

DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JULY 30, 1879.

PEOPLE'S TICKET.

Commissioners to Locate University Lands,

L. S. HILLS,
JOHN ROWBERRY,
JNO. VAN COTT.Auditor of Public Accounts,
NEPHI W. CLAYTON.

Territorial Superintendent of District Schools,

JOHN TAYLOR.

Councilors to Legislative Assembly,

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
D. H. WELLS,
W. W. CLUFF,
JOHN T. CAINE.

Representative to the Legislative Assembly,

JOHN JAUQUES.

Selectman,

E. M. WEILER.

County Superintendent of District Schools,

THEO. B. LEWIS.

ANOTHER MARTYR FOR THE TRUTH.

ONE more name has been added to the list of the martyrs. The souls under the altar, waiting for the redemption of the body and the salvation of our God, are one step nearer to the time of retribution, when the Lord shall avenge their blood. Another noble spirit has gone behind the veil to join the ranks of those who died for the word of the Lord and the testimony of Jesus.

Yesterday afternoon, Elder John Morgan, who has charge of the Southern States Mission, but who is at present staying in this city, received the following telegram:

CATOOSA SPRINGS,
Georgia, July 21, 3.50 p.m.

John Morgan, Salt Lake:

Jos. Standing, shot and killed today, near Varnell's, by a mob of ten or twelve men. Will leave with body for home, at once. Notify his family.

RUDGER CLAWSON.

This shocking news was soon in circulation, although it arrived too late for publication in the *EVENING NEWS*, and sympathy for the friends of the deceased, and indignation against his murderers, were everywhere expressed. Elder Standing was 24 years of age, unmarried, and was the son of James Standing, a well-known stone cutter, formerly of this city, now residing at Hampton's Station, Bear River. From Elder Morgan we have obtained the following particulars, which will give some idea of the situation in Georgia, and the circumstances which have led to the assassination of a young but earnest and devoted servant of the Lord:

Varnell's Station is a village in Whitfield County, Georgia, and was first visited by Elders Morgan and Standing in October, 1878. They preached, baptized several persons into the Church, organized a branch and emigrated a family of seven persons, who are now in Colorado. The people treated these missionaries with the greatest kindness and respect, until the latter part of the month of December, when two Methodist preachers and two or three Baptist preachers who were residing at short distances from the place, came in and commenced circulating the false reports which usually form the staple arguments of their tribe against "Mormonism," and incited the people to drive out the Elders by violence. Persecution at once commenced, and in the early part of April of this year, Elder C. W. Hardy, of this city, who was then laboring in that vicinity, was surrounded by a mob led by a Baptist deacon, and forced to leave the place. In May, Elders C. H. Hulse

and Thos. Lloyd, of Cache Valley, passed through Varnell's on their way to North Carolina, when the same mob came upon them, entered the house of one of the Saints, flourishing pistols, swearing to kill the inmates if they ever harbored the Elders again, and drove the brethren out of the neighborhood.

Subsequent to this, one of the Elders laboring in the Southern Mission asked Elder Morgan to permit him to take up his abode in Varnell's and face the opposition there, but as the situation demanded calmness and conciliation rather than fiery zeal, the permission was not granted, but the district was left under the supervision of Elder Joseph Standing, who with Elder Rudger Clawson was laboring in Picken's County, about sixty miles from Varnell's. Brother Standing was of a mild and gentle though firm disposition, one who would suffer wrong rather than do wrong, and it was because of his kind and wise manner of conducting himself that Brother Morgan left this hostile district under his watchcare.

On the 8th of July, Brother Standing wrote to Elder Morgan from Ludville, Picken's County, that he would leave in a day or two with Brother Rudger Clawson to attend Conference at Rome, and would call by the way at Varnell's; which is about equidistant from Ludville and Rome. On the 15th inst. he wrote from Spring Place, Murray County, about halfway to Varnell's, stating that he and Brother Rudger would stay there a few days, then go Varnell's and spend a day or two with the Saints and accompany them to Conference at Rome.

Previous to this, in consequence of mobocracy at Varnell's, he had written the following letter to the Governor of Georgia:

"VAN ZANT STORE,
Fannin County, Ga.,
June 12th, 1879.

Dear Sir.—As an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called Mormons, I take this occasion to address a few lines to you as the highest officer of the State.

I have recently received several letters from members of our denomination residing at Varnell Station, Whitfield County, informing me that Elders of my profession have been obliged at times to flee for their lives, as armed men to the number of 40 and 50 have come out against them, and have also on various occasions entered their houses in search of said Elders.

I am fully aware, dear sir, that the popular prejudice is very much against the Mormons, and that there are minor officers who have apparently winked at the condition of affairs above referred to. But I also am aware that the laws of Georgia are strictly opposed to all lawlessness and extend to her citizens the right of worshipping God according to the dictates of conscience.

History, however, repeats itself, and the laws, where prejudice exists, are not always executed with impartiality.

A word or line from the Governor would undoubtedly have the desired effect. Ministers of the gospel could then travel without fear of being stoned or shot and the houses of the Saints would not be entered into in defiance of all good law and order.

Your kind attention to this matter will be duly appreciated by

Your humble and obedient servant,

JOSEPH STANDING,
Presiding Elder of the Georgia Conference.

"To his Excellency Governor Colquitt, Atlanta, Ga."

To this he received the following reply:

"ATLANTA, Ga.,
June 21st, 1879.

Mr. Jos. Standing:

Van Zant Store, Ga.

Dear Sir.—In reply to your letter of the 12th inst., the Governor directs me to say that your statement is entirely correct, that the laws of Georgia are strictly opposed to all lawlessness, and extend to her citizens the right of worshipping God according to the dictates of conscience.

Under the provisions of our State Constitution, the reformation of religious faith, or of opinion on any subject, cannot legitimately be the object of legislation, and no human authority can interfere with the right to worship God according to the requirements of con-

science. So long as the conduct of men shall conform to the law, they cannot be molested and, even for non-conformity thereto, they can be interfered with only as the law may direct. No individual or combination of individuals can assume to vindicate the law. Courts and juries are instituted for that purpose, and to them alone is committed the office of legally ascertaining the perpetration of crime, and of awarding punishment therefor.

The Governor regrets to hear the report you give from Whitfield County. He will instruct the State prosecuting attorney for that district to inquire into the matter, and if the report be true, to prosecute the offenders.

I am, sir,

Very respectfully yours,

J. W. WARREN,

Sec. Executive Department.

The reply of Governor Colquitt breathes the spirit of fairness and equal rights, and, judging from its tone, we are of the opinion that measures will be taken for a full and searching investigation into the cruel and fearful tragedy which now stains the escutcheon of the State of Georgia. We have to wait for further particulars concerning the assassination of our young brother, but it is probable, that in pursuance of the programme of his letter of the 15th inst., he arrived at Varnell's, and was there set upon by the mob, which, under Methodist and Baptist inspiration, had previously assaulted our Elders, and was shot and slain while quietly attending to the duties of his calling, as a pastor over the flock committed to his charge, as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A dispatch to be found in another column professes to give details of the murder, but we do not regard them as altogether reliable. His blood now calls for justice. If it shall be suffered to cry in vain, woe to the State wherein it was shed by lawless hands! The Judge of all the earth will render a full recompense, and vindicate his servant's cause. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

We view with horror the act of the bloodthirsty men who have thus sullied their souls with murder. But we look beyond them for the real responsibility of this terrible crime. In the eyes of Heaven the greater culprits are those who under the guise of religion instigated the attack, who circulated falsehoods to stir up the unthinking, who planted the seeds of prejudice and hatred which have brought forth this crop of violence. For them there is a fearful reckoning in a day to come. It had been better that a millstone had been hung around their necks and they had been cast into the depths of the sea, before they could become the servants of Satan, and instruments for the slaying of one of Christ's little ones.

In all the burnings and drivings, and plunder and pillage, and stripes and death through which the Saints have passed, from Missouri to the Rocky Mountains, sectarian bigotry, and Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian hatred have kindled the fires of passion in the hearts of the lawless, and urged the murderous to their deeds of blood. The same agencies are at work to-day, and the end is not yet. Far be it from us to retaliate or to render evil for evil. But we ought to know who are our enemies and understand the source of our tribulations and the persecutions we have to endure. Let the blood of Joseph Standing rest upon the real instigators of his death, and with the blood of the rest of the martyrs plead before the throne, until the judgment is set and the Holy Ones decree a just vengeance and give redemption unto Israel.

In all probability the body of our brother will reach here by Saturday night, and it is likely that the funeral will take place in this city.

UNPROFESSIONAL AND INDEFENSIBLE.

AMONG the causes celebres of the nineteenth century, we do not believe there will be found a parallel to the case now being heard before the Third District Court of this Territory. It is nothing less than an attempt on the part of certain attorneys to effect the imprisonment of the executors to the estate of the late President Brigham

Young, for carrying out the known and expressed wishes of the deceased. There never was an estate of a decedent handled with greater care, with more honest intent or more lawful and judicious distribution. The accounts of the estate have been produced, and an ample explanation afforded of every official act of the executors. Yet the attack is kept up and the court gravely sits listening to argument and testimony entirely out of place in reference to this case, and time and money are wasted in proceedings that would not be countenanced in any other part of the civilized world. The executors are leading "Mormons," whose incarceration would be a delight to certain limbs of the law in these parts, and the estate, magnified by greedy eyes, appears a tempting object for legal pickings. There is neither reason, justice nor common decency in the prosecution of this suit, and the present proceedings for alleged contempt are altogether unprofessional and without excuse.

WHO LAUGHS LAST?

SOME of the attorneys for the attack in the suit now before the Third District Court, made very merry over an item of an I. O. U. for \$500 in the accounts of the Executors, which the lawyers did not understand and the object of which the witness whom they questioned did not remember. They had their laugh, and acted as though they had at last struck something "queer" in the Executors' proceedings. But they didn't laugh much next court day, when the matter came to be explained. They didn't even crack a smile, but looked rather as though they had taken a drink of vinegar instead of water. It appeared in evidence that the plaintiff, Emeline A. Young—McIntosh—Crosby or whatever the name may be now, being in a sad fix in California with her wardrobe in pawn, and her agent here having made known the fact to her executors, they, not having estate funds at command, borrowed \$500, giving their I. O. U. for the amount, and sent it for her relief. Her gratitude is now displayed in a striking manner, and her attorneys in poking fun at the lack of memory on complicated accounts, turned up something that made them grin on the other side of their mouths. It was somebody else's turn to smile. "He laughs best who laughs last." Wait awhile and see who has most reason for merriment.

RUMORS AND QUERIES.

A RUMOR was in circulation yesterday, which caused some excitement and not a little indignation. It was to the effect that one of the receivers appointed by the Court had "taken possession of every particle of real estate mentioned in the complaint of Emeline A. Young vs. the executors and Trustee-in-Trust, including the Temple Block."

We do not know what circumstance had arisen to make a foundation for this report, and close inquiry has failed to disclose anything that will give color to it. We presume that in the start somebody was hoaxed and the canard found its way into print.

The bare probability of such an outrage as the transfer, however temporary, of the grounds in which stand the Holy Places of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to any person not authorized by the Church to take possession, is enough to arouse to fever heat the anger of the people whose money and muscle and toil and sweat have reared the structures now built or in process of erection, upon that spot held sacred by hundreds of thousands. That it never was the private property of any individual—prophet, apostle or president, is as well understood by resident non-Mormons here as by members of the Church. President Young never pretended to have any claim upon that Block other than as the people's Trustee.

The idea that the Temple which the Saints are rearing to the Most High God should be seized by any official, under pretext of any such claim as is set up in the shameful

suit now before the Third District Court, is enough to rouse the "Mormon" people to say things which calm wisdom would deprecate, and if it were a fact, to do things which prudence would forbid. But was no reason for any excitement at this point. The rumor is unfounded, and the anger it aroused, though natural, is needless.

But this report and the things it has engendered, lead us to make some inquiries regard to this whole subject. How is it that there should be any possibility for such wrong to be perpetrated? Is it a fact that courts can arbitrarily give possession of the property of a community, for any length or brief time, to an official of their own making? Have the people no claim to courts and their decisions? Is a Church, robbed and defrauded by legions, simply because it holds unpopular faith, and is there dress under this free government "the best the sun ever shone on?" And if so, can the pressed and outraged people do nought in defending their rights, in protecting their property and in vindicating their cause? We shall see about this.

We would further ask, is it for courts to take snags and spring traps on defendants when suits are planted? Was ever a cause in Court before in a plaintiff whose cause was notoriously unsavory and whose object was nothing but greed, granted a request based on groundless allegations against executors of established reputation already under heavy bonds for faithful performance of their duties? In which the surety required of such a plaintiff regarding property valued at over \$2,000,000 placed at the farcical sum of \$100,000 in which the case was preserved in secrecy, even press reporters being thrown off the scent, the complaint heard in a hurry, injunctions issued and receivers for the property appointed, all before an opportunity was given the party defendant to make a statement, any notice whatever was served upon them or any of them? In which, when such portions of the property, required to be turned over to a receiver, as could be obtained had been placed in his possession, the defendants were put under arrest as for contempt, after the receiver appointed, the receiver had actually absolved them of contempt.

In which any such proceedings as have been witnessed in this suit were permitted, while the executors were permanent residents, of honorable reputation, at any time to answer to a complaint, under good and sufficient and trustworthy bonds, and known to be engaged in strictly carrying out the wishes of the testator.

What is the reason that such course is pursued in this case? Does anyone think that the "Mormons," because they have patiently submitted to so many indignities will quietly stand by, with their hands in their pockets, and their Church property handed over to individuals who never had shadow of a rightful claim to it, and who have forfeited the respect of all whose regard is of any value? Would be the result in a Catholic community if such things were attempted? We do not wish to our people take any course but which is lawful and proper under the laws of God and of man. We hope no steps will be taken any one to force issues upon that will swell the tide of indignation that a mere aroused yesterday. And advise our readers to avoid carried away with excitement to be cautious about giving credence and repeating unproved reports. Keep as cool as is possible with thermometer moving up in the nineties, and remember that there is a God in Israel.

NAMES OF OUR ENEMIES

WE direct attention to a circular from Elder A. M. Musser, who, our readers are aware, has been appointed to collate authentic information in regard to the enemies of the Latter-day Saints and their overt acts against the lives, property and reputation of the people of God. We hope our friends throughout the Territory and elsewhere who can assist in this work will do so as soon as possible. The names