

BY TELEGRAPH

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 1.—The proposition agreed upon in the democratic caucus last evening, and reported to the Senate this afternoon from the committee on electoral count, is regarded very favorably by many republicans, and, according to the present outlook, will not encounter a great deal of opposition from the minority in the Senate, as it seems to offer a fair and sensible method of avoiding all trouble in regard to the declaration of the results of the last election without obliging either party to abandon their views concerning the proper methods of dealing with the important points which may arise in subsequent elections, but which confessedly do not need to be provided for now. It is therefore probable that the democratic senators will abandon their first intention of pressing the passage of the resolution now on the calendar, which declares that the Vice-President has no constitutional authority to count the electoral votes, and that they will content themselves with passing the concurrent resolution reported to-day, in a well-grounded expectation, that the House will likewise adopt it, thus promptly providing for next week, and leaving the general subject of permanent regulation for deliberate consideration and legislative action at the hands of the incoming Congress. The new concurrent resolution will be called up in the Senate to-morrow and pressed for passage, at a continuous session, to run through the night, if necessary. The democrats are firmly determined to prevent the establishment of any precedent this year, which might be used to their disadvantage in 1885; and many of them openly assert that the claim put forth by some of the prominent republicans, of the constitutional right of the Vice-President to decide disputes in electoral counts, is merely the first step of a design to steal the presidency at next election. They accordingly announce that in case the republicans prevent the adoption of this concurrent resolution, by filibustering against it in the House of Representatives, the democratic majority in Senate will, on Wednesday morning, the 9th inst., adopt an order directing the Senate to proceed to the hall of the House and join with the representatives in counting the electoral vote; and that the democrats of both houses will thus meet, and numbering a quorum of both branches, will proceed with the count.

Democrats are anxious just now about David Davis. One of the senators remarked to-day that he had invariably voted with republicans lately on all party questions, and he should not be surprised to see him come out flatly and go with the administration after the fourth of March. He has been heard to say lately that he was ashamed of the democratic party as managed by Tilden, and Barnum and Hewitt; that no respectable gentleman could afford to identify himself in public life with men who tried to carry the national elections by barefaced forgery and undisguised bribery.

Geo. L. Bliss, right of way agent for the Northwestern Railroad, reports that he has just negotiated the right of way to the Black Hills with the Indians at Spotted Tail and Red Cloud agencies, similar to that made at Washington with the Cheyenne and Brule Sioux. He gave \$110 per mile for 200 feet wide. The Indians in that country say the weather is the coldest weather that was ever known. The average for 10 nights has been 14 below zero.

Two serious elevator accidents this morning. One in Barnhardt Brothers & Spindler's type manufactory's freight department, killed Joseph Stelten; the other at Furst & Bradley's where the engineer and one passenger were seriously hurt.

All railroads entering the city brought trains from two to four hours late, and in some cases no train at all arrived. The mails are greatly delayed and freight trains are behind time. Even suburban trains did not arrive promptly to-day, chiefly on the Lake Shore and Michigan Central road, and the cause is a heavy driving snow which was carried on the tracks by lively winds. Street cars go only with great difficulty.

PETERSBURG, Va., 1.—Very cold; sleeting; wire broken.

Poughkeepsie, 1.—Growing cold; zero.

New York, 1.—A driving snow storm has again prevented any business at the wharves.

Milwaukee, 1.—The snow blockade affects all the roads in Wisconsin.

Cleveland, 1.—A snow storm of unparalleled severity is raging and badly drifting.

Baltimore, 1.—A snow storm has been raging for twenty-four hours, and snow is still falling.

NEW YORK, 2.—Dispatches from London, 1, 1.30 a.m., say the House is still in session. John Bright has just declared that government will submit resolutions for dealing with the obstruction, which is unparalleled insult to Parliament.

The *Herald's* Washington special says: At the meeting of the cabinet to-day, Goff, the Secretary of the Navy, read the statement prepared by Commodore Jeffers in regard to the importance of sending a vessel of the navy, to the arctic search of the exploring steamer *Jeannette*. It is understood that the Secretary will at once, in accordance with the President's request, communicate to Congress, views in accord with the statement of Commodore Jeffers, and accompanying it will be a copy of the letter of Justice Daly to the President urging prompt action by Congress in making the necessary appropriation.

At the meeting of the Senate naval committee to-morrow the Chairman McPherson will bring the bill introduced by him in the Senate yesterday and referred to the naval committee providing for an appropriation of \$100,000 for fitting out a war vessel, to the personal attention of the members and ask that it may be considered at once. McPherson says that he has no doubt that committee will agree at the meeting to-morrow a favorable report being made at once. In such an event he will report it to the Senate and give notice that he will call it up for consideration on Thursday and ask its immediate passage.

Goff assured McPherson to-day that everything would be done to make the effort successful. At the Navy Department the opinion is already expressed that the expedition is assured, and the rest will now be only a matter of detail.

Crapo told a correspondent to-day that it would hardly be possible to secure one of the steam whaling vessels now on the Pacific Coast without a large outlay of money. They are fitted out at great expense for whaling voyages, and the profit of the catch for a season would be estimated in the cost for chartering such a vessel to go in search of the *Jeannette*. He thought, however, that it would be wise to send the revenue steamer *Corwin* with the vessel that did go, as the presence of the two vessels in Arctic waters would encourage greater risks and adventure in searching for the *Jeannette* than when only one vessel was sent.

Judge E. S. Anderson, of Idaho, delivered a lecture last evening, before the Bullion Club, on the mining interests of that Territory. He stated that the mineral resources of Idaho were comparatively unknown, that some of the richest veins had been discovered since last June. The mining belt was over 200 miles in width, and extended from Southern Idaho to the northward through Montana into the British Possessions. In the western part, he said gold was abundant, but the richest silver mines were situated in the eastern part of the Territory. The difficulty of transportation, owing to the lack of railroads and the lack of capital, were the only obstacles to the speedy development of the mineral wealth of the Territory.

Seth Green says: The present outlook is very favorable for the fish commissioners being able to furnish New York a larger supply of California trout and fry. It is very gratifying to me to make this announcement and also that the people are taking advantage of the opportunity, as I consider them the coming game fish of the eastern States. They are very hardy, grow rapidly, and the gamist fish I think I ever had caught. They will test the skill of the most experienced angler to bring them to land, and I have reason to believe will make the fishing tackle business lively. I am constantly in receipt of good reports from parties living in the vicinity of streams we have stocked, showing that our streams are well adapted to them.

COLLEGE POINT, L. I., 2.—Chas. Barnert, two daughters and three young women, coasting down hill, were unable to stop the sled, which ran off the wharf and broke through the ice in Flushing Bay. All were rescued, but it is thought two women will die from the shock and cold. Shortly after another sled of coasters ran off the same place. All were rescued, but almost perished,

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

The 3 per cent. dividend of Central Pacific stock is being paid.

The President has signed the bill establishing an assay office at St. Louis.

In the fire near Norfolk, Va., 33 buildings were burned, with a loss of \$127,000.

The Pacific Railway bill passed the Dominion House of Commons—127 to 49.

Last night in New York was very bitter. The snow has improved the streets. Trains are all delayed.

A bill has been introduced in the New York legislature, authorizing the formation of a cremating association.

A resolution instructing the mayor of Concord to close all liquor saloons in the city, will probably pass this month.

The international construction train has reached San Antonio, Texas, giving communication with St. Louis.

The Western Union consolidation matter still depends on Justice Barrett's decision of Rufus Hatch's motion.

Three children of the Rev. Manning Hunter, colored, in Sumter County, S. C., were burned to death on Sunday night, in a fire caused by a kerosene lamp exploding.

Fearing a Fenian attack the police guard Gladstone's residence and attend him at a distance. The Irish speeches in the Commons showed much heat and indignation.

A priest and 25 Cork land leaguers have been summoned to appear for intimidation, and Sheehan, secretary of the Parnell defense fund has been committed for trial for intimidation.

The women's walking match in San Francisco closed last night. Following is the score: Howard, 365; LaCapelle, 349; Young, 327; Sherman, 228. The latter was off the track more than half the time on account of illness.

BIRTH-DAY PARTY.

On Friday, the 21st inst., the relations of Brother Lyman Curtis, met at Salem, Utah County, and gave a surprise party to their venerable relative, in the meeting house of this place, there being no other room in the ward sufficiently large to accommodate them. A sumptuous dinner was prepared, of which 75 persons partook, doing ample justice to the viands. Among the relatives present were three brothers of Elder Curtis, with their families. After dinner, short and appropriate speeches were delivered by Bishop Charles D. Evans, Bishop Tanner, of Payson, and the four Brothers Curtis, when a handsome suit of clothes was presented to Brother Curtis by his children. This was followed with a reading by Selena Curtis, after which Brother Isaac Hancock sang a song entitled "The Mobbers of Missouri," which was followed by addresses from Bros. Joseph N. Curtis, George W. Rust and Dr. Rust.

Intermission till 6.30 p. m. Opened with dancing interspersed with songs, followed by an excellent poem composed for the occasion by Sister Emma Curtis, when a luncheon, served up in good style, was dealt out to the company.

Bro. Lyman Curtis was born Jan. 21st, 1812, in Franklin County, Mass., from thence he moved to Erie County, Pa.; thence to Michigan, where he received the gospel in 1832. His father, Nahum Curtis, sent up \$600 to purchase the land of Far West and vicinity; suffered in the persecutions of that place, contributing liberally of his means to help out the poor, and afterwards laboring hard on the Nauvoo Temple. Elder Curtis suffered in the persecutions of Caldwell County and surrendered his arms at Far West, under the cruel orders of Governor Boggs; enduring the severity of that dreadful winter, removing to the State of Illinois, thence to Nauvoo, and laboring in that Temple, in which he received his endowments. He is one of the only three living men who were both members of the Zion's Camp and Pioneers of '47. After his entrance with the Pioneers, Bro. Curtis returned to the States and again came to Utah in 1850, accompanied by his family, remaining in Salt Lake City until 1856. Was next sent out on the Santa Clara on

an Indian mission two years. Next spring was sent out in the company which explored the White Mountains, and on returning settled in Salem, his present residence, where he has resided ever since, and was the prime mover in the establishment of the Salem Irrigation Canal Company.

JOSEPH N. CURTIS.

THE CHIEF.

THE person in this city who manufactures falsehoods for the Western press and sends them over the wires, informs the people of the coast that \$80,000 is to be diverted from the tithing of the "Mormon" Church and used as a corruption fund in Congress. He also states that this news is from "Mormon" sources, and that many of the honest members of the Church are complaining about it. He is not content with manufacturing these absurdities "out of his own head," but must lay the blame on "Mormon" shoulders. We would like to know the name of any honest "Mormon" who either believes in the dispatch-fiend's falsehood, or has complained of the diverting of the tithing. Further, we would like the person who does this dirty work to prove, if he thinks he is able, that the "Mormons" have ever used corruption funds in any such way as he charges. When that unscrupulous individual finds his own place in that lake said in Holy Writ to be prepared for his kind, he may gain some consolation, if it is possible there, from the fact that he can claim, without danger of defeat, to be the chief among all his companions.

NATIONAL LAW AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MORMONS.

SOUND ARGUMENT FROM PHILADELPHIA.

[From the Philadelphia Record, Jan. 14.]

In attempting to suppress Mormonism on account of the existence of polygamy in Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming and elsewhere in the great far west, the civil government is brought face to face with the momentous problem of ecclesiastical authority and the rights of conscience. However patently immoral or essentially irreligious this institution of plural marriages may be in our conception of it, there can be no doubt of the sincerity of the great mass of the misguided people who adhere to it. Apart from this institution, it must be conceded that Mormonism has a right not only to toleration but to protection. With the subject of primary and paramount allegiance to spiritual authority, no matter how imperious its claims may be, neither the state nor the Union has any warrant, in either written or unwritten law, to interfere. Government, local or national, can properly deal only with practical results. Actual infractions of the regulations it establishes for the peace and order of society and for the security of the individual may be punished; but the civil power can rightfully wage no crusade upon mere principles, however mischievous in their tendencies and however menacing by reason of being thoroughly systematized and organized. It must wait for some overt act. There can be no persecutions for opinions. Even the worst intentions are not punishable unless accompanied by some attempt to execute them. Our law of conspiracy is carefully guarded against abuse in the hands of the magistracy, and something must be done in pursuance of an unlawful combination before its participants become indictable. Section 3 of the fourth article of the Federal Constitution empowers Congress to "make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States;" and section 4 of the same article prescribes that "the United States shall guarantee to every State a republican form of government." The first of the ten amendments which became operative almost concurrently with the adoption of the Constitution, declares that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." A thoughtful consideration of the scope and import of these features of the organic law of the Union can hardly fail to emphasize the difficulties and doubts which environ

the whole Mormon question. The territorial "rules and regulations" must not be such as to contravene religious freedom. Nor can conditions involving such interference be justly affixed to the admission of new States framed from the Territories, provided the plan of government proposed be republican in form.

It is a manifest *petitio principii* to aver that any specified system of belief and practice touching religious matters, no matter how monstrous or absurd, is in fact irreligious, and therefore not entitled to "free exercise" as a religion. The adoption by the civil authority of such a censorship of creeds would be a direct step toward a religious "establishment." It would be to institute a religious test at once. Criteria of this sort may be formulated by a church, but not by the United States. The attitude of American polity is one of entire impartiality, and indeed neutrality, toward all professedly religious sects. It does not undertake to define what religion is, nor to mark the boundaries beyond which lies irreligion. The rights of conscience and the liberty of opinion belong alike to the Catholic and those representatives of the poles of religious thought; the Agnostic, Christian, Jew and Deist are equal in the presence of our public law. Between Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Unitarian and Quaker, the nation makes no difference, though the state may thus discriminate if a sufficient majority of its voters so ordain. Affirmation, dissent and negation as to the dogmas of theology stand upon the same plane. An entire divestiture of faith, a complete denial of the sacerdotal, can be put under federal outlawry no more than orthodoxy of the most pronounced and conservative description.

As woman, by some strange and perverse fatality is in one way or another at the bottom of all the trouble in the world, so in this Mormon embroglio, the kernel of the controversy is the question of wives. This the State has an undoubted right to regulate; but it is a moot point whether such power can be constitutionally exercised by the general government. Wives are a good thing, and very handy to have about the house; but there may be too much of a good thing. In none of the 38 States of the Union is any male person allowed more than one wife at a time. All, without exception, have statutes against bigamy. Were it not for the notable fact that a great many men do not marry at all, and have no desire even for so much as one wife, it might be suspected that envy had something to do with the current uncharitable feeling toward the many-spoused Latter-day Saints. As a consideration of natural ethics, abstractly viewed, and without regard to ecclesiastical ordinances or civil statutes, a good deal may be said in favor either of single or plural matrimony. The circumstance that in civilized countries the number of men is about equal to that of women, might be taken as an argument from nature in behalf of the one-wife plan, were it not for the puzzling fact that where the patriarchal system has been in vogue, the female sex preponderate; the supply in each case thus answering the demand. This interesting problem of sociology may be left to the evolutionists to solve. The polygamist can claim that the Levitical law, which the leading Christian denominations have adopted from Judaism, does not prohibit a plurality of wives. It may be furthermore alleged against monogamy, that it is almost universally supplanted by the social evil.

An apology for the temporizing course of the Government toward Mormonism for the last quarter of a century may be found in the intrinsic difficulty of the question. Polygamy is as knotty as it is naughty. A bill of indictment cannot be framed to include an entire community. Prosecutions of individual polygamists fail through defect of necessary legal evidence or from the refusal of juries to convict. For this it is not easy to devise a remedy. The time is coming when something decisive will have to be done; but what that something is, no statesmanship has yet been able to discover. Meanwhile, Mormonism marches on, and fixes its hold more strongly with the lapse of every hour upon vast tracts of our domain.

Confidence and trust are beautiful things. Too much trust, however, kills a grocery store.—N. O. Picaresque.