

to be his faithful companion, follower and slave.

"The banishment occurred early in the spring of 1862, when the Lake was very low. We had no difficulty in driving out to Antelope Island through its briny waters which at that time were scarcely more than knee deep. But with the melting of the immense quantity of snow which had fallen in the mountains during the winter previous, and the unprecedented heavy spring rains, the Lake soon rose eight or nine feet and since that time it has been impossible to go to the islands by team.

#### THE EXILE'S ESCAPE.

"Arrangements had previously been made with boatmen to meet us at Antelope Island and take charge of Baptiste and row him to an island about five miles north of Antelope which at the time was known as Miller's Island. At this time a couple of Davis county stockmen, brothers, had cattle upon the island. The object in having Baptiste conveyed there was because it was situated in deeper water than Antelope, and wading to the main land would be an impossibility. On the island were a shanty and provisions, owned by the cattlemen referred to who were in the habit of visiting the place frequently to look after their stock. Calling there once about three weeks after the banishment occurred, they discovered that Baptiste had assisted himself very liberally to their stock of provisions and was getting along very well in his loneliness. Another trip to the island still three weeks later disclosed the fact that the exile had been getting in good work in his own behalf during their absence. The roof and parts of the sides of the cabin had been torn off. A part of the carcass of a three-year-old heifer was lying on the ground a short distance away, and portions of the hide were near by, cut into thongs. It was evident that with the tools found in the cabin Baptiste had killed the heifer, built a raft from the logs and timber of the shanty and with this had made his escape from the island.

"Individually I know nothing about him after this. My impression is that he set off for the northern or western shore of the Lake. I have not the slightest idea as to whether he reached the main land, though I am certain the skeleton recently found was not his. The fact that a ball and chain were attached to it proves that beyond the shadow of doubt. My theory is that the skeleton referred to is that of one of the penitentiary prisoners who escaped in iron some years after Baptiste's banishment.

#### BRANDED FOR ROBBING THE DEAD.

"There has been a good deal of talk about the branding of Baptiste," said the reporter; "can you give any definite information on that point?"

"Yes, sir; I can. Before he was turned over to the boatmen he was branded on the forehead—not seared with hot irons, as many have believed—but tattooed with indelible ink. Across his forehead were placed the words: 'Branded for Robbing the Dead.' But whatever the indignities, there had been provocation enough; and before we left him he fell at our feet and wished to kiss them, thanking us many times for allowing him to live."

In addition to the foregoing it may be of interest to know that there are only two tenable theories as to Baptiste's fate: either that he perished in the Lake in attempting to reach the mainland, or that he really succeeded in that attempt. That he died on the island is wholly disbelieved, because during the years that have elapsed since, every foot of it has been traversed at least a score, perhaps a hundred times, by sheepmen and cattlemen, and no trace of his remains has ever been found. The general belief is that he made his escape to the mainland on the north, somewhere near the Promontory; and it was reported some time afterward, on what would seem to be unquestioned authority, that he was seen in a Montana mining camp and on being closely questioned by one who recognized him, confessed to being Jean Baptiste and related how he made his escape. Another rumor is that he joined himself to a westbound emigrant train, went to the coast where he lived for some time before he came to Utah, then left San Francisco, where he feared he would be recognized and made his way into southern California, where it is understood he died. No one, however, of whom the News has been able to hear, knows anything positively about him since he was left on the island in the lake; though everyone scouts and ridicules the "gruesome tale" which reports the discovery of his skeleton with a ball and chain on the leg, and which, in justice to the truth and to the citizens of Salt Lake City in the early sixties, makes necessary this recapitulation of a series of ghastly incidents.

#### DEATH OF A PIONEER'S WIFE.

Shortly after 5 o'clock, May 24th, Sister Mary E. Frost died at her home in the Eighth ward, in her seventy-eighth year. She was the widow of the late Burr Frost, one of the Utah Pioneers who entered Salt Lake valley on July 24, 1847. Mrs. Frost was not a member of the first company but arrived in Utah in September, 1847. The hardships of an early settler's experience fell to her lot, in common with her associates, but she lived to see the valley that was regarded as a desert when she first made it her home become one of the most beautiful places of habitation on the continent. The deceased was highly respected. The funeral will be held on Sunday morning.

#### BOWMAN'S LITTLE DILEMMA.

At yesterday afternoon's session, May 26, of the joint city and county building committee the chief item of discussion was the Bowman muddle. It was stated that in consequence of the contractor being unable to furnish material it would be necessary, in order that work on the building should continue, for the city and county to guarantee the payment of bills for necessary stone, iron girders, etc. There was a protracted conversation in regard to whether or not the assignment recently made, and the additional accommodation asked, would affect the existing contract and nullify the bond.

Eventually it was resolved that the

architects certify in an informal way that Mr. Bowman was unable to carry out the terms of the contract, and Architect Proudfoot submitted the following, which was filed:

To the Joint City and County Building Committee:

Gentlemen:—We hereby certify that Mr. Bowman has failed and neglected to provide sufficient iron and stone for the proper prosecution of the work on the joint city and county building, and recommend that the joint committee purchase the iron and stone needed, and employ the labor necessary to complete the iron and stone work.

Respectfully,  
MONHEIM, BIRD & PROUDFOOT.

Selectman Morris moved that the contractor be directed to submit the names of all sub-contractors and for what sums their contracts called, and that hereafter he be prohibited from letting sub-contracts until the same have been submitted to and acted upon by the committee.

The Mayor and Messrs. Loofbourow and Bell disapproved of the last clause and said that as the contract now stood it was in no way affected. They did not care, at this late period, to take any chances.

Selectman Bamberger offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the contractor be directed to submit to the committee a correct statement of all contracts let, and to whom, and what price; also, to furnish to the committee a full statement of all debts due by him and to whom for work done upon and material used in the construction of said building.

The Mayor's contingent fund was next discussed and it was found that the county owes the city, under the new arrangement, \$907.12, and on the old, \$2357.68, and that there was now in the contingent fund \$1600, out of which today's payroll will come. His honor remarked that the city was really indebted to the county in the sum of \$8000 for sewer construction, and urged that steps be taken so that it could be legally paid. He was willing to place his contingent fund at the disposal of the committee once more.

Then the Mayor was authorized to pay today's payroll out of the contingent fund; and it was also decided to pay the iron and stone bills, which Contractor Bowman acknowledged his inability to do.

The committee will meet again on Friday next.

The *Millennial Star* of May 15th announces the release of Elder Chas. W. Watts, of Millard county, from his labors as president of the Norwich conference of the British mission, to return home. Elder Watts has been absent from home nearly two years. Elder J. Campbell is appointed to succeed him as president of the Norwich conference.

THE *Park Record* is the latest accession to the ranks of those who uphold political division on national lines in this Territory, which shows that the movement steadily gains ground. While the *Record* does not announce to which of the parties it gives its allegiance, the tenor of its article in which the above conclusion is given forth is that it favors the Republican cause.