

Exciting and Terrifying Occurrences.

The past week, in this city and vicinity, has been somewhat fruitful in events and several interesting circumstances have transpired, and some bloody scenes have been performed and exhibited that will not soon be forgotten, by those who witnessed them, neither by the community in general, and they will unquestionably be long remembered by those more particularly affected by, and interested in the occurrences which have produced more excitement than had been seen for many months before in this quiet city.

In our last week's issue mention was made of the arrest of Wood Reynolds, Isaac Neibaur and Jason, John M. and Wilford Luce, accused of having committed an assault upon John W. Dawson, and that an investigation of the matter of which they were accused was expected to be commenced on the afternoon of Wednesday at the Court House. There was some delay, caused by the absence from the city of two or three important witnesses, but late in the afternoon on the 15th the investigation was commenced, and two or three witnesses were examined that evening.

At the same time the warrants were issued for the arrest of the above-named individuals, writs were placed in the hands of the sheriff for the arrest of Lot Huntington and Moroni Clawson, alleged confederates in the commission of the disgraceful act to which allusion has been made, but notwithstanding the diligence of Sheriff Burton and his deputies, several of whom were on the alert, they could not be found. Meantime the police were watching the movements of certain individuals upon whom suspicion rested, as having been concerned in stealing the eight hundred dollars in money from Mottin, at Townsend's stable, on the 12th instant, and some of them had become fully convinced that Lot Huntington and John P. Smith, if not principals in the act, as they believed, were accessories to that nefarious deed. Accordingly, on the affidavit of one of the policemen, who had been very active in his endeavors to find the money and the villainous takers thereof, a writ was issued by the Probate Judge of the county for the arrest of the said Lot Huntington and John P. Smith, which was placed in the hands of the Sheriff for service on the 14th, but Smith, as well as Huntington, was not to be found, although he was seen at the Court House after the arrest of the five individuals on that day, and but a short time before the warrant was issued.

It was subsequently ascertained that Huntington and Smith left the city on the evening of the 14th, soon after dark, riding each a mule, passing over the lower Jordan bridge, then taking the road southward by way of Taylorsville and Jordan Mills, and that at the latter place, they stole a fine mare belonging to John Bennion, who was at the mills that evening, and had left his animal, valued at two hundred dollars, hitched to a post at Bishop Gardner's door, where the fleeing thieves found and converted her to their use by taking her away. The theft was soon discovered, and the next morning, on finding the trail of the villains, four men, including Mr. Bennion's son, started in pursuit, following them by the well-known tracks of the mare to Draperville, and from thence to Fort Crittenden. At Draperville, Huntington and Smith were joined by Clawson, and at the Hot Spring Brewery, their pursuers were joined by O. P. Rockwell, one of Sheriff Burton's deputies, who assumed the leadership of the party, and under whose direction the pursuit was continued to Fort Crittenden, where Rockwell and his party arrived on Wednesday evening.

At Fort Crittenden, Rockwell and his posse were informed that the individuals they were in pursuit of had passed there that morning, and were probably at Faust's Station in Rush Valley, some twenty-two miles west of that place, on the California Mail route. Mr. Gooding, one of the principal agents of the Overland Mail Company, rendered efficient aid in the premises, and furnished Rockwell and his posse with whatever they needed for the accomplishment of their object—the arrest of the fugitives, and dispatched an extra coach to convey them to Faust's station, where they arrived before day-light on Thursday morning, and ascertained that Huntington, Smith and Clawson were there as anticipated. As soon as they were out—which was quite early, Rockwell proceeded to make the arrests; and, in so doing, Huntington, in

attempting to escape, was shot by one of the party, and killed, and thereupon the other two, who were before somewhat dilatory in concluding whether they would or would not be taken, suddenly resolved that they would surrender, and were, after being disarmed, placed on board the stage with Huntington's body, and brought back to Fort Crittenden, and from thence to this city, where Rockwell and his prisoners arrived at about five o'clock on Friday morning.

From Tuesday evening till Thursday in the forenoon, the officers in the city were endeavoring to ascertain which way the thieves had fled, without making any satisfactory discoveries; but as soon as it was reported that a horse had been stolen at Gardner's Mills, on Tuesday evening, Deputy Sheriff Cunningham telegraphed to Mr. Gooding at Fort Crittenden, inquiring if the refugees, who were well known there, had been seen passing that point; and, shortly after, Mr. Purple, the agent of the Overland Mail Company in this city, received the following in answer:

"FORT CRITTENDEN, 16th Jan.

"The parties passed here yesterday morning with a horse stolen from Jordan River. Was at Faust's when stage passed last evening. Porter Rockwell and four others left here at one o'clock this morning in pursuit. Expect to hear from them every minute. I run them out in an extra stage. If anything should happen to Porter and party, tell the sheriff to have his men in readiness and we will let them know and you will run them out in the stage fast. GOODING."

In less than an hour the following telegram came over the wires announcing the return of Rockwell and party with the prisoners to that place:

"FORT CRITTENDEN, 16th.

"Porter and party have just returned with Clawson and Smith. Huntington, in a temptation to escape was killed. The party will leave for the city in about half an hour."

The stay of Rockwell and his party at Fort Crittenden, on their return, was short, and as soon as they started, Mr. Gooding sent the following:

"Porter has just left with the three prisoners, two living and one dead. Has four men with him, besides our driver."

On the arrival of the stage at Townsend's Hotel, in this city, at about five o'clock on Friday morning, being very cold and much fatigued, Rockwell delivered the prisoners to three or four policemen, who were at hand, to take to the county prison, the jailer, in anticipation of their arrival, being on hand to receive them. The policemen, on taking the prisoners in charge, started with them instantly for the jail; but before they had proceeded far, the prisoners, supposing probably that the policemen were unarmed, started to run, and were shot at and both killed before getting far away.

The returns made on the writs that had been issued for the arrest of the three individuals, two of whom, Huntington and Clawson were known desperadoes, were in accordance with the facts as appeared from the testimony that was adduced on the investigation that was had in relation to the tragical occurrences.

The thanks of the community are most certainly due Mr. Rockwell and those who were with him and assisted in making the arrests, and also to the agents of the Overland Mail Company who rendered such efficient aid in the pursuit, capture and return of the felons, nor should the policemen on duty, who by their vigilance and celerity prevented the escape of the two on the way from the stage office to the county jail, soon be forgotten. We are no advocate of extreme measures when they can be avoided, but unless laws are honored and enforced life and property, in a country like this, are held by a very uncertain tenure.

On Friday afternoon, the examination of Neibaur, Reynolds and the Luces was resumed and closed, the result of which was that Isaac Neibaur and John M. Luce were each held to bail in the sum of five hundred dollars, and Jason Luce, Wilford Luce and Reynolds in the sum of one thousand dollars each, for their appearance at the next regular term of court to answer further in the premises; in default of which, Jason and Wilford Luce are yet in prison, and will remain there till some of their friends having the money to spare shall come forward and sign the required bail bonds.

In justice to Reynolds we deem it but right to state that he has heretofore sustained a good moral character and has not associated with the gang of desperadoes who were at Mountain Dell on the night of the 31st ult., but he is not the first man who "fell among thieves."

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE GOVERNMENT.

COUNTY COURT HOUSE, G. S. L. City, }
Jan. 20, 1862, }

The members elect of the Convention assembled in the County Court House, in Great Salt Lake City, at 10 a. m.

On motion of Mr. Geo. A. Smith, Daniel H. Wells was called to act as President pro tem.

On motion of Mr. Stout, Wm. Clayton was called to act as Secretary pro tem.

Mr. Hatch moved that a committee of three be appointed to examine credentials, and report. Seconded and carried.

The President pro tem appointed Messrs. Geo. A. Smith, Hosea Stout and Seth M. Blair said committee, who immediately proceeded to the discharge of their duties.

Mr. Smith, in behalf of the committee on credentials, reported their satisfaction with the credentials of the following members elect viz.:

From Great Salt Lake county—Daniel H. Wells, Abraham O. Smoot, Elias Smith, James Ferguson, Ruben Miller, Wilford Woodruff, Archibald Gardner, Albert Carrington, John Taylor.

From Davis county—Lot Smith, Thomas Grover, Wm. C. Smith, Christopher Layton, Samuel W. Richards.

From Weber county—Aaron F. Farr, Loren Farr, Chauncey W. West, Jonathan Browning, James McGaw, Crandall Dunn.

From Box Elder county—Lorenzo Snow, Jonathan C. Wright, Alfred Cordon.

From Cache county—Ezra T. Benson, Peter Maughan, William B. Preston, Wm. Hyde, Preston Thomas, William Maughan, Seth M. Blair.

From Summit county—Thomas Rhoads, Henry W. Brizzee, John Reese.

From Tooele county—Evan M. Greene, John Rowberry, Eli B. Kelsey.

From Shampip county—Lysander Gee.

From Cedar county—Zerubbabel Snow, William Price.

From Utah county—Leonard E. Harrington, James W. Cummings, Albert K. Tharber, Lorenzo H. Hatch, Benjamin F. Johnson, Aaron Johnson, Wm. M. Wall.

From Juab county—Timothy B. Foote, Israel Hoyt, Jonathan Midgley.

From Sanpete county—Frederick W. Cox, Matthew Caldwell, William S. Seeley, Bernard Snow, Madi-on D. Hambleton.

From Millard county—Thomas Callister, Thomas R. King.

From Beaver county—William J. Cox, E. W. Thompson, James H. Rollins.

From Iron county—Hosea Stout, Silas S. Smith, Horace S. Eldredge.

From Washington county—John M. Moody, William Crosby, George A. Smith.

On motion of Mr. Cummings, the report of the committee on credentials was accepted.

The delegates present were then sworn by his Honor, Elias Smith, Judge of Probate, to support the Constitution of the United States and perform their duties as members of this Convention, according to the best of their knowledge and ability.

His Honor, Judge Snow, then administered the necessary oath to Elias Smith, delegate from Great Salt Lake County.

On motion of Mr. Geo. A. Smith, the Convention proceeded to a permanent organization, which resulted in the election of the following officers:

DANIEL H. WELLS, President.
WILLIAM CLAYTON, Secretary.
PATRICK LYNCH, } Assistant Secretaries.
ROBT. L. CAMPBELL, }
ROBT. T. BURTON, Sergeant-at-Arms.
ANDREW CUNNINGHAM, Foreman.
JOHN W. WOOLLEY, Doorkeeper.
JAMES F. ALLRED, Assistant Doorkeeper.
DAVID P. KIMBALL, Messenger.
HENRY HEATH, Assistant Messenger,
to whom, individually, Judge Smith administered the oath of office.

By request of the President, Mr. George A. Smith engaged in prayer.

On motion of Mr. Smoot, Joseph Young was elected Chaplain.

Mr. Blair moved, that a committee of five be appointed by the President to report to this Convention a Constitution and form of State Government. Seconded and carried.

The President appointed Messrs. Geo. A. Smith, Albert Carrington, Elias Smith, Zerubbabel Snow and John Taylor said committee.

Levi Savage, delegate from Millard county, presented his credentials, and took the necessary oath.

Mr. Carrington moved, that a committee of five be appointed to draft a memorial to accompany the presentation of the Constitution.

The President appointed James Ferguson, Wilford Woodruff, Samuel W. Richards, Lorenzo Snow and Leonard E. Harrington said committee.

By unanimous vote, the freedom of the Convention was extended to Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, Governor Frank Fuller, Hon. Wm. H. Hooper, Chief-Justice Kinney, ex-members of the Legislature not in the Convention, Surveyor General S. R. Fox, ex-Governor Doty, Edward Hunter, Esq., and the Marshals of the Territory and Great Salt Lake City.

On motion of Mr. Ferguson, John V. Long was elected Reporter, to whom was administered, by the President, the necessary oath.

The Chaplain was also qualified by the President.

Mr. Blair moved, that a committee on ordinance be appointed. Seconded and carried.

The President appointed Abraham O. Smoot, Evan M. Greene, James W. Cummings, Albert K. Tharber and Lorin Farr said committee.

Mr. Elias Smith moved, that a committee on elections be appointed. Seconded and carried.

The President appointed Messrs. Orson Hyde, Ezra T. Benson, John M. Moody, Bernard Snow and Wm. B. Preston said committee.

The minutes were called for, read and accepted.

On motion, the Convention adjourned till Wednesday at 1 p. m.

Benediction by the Chaplain.

The Mails, Roads and Telegraph.

From the east there has been quite an interruption of mails up to Sunday evening, when a very heavy mail was brought into the city. The messengers accompanying the mails give very graphic accounts of the general break up of the roads through the mountain passes. The roads are so washed that all traces of former travel are obliterated and the passage of the mails is exceedingly difficult, particularly during the night. The stage that came in on Saturday night is reported to have made about a score of somersets between this and Bridger.

There has been no mail from the west for several days and none likely to be received here before next week. Up to yesterday no mail had been able to go further west than Sand Springs, about ninety miles to the east of Carson. One stage from the west had taken the route by the northern side of Carson Sink and had arrived at Middle Gate. From that we presume that the road will be again open.

Telegraphic communication extends westward to Fort Churchill; but between that and Drayton, or what was formerly Chinatown, the poles had been washed away, and reconstruction at the present time is an impossibility. In consequence the superintendent, Mr. Vandenberg, had established a temporary express between those two points for the connecting of the telegraph lines.

The last reports from California are still worse than those before published. Every valley in the State is reported to have suffered more or less from the flood. The water in Sacramento covered the city and was from one foot to eleven feet deep. The people were living in the second and third stories of the houses, and many of them being unable to provide themselves with cooked provisions, or to get succor from their more fortunate neighbors, the people of San Francisco had sent them two boat loads of provisions. The legislature is reported to have adjourned their sitting from that city to San Francisco in consequence of the terrible condition of the city.

THE LATE SNOW STORM.—The snow storm on the evening of Wednesday, the 15th, extended over all the northern counties, and as far south as Salt creek, in Juab county, and how much farther, if any, has not been reported. In Box Elder county the snow fell to the depth of about eighteen inches, and to nearly the same depth in some places in Utah county, but it soon disappeared after it commenced thawing on Friday night, and to say that the roads are now muddy would not convey much of an idea of their condition.

THE WEATHER.—On Wednesday last there was a fall of snow, which continued during the night, and, on Thursday morning, it was about six inches deep in and about the city, making very good sleighing where the streets and roads were not too rough. On Friday evening the weather suddenly turned warmer, and rain soon commenced falling, and continued to pour down copiously at intervals, and almost constantly, till Tuesday morning, when it cleared off, and the weather, during the day, was as warm as spring. This is certainly a very remarkable winter.

HAS GONE.—We are pleased to announce that his Honor Judge Grosby was permitted to leave the city on Sunday morning; some of our merchants, tired of dunning, having "caved in."

LATEST.—We understand that certain gentlemen in this city are preparing to put over their places of business, "No sewing wanted here"—excellent idea. Glad to see a reformation!