1312) each(1313) other(1314) our(1315) lives(1316) our(1317) fortunes(1318) and(1319) our(1320) sacred(1321) honor(1322) .

The letter, or paper, so often alluded to, and marked "2," which is fully explained by the foregoing document, is as follows:

115, 73, 24, 807, 37, 52, 49, 17, 31, 62, 647, 22, 7, 15, 140, 47, 29, 107, 79, 84, 56, 239, 10, 26, 811, 5, 196, 308, 85, 52, 160, 136, 59, 211, 36, 9, 46, 316, 554, 122, 106, 95, 53, 58, 2, 42, 7, 35, 122, 53, 31, 82, 77, 250, 196, 56, 96, 118, 71, 140, 287, 28, 353, 37, 1005, 65, 147, 807, 24, 3, 8, 12, 47, 43, 59, 807, 45, 316, 101, 41, 78, 154, 1005, 122, 138, 191, 16, 77, 49, 102, 57, 72, 34, 73, 85, 35, 371, 59, 196, 81, 92, 191, 106, 273, 60, 394, 620, 270, 220, 106, 388, 287, 63, 3, 6, 191, 122, 43, 234, 400, 106, 290, 314, 47, 48, 81, 96, 26, 115, 92, 158, 191, 110, 77, 85, 197, 46, 10, 113, 140, 353, 48, 120, 106, 2, 607, 61, 420, 811, 29, 125, 14, 20, 37, 105, 28, 248, 16, 159, 7, 35, 19, 301, 125, 110, 486, 287, 98, 117, 511, 62, 51, 220, 37, 113, 140, 807, 138, 540, 8, 44, 287, 388, 117, 18, 79, 344, 34, 20, 59, 511, 548, 107, 603, 220, 7, 66, 154, 41, 20, 50, 6, 575, 122, 154, 248, 110, 61, 52, 33, 30, 5, 38, 8, 14, 84, 57, 540, 217, 115, 71, 29, 84, 63, 43, 131, 29, 138, 47, 73, 239, 540, 52, 53, 79, 118, 51, 44, 63, 196, 12, 239, 112, 3, 49, 79, 353, 105, 56, 371, 557, 211, 505, 125, 360, 133, 143, 101, 15, 284, 540, 252, 14, 205, 140, 344, 26, 811, 138, 115, 48, 73, 34, 205, 316, 607, 63, 220, 7, 52, 150, 44, 52, 16, 40, 37, 158, 807, 37, 121, 12, 95, 10, 15, 35, 12, 131, 62, 115, 102, 807, 49, 53, 135, 138, 30, 31, 62, 67, 41, 85, 63, 10, 106, 807, 138, 8, 113, 20, 32, 33, 37, 353, 287, 140, 47, 85, 50, 37, 49, 47, 64, 6, 7, 71, 33, 4, 43, 47, 63, 1, 27, 600, 208, 230, 15, 191, 246, 85, 94, 511, 2, 270, 20, 39, 7, 33, 44, 22, 40, 7, 10, 3, 811, 106, 44, 486, 230, 353, 211, 200, 31, 10, 38, 140, 297, 61, 603, 320, 302, 666, 287, 2, 44, 33, 32, 511, 548, 10, 6, 250, 557, 246, 53, 37, 52, 83, 47, 320, 38, 33, 807, 7, 44, 30, 31, 250, 10, 15, 35, 106, 160, 113, 31, 102, 406, 230, 540, 320, 29, 66, 33, 101, 807, 138, 301, 316, 353, 320, 220, 37, 52, 28, 540, 320, 33, 8, 48, 107, 50, 811, 7, 2, 113, 73, 16, 125, 11, 110, 67, 102, 807, 33, 59, 81, 158, 38, 43, 581, 138, 19, 85, 400, 38, 43, 77, 14, 27, 8, 47, 138, 63, 140, 44, 35, 22, 177, 106, 250, 314, 217, 2, 10, 7, 1005, 4, 20, 25, 44, 48, 7, 26, 46, 110, 230, 807, 191, 34, 112, 147, 44, 110, 121, 125, 96, 41, 51, 50, 140, 56, 47, 152, 540, 63, 807, 28, 42, 250, 138, 582, 98, 643, 32, 107, 140, 112, 26, 85, 138, 540, 53, 20, 125, 371, 38, 36, 10, 52, 118, 136, 102, 420, 150, 112, 71, 14, 20, 7, 24, 18, 12, 807, 37, 67, 110, 62, 33, 21, 95, 220, 511, 102, 811, 30, 83, 84, 305, 620, 15, 2, 10, 8, 220, 106, 353, 105, 106, 60, 275, 72, 8, 50, 205, 185, 112, 125, 540, 65, 106, 807, 138, 96, 110, 16, 73, 33, 807, 150, 409, 400, 50, 154, 285, 96, 106, 316, 270, 205, 101, 811, 400, 8, 44, 37, 52, 40, 241, 34, 205, 38, 16, 46, 47, 85, 24, 44, 15, 64, 73, 138, 807, 85, 78, 110, 33, 420, 505, 53, 37, 38, 22, 31, 10, 110, 106, 101, 140, 15, 38, 3, 5, 44, 7, 98, 287, 135, 150, 96, 33, 84, 125, 807, 191, 96, 511, 118, 40, 370, 643, 466, 106, 41, 107, 603, 220, 275, 30, 150, 105, 49, 53, 287, 250, 208, 134, 7, 53, 12, 47, 85, 63, 138, 110, 21, 112, 140, 485, 486, 505, 14, 73, 84, 575, 1005, 150, 200, 16, 42, 5, 4, 25, 42, 8, 16, 811, 125, 160, 32, 205, 603, 807, 81, 96, 405, 41, 600, 136, 14, 20, 28, 26, 353, 302, 246, 8, 131, 160, 140, 84, 440, 42, 16, 811, 40, 67, 101, 102, 194, 138, 205, 51, 63, 241, 540, 122, 8, 10, 63, 140, 47, 48, 140, 288

By comparing the foregoing numbers with the corresponding numbers of the initial letters of the consecutive words in the Declaration of Independence, the translation will be found to be as follows:

I have deposited in the county of Bedford, about four miles from Buford's, in an excavation or vault, six feet below the surface of the ground, the following articles, belonging jointly to the parties whose names are given in number "3," herewith:

The first deposit consisted of one thousand and fourteen pounds of gold, and three thousand eight hundred and twelve pounds of silver, deposited November, 1819. The second was made December, 1821, and consisted of nineteen hundred and seven pounds of gold, and twelve

hundred and eighty-eight pounds of silver; also jewels, obtained in St. Louis in exchange for silver to save transportation, and valued at \$13,000.

The above is securely packed in iron pots, with iron covers. The vault is roughly lined with stone, and the vessels rest on solid stone, and are covered with others. Paper number "1" describes the exact locality of the vault so that no difficulty will be had in finding it.

The following is the paper which, according to Beale's statement, describes the exact locality of the vault, and is marked "1." It is to this that I have devoted most of my time, but, unfortunately, without success.

THE LOCALITY OF THE VAULT.

71, 194, 38, 1701, 89, 76, 11, 83, 1629, 48, 94, 63, 132, 16, 111, 95, 84, 341, 975, 14, 40, 64, 27, 81, 139, 213, 63, 90, 1120, 8, 15, 3, 126, 2018, 40, 74, 758, 485, 604, 230, 436, 664, 582, 150, 251, 284, 308, 231, 124, 211, 486, 225, 401, 370, 11, 101, 305, 139, 189, 17, 33, 88, 208, 193, 145, 1, 94, 73, 416, 918, 263, 28, 500, 538, 356, 117, 136, 219, 27, 176, 130, 10, 460, 25, 485, 18, 436, 65, 84, 200, 283, 118, 320, 138, 36, 416, 280, 15, 71, 224, 961, 44, 16, 401, 39, 88, 61, 304, 12, 21, 24, 283, 134, 92, 63, 246, 486, 682, 7, 219, 184, 360, 780, 18, 64, 463, 474, 131, 160, 79, 73, 440, 95, 18, 64, 581, 34, 69, 128, 367, 460, 17, 81, 12, 103, 820, 62, 116, 97, 103, 862, 70, 60, 1317, 471, 540, 208, 121, 890, 346, 36, 150, 59, 568, 614, 13, 120, 63, 219, 812, 2160, 1780, 99, 35, 18, 21, 136, 872, 15, 28, 170, 88, 4, 30, 44, 112, 18, 147, 436, 195, 320, 37, 122, 113, 6, 140, 8, 120, 305, 42, 58, 461, 44, 106, 301, 13, 408, 680, 93, 86, 116, 530, 82, 568, 9, 102, 38, 416, 89, 71, 216, 728, 965, 818, 2, 38, 121, 195, 14, 326, 148, 234, 18, 55, 131, 234, 361, 824, 5, 81, 623, 48, 961, 19, 26, 33, 10, 1101, 365, 92, 88, 181, 275, 346, 201, 206, 86, 36, 219, 324, 829, 840, 64, 326, 19, 48, 122, 85, 216, 284, 919, 861, 326, 985, 233, 64, 68, 232, 431, 960, 50, 29, 81, 216, 321, 603, 14, 612, 81, 360, 36, 51, 62, 194, 78, 60, 200, 314, 676, 112, 4, 28, 18, 61, 136, 247, 819, 921, 1060, 464, 895, 10, 6, 66, 119, 38, 41, 49, 602, 423, 962, 302, 294, 875, 78, 14, 23, 111, 109, 62, 31, 501, 823, 216, 280, 34, 24, 150, 1000, 162, 286, 19, 21, 17, 340, 19, 242, 31, 86, 234, 140, 607, 115, 33, 191, 67, 104, 86, 52, 88, 16, 80, 121, 67, 95, 122, 216, 548, 96, 11, 201, 77, 364, 218, 65, 667, 890, 236, 154, 211, 10, 98, 34, 119, 56, 216, 119, 71, 218, 1164, 1496, 1817, 51, 39, 210, 36, 3, 19, 540, 232, 22, 141, 617, 84, 290, 80, 46, 207, 411, 150, 29, 38, 46, 172, 85, 194, 39, 261, 543, 897, 624, 18, 212, 416, 127, 931, 19, 4, 63, 96, 12, 101, 418, 16, 140, 230, 460, 538, 19, 27, 88, 612, 1431, 90, 716, 275, 74, 83, 11, 426, 89, 72, 84, 1300, 1706, 814, 221, 132, 40, 102, 34, 868, 975, 1101, 84, 16, 79, 23, 16, 81, 122, 324, 403, 912, 227, 936, 447, 55, 86, 34, 43, 212, 107, 96, 314, 264, 1065, 323, 428, 601, 203, 124, 95, 216, 814, 2906, 654, 820, 2, 301, 112, 176, 213, 71, 87, 96, 202, 35, 10, 2, 41, 17, 84, 221, 736, 820, 214, 11, 60, 760

The following paper is marked "3" in the series, and as we are informed, contains the names of Beale's associates, who are joint owners of the fund deposited, together with the names of the nearest relatives of each party, with their several places of residence.

NAMES AND RESIDENCES.

317, 8, 92, 73, 112, 89, 67, 318, 28, 96, 107, 41, 631, 78, 146, 397, 118, 98, 114, 246, 348, 116, 74, 88, 12, 65, 32, 14, 81, 19, 76, 121, 216, 85, 33, 66, 15, 108, 68, 77, 43, 24, 122, 96, 117, 36,

211, 301, 15, 44, 11, 46, 89, 18, 136, 68, 317, 28, 90, 82, 304, 71, 43, 221, 198, 176, 310, 319, 81, 99, 264, 380, 56, 37, 319, 2, 44, 53, 28, 44, 75, 98, 102, 37, 85, 107, 117, 64, 88, 136, 48, 151, 99, 175, 89, 315, 326, 78, 96, 214, 218, 311, 43, 89, 51, 90, 75, 128, 96, 33, 28, 103, 84, 65, 26, 41, 246, 84, 270, 98, 116, 32, 59, 74, 66, 69, 240, 15, 8, 121, 20, 77, 89, 31, 11, 106, 81, 191, 224, 328, 18, 75, 52, 82, 117, 201, 39, 23, 217, 27, 21, 84, 35, 54, 109, 128, 49, 77, 88, 1, 81, 217, 64, 55, 83, 116, 251, 269, 311, 96, 54, 32, 120, 18, 132, 102, 219, 211, 84, 150, 219, 275, 312, 64, 10, 106, 87, 75, 47, 21, 29, 37, 81, 44, 18, 126, 115, 132, 160, 181, 203, 76, 81, 299, 314, 337, 351, 96, 11, 28, 97, 318, 238, 106, 24, 93, 3, 19, 17, 26, 60, 73, 88, 14, 126, 138, 234, 286, 297, 321, 365, 264, 19, 22, 84, 56, 107, 98, 123, 111, 214, 136, 7, 33, 45, 40, 13, 28, 46, 42, 107, 196, 227, 344, 198, 203, 247, 116, 19, 8, 212, 230, 31, 6, 328, 65, 48, 52, 59, 41, 122, 33, 117, 11, 18, 25, 71, 36, 45, 83, 76, 89, 92, 31, 65, 70, 83, 96, 27, 33, 44, 50, 61, 24, 112, 136, 149, 176, 180, 194, 143, 171, 205, 296, 87, 12, 44, 51, 89, 98, 34, 41, 208, 173, 66, 9, 35, 16, 95, 8, 113, 175, 90, 56, 203, 19, 177, 183, 206, 157, 200, 218, 260, 291, 305, 618, 951, 320, 18, 124, 78, 65, 19, 32, 124, 48, 53, 57, 84, 96, 207, 244, 66, 82, 119, 71, 11, 86, 77, 213, 54, 82, 316, 245, 303, 86, 97, 106, 212, 18, 37, 15, 81, 89, 16, 7, 81, 39, 96, 14, 43, 216, 118, 29, 55, 109, 136, 172, 213, 64, 8, 227, 304, 611, 221, 364, 819, 375, 128, 296, 1, 18, 53, 76, 10, 15, 23, 19, 71, 84, 120, 134, 66, 73, 89, 96, 230, 48, 77, 26, 101, 127, 936, 218, 439, 178, 171, 61, 226, 313, 215, 102, 18, 167, 262, 114, 218, 66, 59, 48, 27, 19, 13, 82, 48, 162, 119, 34, 127, 139, 34, 128, 129, 74, 63, 120, 11, 54, 61, 73, 92, 180, 66, 75, 101, 124, 265, 89, 96, 126, 274, 896, 917, 434, 461, 235, 890, 312, 413, 328, 381, 96, 105, 217, 66, 118, 22, 77, 64, 42, 12, 7, 55, 24, 83, 67, 97, 109, 121, 135, 181, 203, 219, 228, 256, 21, 34, 77, 319, 374, 382, 675, 684, 717, 864, 203, 4, 18, 92, 16, 63, 82, 22, 46, 55, 69, 74, 112, 134, 186, 175, 119, 213, 416, 312, 343, 264, 119, 186, 218, 343, 417, 845, 951, 124, 209, 49, 617, 856, 924, 936, 72, 19, 28, 11, 35, 42, 40, 66, 85, 94, 112, 65, 82, 115, 119, 236, 244, 186, 172, 112, 85, 6, 56, 38, 44, 85, 72, 32, 47, 63, 96, 124, 217, 314, 319, 221, 644, 817, 821, 934, 922, 416, 975, 10, 22, 18, 46, 137, 181, 101, 39, 86, 103, 116, 138, 164, 212, 218, 296, 815, 380, 412, 460, 495, 675, 820, 952

The papers given above were all that were contained in the box, except two or three of an unimportant character, and having no connection whatever with the subject in hand. They were carefully copied, and as carefully compared with the originals, and no error is believed to exist.

Complete in themselves, they are respectfully submitted to the public, with the hope that all that is dark in them may receive light, and that the treasure, amounting to more than three-quarters of a million, which has rested so long unproductive of good, in the hands of a proper person, may eventually accomplish its mission.

In conclusion it may not be inappropriate to say a few words regarding myself: In consequence of the time lost in the above investigation, I have been reduced from comparative affluence to absolute penury, entailing suffering upon those it was my duty to protect, and this, too, in spite of their remonstrances. My eyes were at last opened to their condition, and I resolved to sever at once, and forever, all connection with the affair, and retrieve, if possible, my errors. To do this, as the best means of placing temptation beyond my reach, I determined to make public the whole matter, and shift from my shoulders my responsibility to Mr. Morriss.

I anticipate for these papers a large circulation, and, to avoid the multitude of letters with which I should be assailed from all sections of the Union, propounding all sorts of questions, and requiring answers which, if attended to, would absorb my entire time, and only change the character of my work, I have decided upon withdrawing my name from the publication, after assuring all interested that I have given all that I know of the matter, and that I cannot add one word to the statements herein contained.

The gentleman whom I have selected as my agent, to publish and circulate these papers, was well-known to Mr. Morriss; it was at his house that Mrs. Morriss died, and he would have been one of the beneficiaries in the event of my success. Like every one else, he was ignorant of this episode in Mr. Morriss' career, until the manuscript was placed in his hands. Trusting that he will be benefited by the arrangement, which, I know, would have met the approval of Mr. Morriss, I have left the whole subject to his sole management and charge. It is needless to say that I shall await with much anxiety the development of the mystery.

Note : A reader has spotted what looks like to him a error in the coding of the Declaration of Independence, so we have provided his comments as a help to those looking at the coding:

I was browsing your document on the reprint of the Beale papers. You have a problem on your site, specifically on the reprint of the Beale papers in the Declaration of Independence section. It is the section where there are numbers in () after every word. The correct placement of the #'s should be as follows. After # 480, starting with # 490 (#490 should be renumbered as # 480 again and then proceed from there with the numbering, thus ending in 1312 NOT 1322. Beale when encoding his message from the Declaration of Independence, counted incorrectly (forgetting that he counted 480 twice!) thus the problem. If you don't believe me, see for yourself on your page how the letter "V" does NOT match up with the # 807 as you have listed in the first sentence "I haVe desposited....(you have # 807 as Into..not a V) If you correct the numeration as I have listed everything will match up. Remember, #490 needs to also be listed as # 480 again and then go numerically from there.