

TESTIMONIES BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES.

On the 28th ult., Franklin H. Head, and Alexander Majors, Esqrs., were called before the House Committee on Territories to give their testimony respecting affairs in Utah and the probable effect that any measures taken by Congress would have on the people of this Territory.

Mr. Head stated that he was appointed Superintendent of Indian affairs in Utah five years ago, and since that appointment he had spent the most of his time in this Territory. During the time he had been here he had traveled about the country a good deal, and was probably as widely acquainted as any "Gentile" who was ever in the Territory.

Heshowed up the errors which the testimony of some of the witnesses contained relative to the Probate Courts, giving the information that the Probate Court is entirely a distinct thing from what is ordinarily known as the Bishop's court. Some of the previous witnesses had conveyed the idea to the Committee that there was no distinction—that the Probate Judges were Bishops, and as such acted in the former capacity. He testified that they were not generally Bishops; that out of twenty Probate Judges in the Territory only three were Bishops. He also gave a more correct idea to the Committee of the objects to be accomplished by Co-operation, as stated in a discourse by President Young, than any other person's testimony that we have seen in print; also, in regard to the nature of marriage and divorce as practiced in Utah; also relative to the grants of land to the so-called Church dignitaries, explaining as the reason for grants being given, that timber is very scarce in this country and difficult to get at; that it often costs from ten to fifty thousand dollars to make a road up a cañon to reach the timber, and that it is a usage in this country that any person or association of persons constructing such a road shall have a right to control it, and to collect toll to partially reimburse them for their expenses in making the road. He was also interrogated respecting tithing and the uses to which it was put; the character of the schools, the class of school books; the relative proportion of the sexes; what there was in the "Mormon" doctrine to attract women to emigrate here; the probable number of the "Mormons" in the adjacent States and Territories; whether it is safe for a man to preach against "Mormonism" and polygamy here; whether he would admit Utah as a State, without first securing the destruction of polygamy, or would he endeavor to destroy that institution first; whether he thought any action on the part of the Government which should result in putting a stop to polygamy could rightfully be regarded as oppressive, &c., &c.; all of which he answered frankly, and, so far as he knew, we believe truthfully.

It must have been clear to the committee, as it is to any one reading the Report, that Mr. Head is no "Mormon," and is by no means enamored with plural marriage. But he speaks honestly what he knows, and that can never hurt Utah or damage her people. He has a right to entertain his own views about our doctrine; but Mr. Head, so far, has been too fair a man to allow those views to prejudice him to such an extent that he cannot tell the truth about the citizens of Utah and their conduct.

Mr. Majors said that he was raised in Jackson county, Missouri, and that perhaps he knew as much in reference to the condition and feeling of the "Mormons" as any out-sider in America. The questions addressed to him varied but little from those to which Mr. Head replied. They were more full on the subject of polygamy. In reply to the question: "how long does it take a woman to change her entire nature in that respect?" that is, to become a strong polygamist, Mr. Majors replied that he never made the calculation. But he referred them to the Sisters of Charity and what they did for the sake of their religion—gave up their homes, society and what are considered the pleasures of life, and confined themselves to gloomy retreats, except when they emerge to contribute to the needy or to wait upon the sick; the women of Utah, he said, as a general rule are just as smart and intelligent as these; their religious impulses are just as high, and their convictions just as sincere. They do not embrace polygamy because they choose it; but because it is their duty and will result in a higher felicity to them in the world to come. In reply

to the question: "If the inhabitants [of Utah] should claim admission as a State, what would you do?" His reply was: "I would admit them." "With polygamy?" was the next question. His reply was: "Yes, sir; with polygamy. I would let a hundred thousand polygamists come in contact with forty millions of people claiming at least to possess a higher civilization. They are paying their taxes; they are behaving themselves in all respects, except as regards polygamy, as well as any other community within our boundary."

Both Mr. Head and Mr. Majors told the committee their feelings in regard to the insecurity of the property and lives of the "Gentiles" in Utah. Mr. Head said that during all the time he had lived there, he had felt as perfectly safe as in any part of the country—safer than in any of the mining Territories adjoining it. Mr. Majors said that some persons got terrified and thought their lives were in danger, but he felt as safe in Salt Lake City as in any place in the world.

The best refutation of this slander is found in the fact that the infamous scoundrels who have lately been to Washington giving their testimony against the people of this Territory and maligning their characters by telling bare-faced, palpable lies, come back here and walk our streets unmolested and unnoticed, every decent man viewing them as so immeasurably low that contempt cannot reach them. They can not even get a bull pup to bite them, out of which to coin another story of attempted assassination; they are too vile for the dogs to notice.

Unless the Committee of Territories is determined, right or wrong, to push forward measures against the people of Utah, the testimony of such men as Mr. Head and Mr. Majors will outweigh the misrepresentations and falsehoods of a renegade pettifogger, who either testified under an assumed name at Washington, if we may credit the papers, or passes under an assumed name here, and a newly-fledged official, whose chief sources of information were his silly gossiping washerwomen and her associates.

Correspondence.

MEADOW, MILLARD CO., U. T.,
March 12, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Sir—A few words from our place, with regard to our progress, being due you, I improve a moment in scribbling them. Thursday, 10th inst., we received a visit from Thos. Callister, President of this State of Zion, and Bishop Edward Partridge, of Fillmore. The Saints assembled at 10 o'clock a. m., and were addressed by them on Co-operation and the necessity of our entering upon some system to prevent so much loss of stock and labor, by uniting our labors together, &c.

In the afternoon a Female Relief Society was organized in this place, the following ladies being chosen as officers. Mrs. Martha S. Bennett, Presidentess; Hannah Fisher, first; and Elizabeth Smith second, Councilors; Mrs. Sarah Stott, Secretary, and Alice Stott, Treasurer. The Presidentess and Councilors were set apart and the assembly received some instructions as to the good society of this kind might do by being united and ministering to the needy and destitute, &c.

In the evening Bishop Partridge went to Kanosh City, and President Callister met with the people here, and the subject of a co-operative dairy was taken into consideration, and, after receiving some instructions upon the benefits arising therefrom, a motion was made that we go into the business and establish a co-operative dairy forthwith, which was carried unanimously. A good spirit prevailed and all felt well.

March came in rough and has continued rough. Not much ploughing has been done yet, except some last fall. General time of health at present, though many young and old have been afflicted with the mumps during the winter. The people are fencing in a new field which will nearly double our farming operations in this place.

Very respectfully,

JOHN L. SMITH.

SPRING CITY, March 14, '70.

Editor Evening News:—The eighth article of the amendments of the Constitution of the United States reads as follows: "Excessive bail shall not be required, excessive fines imposed, nor cruel nor unusual punishments inflicted." How do the fines, cruelty and

unusual punishments provided for in Mr. Cullom's bill correspond with this article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States? Is it usual for all the fines and cruel punishments named in that odious bill to be inflicted upon every man that is guilty of seduction, concubinage, whoredom or adultery? and surely our polygamy cannot be regarded in the eye of any just law as any greater crime than the above! Some, however, may say that the former is more secretly practiced than the latter, and, consequently, is less objectionable; but this is a sad mistake. Is it not read and known of all men that licentiousness, in every shape and form, is as common and widespread in the States as pig weeds in a garden? and how can it be a secret when the public journals, from one end of the land to the other, are thundering their anathemas against that vile and demoralizing practice? If Mr. Cullom does not make his fines and punishments applicable in all cases of licentious practices, are they not cruel and unusual when applied only to the "Mormons?"

The truth is, we violate no just law on earth or in heaven by the practice of polygamy; while the outside world violate every just law, by their practices, that exists on earth or in heaven; and hence I am forced to pronounce Mr. Cullom's penal provisions not only cruel, but unusual and consequently unconstitutional, and, therefore, null and void.

Your co-laborer in the gospel,

ORSON HYDE.

SALT LAKE CITY,

March 17th, 1870.

Bro. Cannon:—On Thursday last I left this city, in company with Bishop W. W. Cluff, on a tour through Summit County. On Saturday a meeting was held at Wanship for the organization of "The Upper Weber Co-operative Lumber Co.," with a capital stock of \$10,000, in shares of \$5 each.

On Sunday morning the meeting-house was well filled, notwithstanding the very severe wind and snow storm which had been raging for over twenty-four hours. The meeting was addressed by Elder E. Eldredge and myself, and while the elements were in wild commotion without, we passed off a couple of pleasant, and I trust profitable, hours within. At the close of the meeting, Elders Cluff, Eldredge and myself, facing the storm in an open wagon, proceeded to Hoytsville, where the people were assembled awaiting our arrival.

After Sacramento, Bishop Cluff and myself occupied about forty minutes each, enjoying a liberal flow of the good spirit, my text being the 6th Lecture on Faith, Book of Doctrine and Covenants.

Immediately after meeting, we proceeded to Coalville, where, in the evening, I addressed a large audience for an hour and twenty minutes, dwelling on several subjects connected with the duties of the Saints, but more particularly on the gifts of the spirit and the blessings derived by us from the gospel, and was followed by a brief testimony from Elder Alma L. Smith.

On Monday, in company with Elders J. Allan and E. Eldredge, I visited Henneferville, held meeting in the evening and had an excellent time.

This little branch has undergone a process of cleansing since I last visited it, one year ago. Then I preached a fervent discourse on the Word of Wisdom and honesty; but my words seemed to rebound like echoes from the crumbling sand-stones which rear their heads in the surrounding hills, and before the congregation had dispersed, several of my attentive (?) hearers drew forth their trusty old clay-pipes, charged them with tobacco, lighted them, and behind their curling smoke steamed out of the meeting-house with an air of nonchalance that would have done credit to a nobler deed. Now, strict attention was paid and every word seemed to be absorbed by the listeners, and after meeting those friendly greetings, the hearty "welcome" and the kindly "good-bye," so dear to friends and brethren, were freely interchanged.

Next day Brothers Cluff, Eldredge, Alfred and myself visited Croyden and held meeting, several coming from Henneferville and from some distance around. The house was filled, and we had an excellent meeting. This is a very healthy place, only three deaths having occurred in about eight years.

After this meeting, in company with Brothers Hopkins, Edwards and Bishop Richins, I started down the cañon for Morgan City, in a sleigh, to fill an appointment at seven o'clock in the evening. The snow had drifted badly in

places and the road was unbroken. We had one break-down (running against a stump) and two upsets in the snow, on the way down, occasioning many sallies of good humor and considerable mirth. We reached Morgan an hour after our appointment, and found a large congregation assembled, who were being addressed by Bishop W. G. Smith. I followed at some length and enjoyed excellent freedom. A good spirit and feeling prevailed. I felt to bear an earnest and fervent testimony of the wisdom and power of God manifested in the deliverance of the Saints from bondage and oppression, and the spirit of God bore record in our hearts.

The brethren and Saints treated me very kindly throughout. I cannot particularize, but I pray for God's blessing to rest abundantly upon them, that they may continue to hold fast to the "iron rod," and that the testimony of Jesus and the faith of the holy gospel may continue to abide in them, increasing forever.

Your brother, etc.,

JOSEPH F. SMITH.

Died:

At Paradise, this morning, March 19th, aged 23, Elizabeth White, wife of Bishop David James, of childbirth fever.

Mill. Star please copy.

At Panacea, Meadow Valley, of heart disease Ann, wife of Owen Williams, aged 69 years, 6 months and 26 days, late of Abergele, Denbighshire, North Wales.

Mill. Star, and Concord, N. H., papers please, copy.

At Fairview, Sanpete county, on the 12th instant, of childbed fever, Jane, wife of Francis Wilson and daughter of John C. and Margaret Edwards. She was born in Cambath, South Wales, and was 22 years, 5 months and 12 days old.

In this city, at 20 minutes past 5 o'clock last evening, of inflammation and teething, Sven J., son of S. J. and Maria D. J. Jonasson. The funeral took place this afternoon at three o'clock.

Thy mother looks down in thy earthly bed
And fondly wishes to join thee!
But thy voice then whispers "I am not dead
Mother! the earth does not hold me."

[Com.]

At Town-lane, Astley, Lancashire, Feb. 4th, Ann Ashton, wife of George Haughton, aged 43 years and 8 months.

At Stratford, Essex, Dec. 17th, 1869, Frederick, son of Edward and Emma Howe, aged 5 years, 11 months and 25 days.

Mill. Star, Feb. 22.

At Bountiful, Davis county, Feb. 22, 1870, of dropsy, John Drakeford, in the 72nd year of his age.

He was born at Hill, near Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, England. He came to this valley in the fall of 1860, and was baptized into the Church in the fall of 1861.

Mill. Star please copy.

In Salt Lake City, March 13th, of ulcers on the liver, Leonard Thurston, son of S. D. and Elizabeth M. Huffaker, aged 13 years, 9 months and 8 days.

On the evening of Tuesday last, at the residence of Mr. Joseph Lawson, Ogden city, Mrs. Mary Bloom, late of Shipdam, Norfolk, England, aged 64 years. She died in full faith of the gospel.—Ogden Junction.

THAT CAMEL!!

SOME TIME in the month of February, a medium sized CAMEL, with saddle marks on hump, and bluish over left eye, strayed from the Grantsville range. He was last seen at H. P. Kimball's Ranch in Skull Valley. It is possible that he has come over into the eastern valleys.

Any one finding and delivering him at the MUSEUM and MENAGERIE, Salt Lake City, will be liberally rewarded. d98 w7-tr

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White Heart Cherries,
Red Cherries.

Of all the best sweet kinds, very large and fine varieties, 5 to 7 ft. high. For Sale Cheap.

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1 year old, 75c per doz.
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T. W. ELERBECK,
Near Union Square, S. L. City. w7-t m 7

NOTICE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: that Cash City entry, No. 297, for the town site of Pleasant Grove, made June 26 1869, south-east quarter of section 20, the south-west quarter of section 21, the north-west quarter of section 23 and the north-east quarter of section 29 in township No. 5, south of range 2 east, containing 640 acres.

This is to notify all claimants that on the 23rd day of April, 1870, at 10 o'clock a. m., I will appear at the U. S. Land Office, Salt Lake City, U. T., to make further proof and show that I am entitled to have the entry of said land confirmed under the Town Site Act of March 2d, 1867, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants thereof, at which time and place any person may appear and contest.

JOHN BROWN,
Mayor.