

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday, - - January 10, 1872

In our issue of last evening we gave a sketch of the case of Aaron Burr, the nature of the accusations against him and the course pursued towards him in the matter of bail. The case of Jefferson Davis was also alluded to by the U. S. Attorney last Tuesday when President Young made his appearance in Court. The occurrences which made the name of Jefferson Davis notorious are so recent and familiar that there is no necessity to dwell upon them at length. After the surrender of Lee and his army on the 9th of April, 1865, Davis and his Cabinet fled. On the 14th of April President Lincoln was assassinated, and a proclamation was issued, upon evidence obtained by the bureau of Military Justice, by President Andrew Johnson, on May 2nd, which declared that the atrocious murder of the late President, Abraham Lincoln, and the attempted assassination of Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State, were incited, concerted and procured by and between Jefferson Davis and other persons named in the proclamation, and one hundred thousand dollars were offered as a reward for his arrest. Eight days after the issuance of this proclamation he was arrested. The most of our readers will remember the embittered feelings which were entertained against the rebel President in many quarters. The almost universal feeling in and out of Congress was that he should be punished. He was denounced by the newspapers as the man who above all others was guilty of precipitating the South into civil war and of deluging the country with blood. Yet, notwithstanding the gravity of his case and the magnitude of the interests involved therein, when his counsel applied for bail, the U.S. District Attorney, on behalf of the Government, with Mr. Evarts who was associated with him in the prosecution, seconded the motion of the defendant's counsel. The District Attorney even went so far as to argue that the Supreme Court, or a judge of a district court of the United States, may, in any case, even in capital punishment, taking into consideration all the circumstances, admit to bail, and speaking for himself and associate counsel he said they would be satisfied with bail in the sum of \$100,000. That amount of bail met with the approbation of Judge Underwood, recognizances were entered into and the prisoner was discharged. Subsequently a nolle prosequi was entered, and the case was finally dismissed.

In mentioning the cases of Aaron Burr and Jefferson Davis in the present | Before the death of the Prophet Joseph connection we do not mean to institute | Smith, he was famous for the devotion, any comparison between them and the case of President Young. Their cases are the complete antipodes of his; they have nothing in common, there is not stood forth as the greatest leader of the slightest analogy between them. | modern times. Under his guidance a We only refer to them to illustrate the foully-wronged, plundered and stripped difference, on the question of bail, between the decisions of the courts before which they were brought for trial and that before which he appeared. When | were they led here in safety; but, through President Young was refused bail on Tuesday last the entire community, the United States, from Europe and "Mormon" and non-Mormon, with the from every quarter of the globe have exception of but few persons, were | been brought to people the wilderness, shocked. And well they might be. to open farms, to build cities, to plant The case was an unprecedented one, settlements, to establish factories, to and every unprejudiced man felt that | create industries, to change the desert the court, in refusing bail, exhibited a into a country of marvellous beauty, prejudice and vindictiveness unworthy of the ermine.

the case of President Young, would | visitor will see the impress of his genius; | have blamed him for keeping himself and not only upon these limits has his out of reach of process of the Third busy and fertile brain bestowed benefits: District Court. In fact we have heard but the neighboring States and Territopublic and prominent men thus ex- ries have profited by the lessons which press themselves, and some have gone he has taught. If Utah is to-day filled so far as to say that he ought to keep with a thrifty, well-governed, peaceful

· Leaves to San and

some assurance that he could have Almighty is the credit due? If her a fair trial. But he has traveled four | valleys resound with the hum of indushundred miles, at a most inclement try, if her fields and gardens teem with season of the year, from the southern fertility, her granaries with grains and to a northern region, to confront his en- fruits, if her streams are utilized to emies and to meet the accusations turn the tireless wheels of mills, made against him. And after thus ex- | factories and the multipled poor privilege of bail, even though | dened by debt and her people are lightly numbers of non-Mormon, as well as taxed, if drunkenness, prostitution, pro-

unimproved. to commit his murders; or, if not this, I he informed President Young that he had committed them! And who is President Young, what is his life, what his past career and actions, to base suspiclon upon that he could be the accomplice of a murderer? He has lived to the age of nearly 71 years, and most of that time in active and very prominent public life, the cynosure, in fact, of thousands of eyes, and who can point to a single well-authenticated incident during his long life that would justify the suspicion that he could be the confederate or the confidant of a murderer? his character has been denounced; but whom? Not by the pure, or by those who have been brought personal contact with bim. That others should declaim against him is no more than might be expected. The world has hounded to death the best and holiest that ever trod the earth's surface, not excepting the Son of God himseif, and President Young has to endure his share of its hatred. Yet, though this is the case, he possesses the love and respect of his fellows to an extraordinary extent. By those who know him best, and who have had ample opportunities of knowing the leading men of the nation, he is viewed as the greatest of living Americans, and this opinion is shared by thousands of his countrymen who never saw him, but who rise superior to petty prejudiare the measure of a man's greatness,

and these he has achieved. From early manhood he has labored with all the ardor of his strong and energetic nature for the salvation use the word in its broadest sense) of his fellow-men. Comfort, worldly ease, his good name, and popularity have never been sought for, and the loss of them have never been shunned. zeal, self-abnegation and energy with which he labored for the benefit of mankind. Since that event he has people were led forth from the midst of their persecutors into a far-distant and repelling wilderness. Not only his wise management, thousands from the joy and admiration of every visitor. Where was once a howling wilder-Where in the annals of judicial trials | ness President Brigham Young, under can a parallel case be found? It is God, has founded a prosperous and usual for men to shrink from contests happy State. Travel from Idaho in the says of President Young, "Upon one cisions and the most of his in which all the odds are against them. North to Arizona in the South, from We do not believe there is a fair- | Colorado in the East to Nevada in the minded man in the nation who, if he West, and in every village, on every a fair and impartial trial." understood all the circumstances of road and cultivated piece of ground the

with him? True, he has not fought

bloody battles; but "peace hath her

victories, no less renowned than war,"

out of the way until he would have and happy people, to whom under the hibiting his willingness to boldly meet dustries of a great people, if the issue, the Court, whose requisition her various governments, municipal, he voluntarily meets, refuses him the county and Territorial, are not bur-"Mormon," citizens stood ready to go | fanity and other vices are hardly known security to any required amount for his | in her borders, and school and meetingappearance in Court at any time that houses abound in every neighborhood, quent circumstances. Nor are we might be prescribed! We think that in | and the voices of prayer and praise t | thus refusing bail the Court did a stupid | the Great Supreme ascend from nearly | large desires anything more than "a fair thing. Never was there a better oppor- | every family circle throughout her | and impartial trial"for President Young. tunity for obtaining credit for magna- | wide extent, who above all men has | especially such portion of the country nimity on cheap terms, suffered to pass | been mainly instrumental in produc- | as possesses anything like a proper aping these results? Let the people of preciation of the circumstances of the Were there any good grounds for Utah be asked, and with one loud and case in consideration. But there are supposing that President Young was united acclaim, they will make the somethings connected with the matter guilty of the deeds of which he is valleys and mountains rever- that the public might wish to undercharged, then the refusal of the Court to | berate with the name of BRIG- | stand. accept bail might be less exposed to un- HAM Young as their greate-t favorable comment. But who believes | earthly benefactor. Can they be made | whom the trial is expected to take place, him guilty? Is there a person in this to believe that he is the confederate or has publicly and officially announced city, not interested in his conviction, accomplice of murderers, that he con- that it is not Brigham Young that is who does not feel assured that this is a lives at or sanctions crime? Perish the upon trial, but the religious system put up job against him? Of what is he | thought, it is a libel on common sense, | which he represents, consequently, so accused? Why a self-confessed murder- a stupendous lie, which those who fram- far as the Judge is concerned, the court, er says that he was counseled by him ed, propagated and acted upon know to be a lie-which every thinking mind in America and in the world is satisfied is a lie, which will yet be proclaimed special antagonist of "Mormonism," world-wide as a lie, and which will yet cover its authors with confusion and disgrace as one of the foulest lies ever attempted to be palmed upon world.

If the Court had been capable of unprejudiced reflection, if it would have penetrate its obfuscated intellect on Tuesday last, it would have felt, without | case. other evidence, that for a man of deeds so illustrious, of life so distinguished as True, his name has been reviled, and | President Brigham Young, to be refused bail because a vile criminal accused him of crime, would be a gross outrage, and it would have instantly released him upon his own recognizance.

THE spectacle presented before the world, by the representatives of the Federal Government in Utah, is one of the most extraordinary that has ever been offered to the public gaze. It is that of a man, whom every honorable person among both friends and fces believes to be innocent and whose word would be relied upon by a greater number of persons than that of any other man in the country, arraigned before a judge voluntarily confessed by his panegyrists to be fanatically opposed to "Mormonism," and who perverts and twists the law to his own purposes, upces and clamor, and judge him by his on an indictment presented by a grand works. If good works accomplished jury carefully organized from the ranks of the enemies of and aided by two attorwho of his contemporaries can compare | neys brutally opposed to the defendant, said indictment based upon the deposition of a self-acknowledged polymurderer, for years an outcast and virtually an outlaw, whose word or cath not one intelligent and honest man in the country would believe, the defendant to be tried by a petit jury whom it is universally believed, so far as the Judge is concerned, will be organized in the same spirit and composed of the same sort of material as the grand jury was, the defendant to be deprived of all appeal from the action of said court (for the appeal to the present U.S. Supreme court of the Territory, can scarcely be considered worthy of the name of appeal), and all this palpably unjust and in many respects illegal and unconstitutional procedure under the sanction, as reported by enemies of the defendant, of the Federal Government in Washington, and, unless an effectual protest shall be quickly made, under the virtual sanction of Congress and the nation at large.

We say unless an effectual protest shall be made. Sidewise protests have been made in some localities and by some individuals, and more open, bold. and thorough protests have been made by a few individuals, but we have seen no protests, from men in authority, of such a vigorous and effective nature as to insure a just and equitable trial.

thing he may rely: that the people of this country will insist upon his having

The Alta does not understand the situation here, or the animus that characterizes those who have been instrumental in getting up the situation, so well as we do. If it did, it would not be so sanguine of a fair trial being had, or of an available insistance by the people of the country that a fair trial shall be had | unfit man to try any person for life, or in the case.

Perhaps it is just as well that the country at large should understand the situation as it is here, and not as it is misrepresented by sensational and unscrupulous correspondents and others, well known to be interested or prejudiced against the defendant and indeed against all who bear the name of "Mormon."

"A fair and impartial trial" is all that any accused man, innocent or guilty. can claim, with the exception, if innocent, of indemnification, in some equivalent shape or other, for damage sustained from the false charge and conseanxious to believe that the country at

In the first place, the Judge before torgetting its proper character, as the impartial minister of law and of justice. takes upon itself the character of a and consequently of all who practice or profess "Mormonism." It is useless for the Judge to deny this, for he has effecthe tually acknowledged it, and his many rulings and other judicial actions have amply confirmed his own acknowledgment, insomuch that nobody expects let the least glimmer of common sense an equitable judgment from him when a "Mormon" is a principal party in the

Second, so notorious is this prejudice of the Judge against "Mormonism" and the "Mormons," and so universal throughout the Territory is the belief that, so far as he is concerned, the conviction of President Young, at all hazards, on all charges, capital or otherwise, preferred against him in court, is deliberately and determinedly resolved upon by the Judge, that if a vote had been taken of the inhabitants, excepting of those who are prejudiced against President Young, the vote would have been overwhelmingly, if not unanimously, in favor of his keeping himself out of the power of such a judge, to the last extremity, unless the privilege of appeal to the Supreme Court in Washington were open to him, for the charge and the trial, so far as the Judge's influence is concerned, are held, by those not opposed to the defendant, to be nothing less than a deliberately premeditated, carefully prepared device for his entrapment, leaving not the shadow of chance for escape.

Third, all the charges preferred in court against President Young, so far as we have learned, are open to the damaging objection that they are made and sustained by confessed or understood criminals, Litter apostates, or other avowed enemies, and consequently by persons who may well be suspected to be by no means superior to perjury, nor impervious to bribery. Seeing this, and considering the refusal of the court to grant bail, the official proposition to place the bail, if granted, at an unprecedentedly high figure in such cases, it is difficult for the community here to understand how it is that "a fair and impartial trial" can be expected by the country at large, unless some official means be adopted to prevent the fanatical proclivities of the Judge toward war against "Mormonism" and the "Mormons" from so warping his understanding, his interpretations of law, his rulings and his decisions, as to utterly preclude any approach toward justice or even acknowledged good law.

In what we have said, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we entertain no personal prejudice against Chief Justice McKean. On the contrary, if we could reasonably have done so, it would have given us unalloyed pleasure to commend his whole judicial course upon the Utah bench. This, however, we regret to say we cannot The Alta California, noticing the re- do, for we do sincerely consider cent court proceedings in this matter, that many of his rulings and deentire judicial course while here have been so markedly biased and damaged by his intense religio-political prejudices, as to be unworthy of the sanction of any man of an intelligent and candid mind, "Mormon" or non-Mormon, and therefore we do sincerely consider that, unless a great change shall come over the spirit of his judicial administration, he will be a most