

Escape of Prisoners.

Five of the convicts confined in the Penitentiary, to wit: Charles Manhard, Truelove Manhard, Alfred Higgins, George H. Angle and William Echols, effected their escape on the night of the 30th ult., by unlocking the doors of their cells or prison rooms with keys they had contrived to make out of zinc used in the manufacture of some implements or machinery in the workshops, which they purloined for the purpose. After unlocking some four or five doors, and getting out into the yard, they scaled the wall by means of ropes made out of their blankets, and put off, unobserved by the guard, if any was on duty at the time, which is somewhat problematical for it is well known that the prison is not a paying institution, and only one or two men are employed to watch the concern, which the prisoners, of course, well knew.

It is understood that the other prisoners, some eight or ten in number, were cognizant of the movements of their fellows but refused to escape with them, being of the opinion, no doubt, that they were safer within the walls of the Penitentiary than they would be elsewhere, and that the chance of making good their escape, by fleeing from the State, after getting out of the prison, were not favorable, as some of those who got out probably became convinced, for three of them—the two Manhards and Angle—returned, after an absence of two days, and gave themselves up to the Warden.

Higgins and Echols have, it is believed, gone south where, if reports be true, they have some friends or sympathizers, who may aid them in getting out of the State, either east or west which ever may be the most practicable and safe. The western or southern route will most likely be preferred to the eastern by such fellows this spring, as there are and will be too many of the mountain boys along the road between here and Laramie this season to make it a popular thoroughfare for thieves.

Whether the Warden, Col. Rockwood, was blameworthy or not for the escape we do not know. Our opinion is, from the circumstances so far as understood, that he was not. The Penitentiary with its appointments is but a "sorry" concern at best and not at all suitable for the purpose for which it was built, and instead of its being calculated for the reformation and punishment of offenders, such is the nature of the institution and its history that it is no terror to evil doers and tends rather to encourage crime than to prevent its commission. Most of the prisoners who have been incarcerated there within the last six years, excepting those who have been discharged by Federal Judges on *habas corpus* have escaped, and nothing has tended so much to keep those who have been sent there by the operations of the statutes, within the last year, from putting out, as the fear they have of the summary avengement that they expect will be meted out to them, should they be found unprotected by the law, by some of those from whom they have stolen and for which no pecuniary recompense has ever been made. There are unquestionably those, and they are not few in number, who verily believe that there is a more salutary way of punishing thieves and ridding the country of such pests than to imprison them in a penitentiary however strong and safe it may be.

EXHIBITION.—On the 24th ult., Mr. Philo Dibble favored the citizens of Springville with an entertaining exhibition of oil painting, representing the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, the Prophet's last address to the Nauvoo Legion, and the flight of the Mormon Battalion with the "bells." He also exhibited the busts of the two martyrs, as taken after their death. The explanatory lecture was historical and instructive, as we are informed.

SENATOR HOOPER AND COMPANY.—A telegram from Fort Bridger announced the safe arrival of Mr. Hooper and company at that place on Sunday afternoon. The high waters had somewhat retarded their progress, but no accident is reported to have occurred, and all were well.

CAPTURE OF NEW ORLEANS.—The city of New Orleans was captured by the Federal fleet under Commodore Farragut on the 24th ult., but the particulars of the occurrence have not transpired.

Departure of the Company for the Protection of the Mail and Telegraph Lines.

The company raised by Governor Young on the requisition of the President, through the War Department, for the protection of the property of the Overland Mail and Telegraph Companies, did not get off till Thursday afternoon, as there was some little delay in getting all things ready for the expedition, more than was anticipated; but there was nothing lacking for the performance of the service when the company marched.

The officers of the company were as follows:—Capt. Lot Smith; 1st Lieut. J. S. Rawlins; 2d Lieut. J. Q. Knowlton; Orderly Sergeant R. H. Attwood; Quartermaster Sergeant J. M. Barlow; Sergeants S. H. W. Riter, John P. Weimer, H. O. Spencer, Moses Thurston; Corporals Seymour B. Young, Newton Myrick, Wm. A. Bringham, John Hoagland, Jos. H. Felt, Jno. Neff, Andrew Bigler, Hyrum B. Clemons; Farriers, Ira N. Hinkley, John Helm; Saddler, Francis Platt; Wagoner, Solomon Hale; Musicians, Josiah Eardley, Charles Evans.

The company was provided with ten baggage wagons and took with them rations for thirty days. On Monday three or four other heavy mule wagons followed, with rations for thirty days more. The balance that will be required will probably be taken out by the trains going to the Missouri river, which are expected to start in about ten days.

GOING TO THE MINES.

The speculating citizens of California and Oregon are said to have reached the fever heat of '49, and are hastening off to the Salmon River gold mines, in Washington Territory. The reports of the abundance of the "filthy lucre" are perfectly fabulous. Some of the fortunate have only had to stoop and lift the \$10,000 nuggets into their haversacks and march off happier than princes. No mines were ever so rich as those at Salmon River, and no men ever so fortunate as the lucky ones who have spent the last year among the Nez Percés. The rumors have now reached Deseret, and a few small companies have already "gone north," and others are preparing to follow. A small band leaves this morning, counting in its number ex-Postmaster Morrell and ex-deputy Mannifee, who, in the shifting scenes of life, are resolved to brave the dangers that beset the fortune-hunter's path. Mr. Mendenhall, one of Livingston & Bell's clerks, and a few other transient residents go in the same company. Several persons from Carson arrived here about ten days ago, and took the start of them. There is room for all. Who will go next?

From Wasatch County.

We are in possession of news items from Wasatch county to last Friday, and more than half the valley was still covered with snow. The farmers had not been able to plow a furrow up to that date, and the probability is that there will be no chance for plowing for ten or twelve days to come. Provo river and all the streams flowing into it are booming. Cattle and other animals are very poor, and the prospects before the agriculturists generally very discouraging for the present season's operations.

The destruction of the Provo Canyon road is causing the inhabitants of Wasatch much inconvenience, as they have to come down to mills in Utah county to get their wheat floured, Mr. Van Wagoner's mill not being completed as previously anticipated. Many of the people are represented to have been compelled to use boiled wheat and corn as a substitute for bread during the latter part of winter.

CLUFF'S HALL.—The Provo Dramatic Association closed the present season's performance on Saturday, the 25th ult., after giving to the public a series of brilliant entertainments. The "Lady of Lyons" was presented on the occasion. Mr. H. Cluff appeared as Claude Melnotte, and Mrs. Electa Bullock as Pauline. Gen. Dumas was well sustained by Mr. Wence; and, in fact, all the characters were creditably represented. The evening's entertainment was concluded with the whimsical farce entitled, "Servants by Legacy." The costumes of this enterprising company are said to be superb. The hall was densely crowded. So says our reporter.

Miscellaneous Items.

The repulse of the Federal army, on the 6th of April, at Pittsburg Landing was not considered, by many in the Western States, very creditable to the officers in command, and demands had been made for an investigation by Congress into the cause of the troops having been surprised and driven from the field, which took so much hard fighting to regain.

It was stated on good authority that hundreds of men left east Tennessee for Kentucky after the proclamation of Governor Harris calling out troops.

There was a riot in East St. Louis on the evening of the 19th of April, caused by the interference of the employees of the Ohio and Mississippi railroad with a culvert that had been made to prevent the town from being flooded. The Provost Marshal with a posse sent to quell the disturbance was fired on by the populace. The posse then charged bayonet and dispersed the crowd, in which operation three of them were wounded by coming in contact with those sharp-pointed weapons of war.

The President sent a message to the Senate on the 22d ult., concerning the arrest of Ex-Secretary Cameron at the suit of Pierce Butler for illegal imprisonment, in which the President stated that Butler was arrested under his (Mr. Lincoln's) authority, considering it a State necessity, and that he was responsible for the act.

The House committee on foreign affairs, on the 22d, agreed to report a bill for the appointment of a commission on national defenses to consist of two officers of the army, two of the navy, and two civilians of scientific attainments.

The almost universal rains which prevailed from the 10th to the 25th of April, greatly retarded military movements, as alleged, both at Yorktown and on the Tennessee. In addition to the rains the Confederates at Yorktown, about the 20th commenced flooding the ground in front of their intrenchments, by turning a portion of York river, by means of dams, in that direction.

The St. Louis *Republican* received a dispatch, on the 28th ult., from a gentleman at Omaha, connected with the telegraph, stating that the late troubles with the Overland Mail Company were not occasioned by the Indians, but by companies of employees, who, not having been paid their wages for a long time, had become dissatisfied and seized the stock and other available property belonging to the company and put off to the northern mines. The Indians along the route were reported as being peaceably disposed and had not interfered with the mails.

Gen. C. F. Smith, well known as one of the principal officers of the Utah expedition under Gen. Johnson, died at Savannah, on the Tennessee river, of dysentery, on the 25th of April.

Nevada Items.

According to a telegram from Gov. Nye, who had not left San Francisco on the 21st, he had not abandoned the hope of obtaining the cession from California of that portion of the State east of the Sierras to Nevada Territory. It is said that he is a great hanger on and an experienced wire-puller. Cradlebaugh has also expressed an opinion, in a letter to the *Age*, that before the close of the present session of Congress, the boundary between that Territory and Utah will be removed one degree further east.

It is announced that an extensive ledge of cinnabar has been discovered in the Truckee Indian Reservation by a Mr. Black. The mine is believed to be inexhaustible.

Major McDermott, commander at Fort Churchill, some weeks since, as reported, thinking one hundred and fifty dollars per ton for hay was a little too much, resolved not to purchase any more at that price, and sent the government stock at that post consisting of about one hundred horses and as many cattle, to the Walker River Reservation to be herded on the land of the Indians, who at once protested against the intrusion, and the stock was removed to a point higher up the river. The presence of the soldiers in charge of the stock made the Indians distrustful and fearful that all might not be right, and subsequently to the removal of the stock from their reservation, they made an effort to stampede the horses and succeeded to some extent, running off eight or ten head and scattering the others in various directions.

Flour was selling in Carson at twenty dollars per hundred; beef at from twenty to twenty-five cents; barley and oats, sixteen; potatoes, ten; butter, sixty to seventy-five, and beans, eight to ten cents per pound. Groceries are quoted at about the same rates they are sold at in this city.

FROM SECESSIA.

A Washington N. Carolina dispatch announced that there was fighting at Ft. Macon on the 16th and 17th of April. Col. White sent out a detachment, from the fort, on the beach, where three hundred Yankees were found, who immediately fired on the Confederates, killing fifteen before they got back again into the fort, to which they quickly retreated. Col. White then treated the Yankees to a good supply of canister, which killed many of them, causing them to retire.

The Southern papers also published an account of a conflict between three hundred of Ashby's cavalry and seven hundred and fifty Yankees, near Jacksonborough, which lasted two hours. The Confederates were the attacking party, and the report says they killed seventy-five of the Federals, and took five hundred prisoners.

A Savannah paper published a statement of a skirmish at Whitemarsh Island between the 13th Georgia and a Michigan regiment, in which the latter were defeated with the loss of a score of men, and that the Confederates lost about one half that number.

A court of inquiry was instituted by the Confederate government to determine as to the propriety of liberating John M. Botts, imprisoned sometime since for expressing sentiments inimical to the Confederate cause, as construed by the seceders. The court had adjourned but the decision, if any had been made, had not been made public.

A requisition is reported to have been made on those owning slaves in Surry and some of the adjoining counties, for one half of the negroes between sixteen and fifty to work on the fortifications at Williamburgh, designed for the protection of Yorktown.

It was reported that Ex-Senator Gwin, of California, had arrived in Richmond; but where from, and how he managed to reach the Confederate capital, is not stated.

The Confederates almost universally claimed that the result of the battle of Pittsburg Landing was a victory in favor of the South.

Provo Seminary.

Mr. Charles W. Wandell, Principal of that thriving institution, closed his second term on Friday last with a public examination. Classes in grammar and composition were the principal ones examined. To the parents of the pupils who were present, great satisfaction was given. Our correspondent says that he never saw a more satisfactory and encouraging examination in any school of like character.

The next day a "May festival" was held at Cluff's Hall, at which nearly all the schools of the city were represented. Mr. Wandell's scholars occupied the stage, sung numerous interesting pieces and gave about a dozen recitations selected from the productions of the best speakers. One of the most interesting items was a very creditable address by Master George Brown, a youth of seventeen, the composition of which would be a credit to a much older head. The pieces spoken by the young ladies were equally creditable, so much so that all present expressed themselves highly gratified at the success of the institution.

SALERATUS WANTED.—There has generally heretofore, been more mountain saleratus offered for sale in this city than was needed for manufacturing and other purposes for which it is so extensively used. But of late, from some cause, it is quite scarce and not readily obtained. A few hundred pounds are wanted at this office, for which the market price will be allowed on any account, cash excepted, for which it may be offered in liquidation, if delivered in due season.

WHICH ROAD TO TAKE.—It is recommended that those traveling southward to any point beyond Provo should go on the west side of Utah Lake, by way of Goshen, as that road is reported to be in good traveling condition, while the other is impassable for teams between Provo city and Payson.