

## GLEANINGS FROM EXCHANGES.

THE DESERET ALPHABET meets with a cold reception from some of the eastern journals. The N. Y. *Journal of Commerce* says:

"We have a copy of the Deseret News containing the Mormon Alphabet, which is a part of the scheme originally devised by the Saints to render their community quite exclusive, and to debar all Gentiles and outside barbarians from a too critical surveillance of the workings of the internal machinery of the State."

If Messrs. Hale, Hallock & Hale, the editors and proprietors of the *Journal of Commerce*, had taken a "sober second thought," it is quite probable they would not have so far misconstrued the true intent of this "Mormon Alphabet." If it was introduced to "debar all Gentiles and outside barbarians from a too critical surveillance of the workings of the internal machinery of the State," does it not seem that, to provide a "Key" to this Alphabet, would utterly and most effectually defeat such a design? The "key" has invariably accompanied the passages or extracts printed in the new alphabet. Perhaps, however, this has not been closely observed; as we should infer from their rendering of Matthew, sixth chapter, as printed in the Deseret News a few weeks since, which is as follows: "Mattheo, sekseth cheahptaur," to pronounce which would require more "tongue" than we are gifted with; and the inference is that the writer of the article either designedly misrepresented the characters or was grossly deficient himself of plain, common sense. In either case, he might profitably adopt the advice gratis he has graciously condescended to bestow to the "Mormon" people—which, when transferred, would read that he "might better devote his time to mastering the English language," than to criticising, in such a blundering manner, a system of which he knows little or nothing.

—"Was WILLIAM TELL a Myth?"—is a question that has been very satisfactorily answered by the *Journal of Commerce*, in answer to such logic as the following, in the *New York Observer*:

"Saxo Grammaticus, a chronicler of the 12th century, narrates that Tocco, an archer of the 10th century, performed the same feat which is recorded of William Tell in the 14th century; ergo, William Tell is a myth."

This is truly strange reasoning to prove that the existence of William Tell the "mountain hero whose very name, even at this day, stirs the Switzer's heart with the deepest emotions of patriotism"—was a mere phantom of the brain—that no such man ever in reality existed. The evidence of the existence of the patriot of Switzerland has always seemed to us so well attested, that there was little room to doubt it; but we live in an age of scepticism and unbelief—when men are fast receding from the light of truth and turning unto fables—mistaking darkness for light and light for darkness—and the light that was in them is becoming darkness; and, as they assume to deny the existence of Tell, the patriot, that of Luther, the reformer, Peter, the Apostle, and Jesus the Savior may be readily classed with the fabled heroes of Mythology—for to this the world is approximating.

But Tell's non-existence, says the *Jour. of Com.*, is not made out from the flimsy logic above quoted. "No character," it continues, "of the 13th and 14th centuries, is better attested in Swiss history than that of William Tell. The ballads of the present day sung to his memory; the annual festival on the blue lake of Lucern in his honor; and the monuments erected to him by those with whom he was contemporaneous, all bear upon this point. 'Tell's chapel' on the 'Tellenspring,' (the rock so called because the Swiss hero here leaped when he escaped from Gessler) was erected in the presence of one hundred and fourteen persons who had known Tell when living."

Sir James McIntosh visited the regions where the scenes reputed to Tell are laid and, after a close examination of history and an investigation of the traditions and legends among the Swiss people, "became perfectly convinced of the existence of the mountain hero, and of the truth of the part that he played in little Switzerland" when

"Few were the numbers she could boast,  
But every freeman was a host,  
And felt as though himself were he,  
On whose sole arm hung victory."

—THE Washington correspondent of the *Jour. Com.* says, "There is no United States Government. There is a Federal Constitution which was intended to create a government, but it failed of its object, in a very important particular."

"The theory of the Constitution supposes Congress to be a perpetual or continuous body, but it is not so in fact and, for nearly a year, in every term of two years, Congress does not exist."

Congress alone possess the war-making prerogative; it alone has the authority to use any money in the treasury; thus an interruption in the government machinery, of some nine months duration, occurs twice in every presidential term.

This state of affairs places the President in a quandary as to what measures to adopt relative to the Nicaraguan difficulties. A strong naval force is to be sent to Nicaragua, placed at the disposal of Gen. Lamar, U. S. Minister to Nicaragua; but if the commander lends his forces "even for the purpose of protecting American interests, it will be war, and subject the President to the charge of usurping the war-making power.

A similar emergency occurred when the fever of groundless indignation and speculative furor induced the President to authorize the Utah expedition. Had blood then been shed, at whose hands would it have been required?

But Mr. Buchanan failed to obtain this power, tho' in his special message of Feb. 18, he recommended that it be conferred on him.

The instructions to Gen. Lamar are said to be of the most positive character. He is instructed to demand from Nicaragua an apology, restitution and indemnity; upon a non-compliance with which, he is to ask for his passports.

—THE FRENCH, we are reliably informed, previous to the Danish action against the St. Domingo government, demanded the concession of all the gold and silver mines of the republic.

—THE TRIAL of Daniel Webster, a fugitive slave, arrested in Philadelphia, April 4, is creating great excitement. The court room was guarded by a large police force—not U. S. dragoons!

—THE TRIAL of Daniel E. Sickles commenced in earnest, April 7. The jury panel was completed on the 6th, after summoning one hundred and seventy nine persons—one hundred and sixty seven of whom had no hesitation in expressing their sympathy for Sickles. In the "usual caution" to them, Judge Crawford told the jury to "make arrangements for a long absence from their families." On the part of the prosecution, twenty eight witnesses have been summoned; for the defence, thirty two—four of whom are females.

Sickles has a formidable array of counsel, embracing some of the best criminal lawyers in the country. There seems to have been an oppressive eagerness to serve the killer of Key, the seducer—forty lawyers having volunteered their services, from New York city alone; three of whom were selected. The prosecution will be managed alone by Mr. Ould, District Attorney of the District of Columbia and successor of Mr. Key. Mr. J. M. Carlisle being in attendance with the District Attorney for the purpose of looking after "the reputation of the deceased." It is stated that several lawyers applied to Mr. Buchanan for the privilege of assisting Mr. Ould, but were peremptorily refused, the President intimating that he would not be dragged into the affair in any way.

In questioning the multitude of men who were summoned as jurymen in this case, some singular replies were elicited. Daniel B. Clark said he had a fixed opinion on all such cases; that he did not know whether he could render an impartial verdict; but, if to justify the act would make him an impartial juror, he could be one.

The father of Sickles and Mr. Baglioli, father of Mrs. Sickles, sat in court together. No women are among the audience.

The N. Y. *Tribune's* Washington correspondent gives a concise statement of the "ground" upon which the defense is technically placed, from which it appears that "the homicide will not be formerly admitted by the defense," but, of course, it will be readily proven by the prosecution, which will then rest. The *Tribune* correspondent continues:

"The evidence of Key's criminality with Mrs. Sickles will thereupon be offered by the defense—not, however, as a justification, but as showing the state of mind in which the deed was done which sent Key so suddenly to his account. It will be contended that Mr. Sickles was in a state of frenzy, bordering upon insanity; not, indeed, to such an extent as to absolve him from moral accountability, but sufficiently to make the killing manslaughter in the first, second or third degree. Upon this ground the admissibility of the testimony on the point will be pressed. When it is once in, it will be made to bear upon the question of guilt or innocence in the judgment of the twelve men who are to decide, and will be more direct. Practically it will be used as a justification, though introduced as matter in mitigation of the offence charged."

Having dealt with the adultery and, perhaps met the prosecution upon incidental questions of fact, the defense will rest.

The District Attorney will, of course, be permitted to introduce evidence upon the point raised on behalf of the prisoner, evidence bearing upon the question of the dead man's criminality and the effect produced upon the killer's mind by the discovery of the facts and by the appearance of the adulterer near his house.

But further than this he will not go, without a long and a tough struggle with his opponents. "What bearing," they will ask, "has Mr. Sickles' conduct in early youth, or in latter days, his general moral character, even his proclivity to vice of the very species the indulgence of which by Mr. Key he punished so speedily—grant that they can be proven—what have they to do with the state of mind in which the accused committed the crime charged? They are no part of the res gestae. You have no right to raise a new issue under the pretence of introducing rebutting testimony. We have not felt it necessary to prove a good character: you have no right to attempt to prove a bad one, when such proof has no bearing upon the fact of killing."

If, however, the evidence touching these points is admitted—to give which it is understood that a large number of witnesses from New York are to be in attendance—the defense professes to be ready to meet and overcome it. Mr. Sickles and his friends, however, feel sanguine of success in the exclusion of this species of testimony."

In this statement it would appear "that the course which things take, if not the result of the trial, must depend upon the rulings of the judge upon matter of evidence."

On the morning of the 7th, at the call of the clerk, "Stand up, Daniel E. Sickles," Mr. Sickles stood up in his box. The clerk then said, "Daniel E. Sickles, look on the jurors while the indictment is being read."

The indictment was read, as follows:

"DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, TO WIT:—The jurors of the United States for the county aforesaid, upon their oaths, present that Daniel E. Sickles, late of the county of Washington aforesaid, gentleman, not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil, on the twenty seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty nine, with force and arms at the county aforesaid, in and upon the body of one Philip Barton Key, in the peace of God and of the said United States, then and there being, feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought did make an assault; and that the said Daniel E. Sickles a certain pistol of the value of two dollars then and there charged with gunpowder, and one leaden bullet, which said pistol he, the said Daniel E. Sickles, in his right hand, then and there had and held, then and there feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, did discharge and shoot off at, against, and upon the said Philip Barton Key; and that the said Daniel E. Sickles, with the leaden bullet aforesaid, out of the pistol aforesaid, then and there, by force of the gunpowder aforesaid, by the said Daniel E. Sickles discharged and shot off as aforesaid, then and there feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, did strike, penetrate, and wound him, the said Philip Barton Key, in and upon the left side of him, the said Philip Barton Key, a little below the tenth rib of him, the said Philip Barton Key, giving to him, the said Philip Barton Key, then and there with the leaden bullet aforesaid so as aforesaid discharged and shot out of the pistol aforesaid, by the said Daniel E. Sickles, in and upon the left side of him, the said Philip Barton Key, a little below the tenth rib of him, the said Philip Barton Key, one mortal wound of the depth of ten inches and of the breadth of half an inch, of which said mortal wound he, the said Philip Barton Key, then and there instantly died; and so the jurors aforesaid, upon the oaths aforesaid, do say that the said Daniel E. Sickles, him, the said Philip Barton Key, in manner and form, and by the means aforesaid, then and there feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, did kill and murder, against the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and government of the United States."

ROBERT OULD,  
Attorney for the United States."

After the reading of the indictment, the clerk said:

"Upon this indictment the prisoner has been arraigned, and on his arraignment has pleaded not guilty, and has put himself upon his country. That country you represent, and this indictment you are to try."

District Attorney Ould opened the case for the prosecution with an "eloquent and effective statement" of the occurrence; at the close of which the judge said, "it was usual here to have the openings on both sides made before any of the evidence was presented, but he presumed the counsel for the defense would prefer to reserve their opening till the case for the prosecution was closed."

The witnesses for the United States were called into court and the testimony for the prosecution was presented, the hearing of which occupied the fourth and fifth days. The evidence was very conflicting, especially as to the number of shots fired; whilst some swore that a scuffle ensued and others that the parties never approached each other. The *Herald's* special report says that "the general impression is that the prosecution has broken down on the charge of murder."

A motion was made to compel the attendance of Messrs. Butterworth, Walker and Wooldrig; but after an exciting discussion of the point, the judge declined to grant the motion.

On the sixth day of the trial, April 9, the case for the defense was opened by Mr. John Graham, of New York. His speech consumed the whole of Saturday and till afternoon on Monday, 11th. He began:

"A few weeks since, the body of a human being was found in the throes of death in one of the streets of your city. It proved to be the body of a confirmed and a habitual adulterer. On a day too sacred to be profaned by worldly toil, on which he was forbidden to moisten his brow with the sweat of honest labor; on a day when he should have risen above the grossness of his nature—and though on no other days he had sent his aspirations heavenward, he should on that day have allowed them to pass in that direction—we find him besieged, with the most evil in intentions, that castle where, for their security and repose, the law had placed the wife and children of his neighbor. Had he observed the solemn precept, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,' he might at that moment have formed one of the living. The injured father and husband rushes on him in the moment of his guilt, and, under the influence of a frenzy, executes on him a judgment, which was as just as it was summary. The issue which you are here to decide is, whether this act renders it's author amenable to the laws of the land. In the decision of that issue, gentlemen of the jury, you have a deep and solemn interest. You are here to fix the price of the marriage bed. You are here to say in what estimation that sacred couch is held by an honest and intelligent American jury."

In the afternoon, several witnesses were examined for the defense.

The eighth day was occupied in hearing testimony for the defense. During the exam-

ination of Robert J. Walker, an intimate friend of Mr. Sickles, he was "violently affected—breaking out into sobs and profusely shedding tears." The cross examination of the witness was discontinued for a short time and the prisoner was allowed to retire for a few minutes.

Mrs. Sickles' confession, in her own hand writing, as given on the afternoon of Saturday, February 26, the day previous to the killing of Key, was presented by the counsel for the defense, in connection with the testimony of Bridget Duffy, servant in Sickles' house, for the purpose of accounting for the state of mind in which the prisoner was at the time of the homicide.

The District Attorney objected to this paper being offered in evidence.

April 13, ninth day of the trial, after a lengthy discussion on the admission of the confession of Mrs. Sickles, the court decided against the admission.

Miss C. M. Ridgeley, a very pretty, intelligent young lady was examined as a witness for defense. She was intimate with Mr. and Mrs. Sickles; testified to the frenzied demeanor of Mr. Sickles on Saturday and Sunday morning.

Bridget Duffy was called. She testified to the distracted appearance and conduct of Mr. Sickles, all the Sunday, prior to the consummation of the tragedy; also to having seen Key pass the house of Mr. Sickles, between 11 and 12 o'clock, waving a white handkerchief, the signal of assignation.

A closing paragraph of Mrs. Sickles' confession is as follows:

"This is a true statement, written by myself, without any inducement held out by Mr. Sickles of forgiveness or reward, and without any menace from him. This I have written with my bedroom door open, and my maid and child in the a joining room, at 8 1/2 o'clock in the evening. Miss Ridgeley is in the house, within call."

TERESA BAGIOLI,  
Lafayette square, Washington, D. C., Feb. 26, 1859."

The confession is an avowal of most shocking criminality and base perfidy—in the language of Mr. Carlisle, "without parallel in the history of man or woman."

—A SEDUCER's ear was recently cut off by the injured husband, residing at Bucyrus, Ohio. The husband, a merchant, had gone to New York on business and, becoming quite indisposed, hurriedly transacted his business, returning much sooner than was expected. Unfortunately—or perhaps fortunately—he was carried by the cars to Forest, twenty nine miles further than Bucyrus, where, when he alighted, to his horror he beheld his own wife in company with one whom he had always esteemed his best friend. He could scarcely believe his eyes, but, when he heard the gentleman direct his trunk and his wife's carpet sack to be put off at a place noted for licentious intrigue, his mind was instantly made up. He walked coolly up to his betrayer and, at one stroke, severing his right ear from his head, put it in his pocket. The wife, confessing her error, he freely forgave her, "on account of her youth and their child." The Bucyrus *Forum* says—"The miserable offender is still in our midst, and when only one of our citizens continues to wear long hair, reader, you may know who he is."

Are these things the fruits of the "pure, holy and sanctified" institutions of monogamic Christianity? Or, are the legion of brothels that rear their dingy and their gorgeous fronts in all of the larger cities of the States, becoming insufficient for the tide of sensuality and corruption that seriously threatens to overwhelm the whole fabric of social and domestic felicity? Look to your firesides and homes, ye men of the world, for the darkened spectres of moral as well as political corruption begin to assume a power that may ere long bring downfall and desolation in their course.

—MARY HARTUNG, who murdered her husband and was sentenced to be hung in April last at Albany, N. Y., has become a raving maniac, and has had to be chained, hands and feet to prevent her from self-destruction. Her execution has been postponed by Governor Morgan, until her real condition can be ascertained.

—THE ARMY of the United States, for the first time in twenty years, says to the *Jour. of Com.*, is full and "in pursuance of orders from the War Department, the recruiting service throughout the United States was discontinued on the 30th of April. This is chiefly attributed to the increase of the monthly pay of the soldiers, some four years since, to \$11 for infantry and \$12 for cavalry service. The recruiting service appropriation by Congress for the fiscal year beginning June 30, 1859, is \$118,000; not more than one half of which will be needed, and there will be a great saving in the expense of transporting recruits, the cost of which, last year, from New York alone, was about \$300,000."