

JUDGE HARGIS.

The charges preferred and so emphatically reiterated by Colonel Green, of Maysville, that Judge Hargis, either himself or by the hands of his friends, had the records of the Rowan County court mutilated in order to make him appear eligible to the circuit judgeship for which he was a candidate, seems to be giving the judge elect of the First appellate district much trouble.

His silence on the subject has called forth comment from the lawyers of the State as well as the newspapers. The general feeling called for an explanation by Judge Hargis. He published a card yesterday, giving explicit denial to the charges. After simply denying the charges in general terms, Mr. Hargis produces testimony on the point of his eligibility to the office, but is singularly silent on the subject of mutilated records.

Good lawyers in this city express the opinion that the defense is insufficient, and that the only way out of it is for Mr. Hargis to invite the full examination before a court of record where his accuser may meet him. This he seems to avoid, and in doing so leaves the impression upon his fellow-citizens that they are to be judged by one whose ermine is at least tainted with suspicion even if guilt can not be established. This will destroy his efficiency as a judge, and the people will gladly accord him time from his public duties to clear the matter up rather than see him enter upon his duties under such a cloud.

It is needless to rest this case on the simple statement of Judge Hargis or on the certificates he publishes, as the same was furnished on the other side, and some tribunal must decide as to the value of the testimony where both contestants stand equal as to veracity before the public.