

year and escape. He said he was a native of Mirsk, 30 years old, and became a convert from Judaism because it was impossible for a Jew to live in St. Petersburg. General Melikoff on Wednesday evening ordered courtmartial for Thursday morning, and the trial began at 11 that day. The prisoner was insolent in language and demeanor, refused to stand up or take any part in the proceedings, saying he had nothing to add to what he had already told General Zuroff; that he did not want to be troubled any more, and wanted the matter finished. The depositions were then read and the prisoner withdrawn while the Court deliberated. He was brought back at one o'clock, when judgment was pronounced.

WASHINGTON, 5.—Mr. Davis, of West Virginia, chairman of the committee on appropriations, presented to the Senate to-day a letter received by him from Clarence King, director of the geographical survey, to be printed in connection with the House joint resolution proposing to authorize an extension of the geographical survey to the States, which was reported to the Senate yesterday. The communication is in reply to several inquiries made by Mr. Davis in regard to the geological survey. The first question which Mr. King replies to is whether under the provisions of the sundry civil act referred to in the joint resolution, he would be able to make a geological survey which will show the mineral resources of the whole country. Mr. King says the act referred to created an officer called director of the geological survey, and provided that he should have charge of the survey of the geological structure and mineral resources of the "National Domain," a term which is held by the Department of the Interior to signify public lands. Thus circumscribed, he says it is absolutely impossible to make a geological survey or general investigation and exposition of the mineral resources of the whole country, owing to the fact that all developed mines being held in private or corporate ownership, are no longer upon the National Domain, and are hence out of the field of inquiry; and to the further fact that nearly all our undeveloped mineral resources, when considered from a broad point of view, are partly, at least, off the public land. The iron and coal fields of the United States are partly in the old States, far from the public lands; partly they are in private ownership and partly on the public land, and any attempt to grasp the problem of our iron and coal industries—any attempt to furnish scientific knowledge concerning these great elements of national wealth—any effort to render efficient aid in their development, must result in signal failure if confined to public land, without the passage of some law extending the field of geological survey over the whole United States. People, Mr. King says, must remain ignorant of the extent, nature and broad practical relations of their mineral possessions.

In reply to the question whether a government survey has any advantage over a State survey, Mr. King says: Economic geology is a weak science unless it is worked on three broad principles. 1st. Precise, exhaustive knowledge of special deposits; 2nd. The practical relations of one class of deposits with others; 3d. The relations of all deposits to the progress of our mineral industries. The value of a deposit in a State may be opened wholly by the single chemical fact in the State, Virginia iron ore; New Jersey with when mined from Michigan, re-another fuel from Pennsylvania, in a furnace lined with a refractory brick from Connecticut. Provided all the States and Territories were to begin simultaneously and make a thorough economic survey, their results even then would be of imperfect value for the want of comparisons in the field. The gold investigators of Georgia would lack a personal knowledge of California; the iron investigating corps of Wisconsin could never safely judge of a Pennsylvania ore which was required to be mixed with a Wisconsin product unless they two were investigated together and their direct relations studied; but practically, the States are not keeping up their surveys.

A few States have lately made re-surveys, but there are not eight accurate State surveys, and not one in the Territories. Since the beginning of the government there has been no time when the labors of a State survey, admirable and master-

ly as some of them have been, could give for the whole country even the shadow of the conception of the mineral resources and industries of the United States. Single States have not maintained, and probably could not afford an effective laboratory for mineral investigation and analysis. The mineral laboratory of the government survey would serve for the whole country after 17 years of continuous service on State and government surveys. I am firmly of the belief that the mineral wealth of the country will never be reasonably well known till studied by the national survey.

In answer to the question whether the passage of the joint resolution now pending before the Senate authorizing the director of geological surveys to extend his examination into the States, will enable him to give better and more thorough and complete examinations and report as to the formation, quantity and quality of our mineral resources and products of the whole country, King says: With the understanding that the passage of the resolution under consideration, will leave the geological survey free to work over the whole United States and to study its whole economic geology, I answer confidently that I shall be able to make incomparably a better series of reports on the mineral resources and product of the whole country than is possible under the existing law. To-day the government and people do not know within \$100,000,000 of the annual value of our mineral product. It would in my opinion be the duty of the Geological Society to present a yearly volume giving the statistics and an analysis of all of our mineral product. Unless the advance of our industries shall be checked by some unexpected cause, we are likely within a few years to reach an aggregate yield of \$1,000,000,000 yearly, and the passage of the joint resolution will enable the survey to familiarize the country with all the features and bearings of this great source of wealth and power; to keep pace with and report the facts of its rapid progress by the prompt publication of correct information; to actually and directly aid in its development and promote a wise and guarded influx of foreign capital.

Briefly and finally, in my belief the question of the passage or defeat of the resolution under consideration is a question whether it is not desirable and needful for the people of the United States thoroughly to know the nature, extent and use of their mineral possessions.

Senator Butler to-day reported a bill from the committee on Territories for the organization of the Territory of Alaska and the establishment of a civil government therefor. The bill provides for the appointment of a Governor, Chief Justice, Surveyor General and Secretary by the President. These officers, together with a Collector of Customs for the District of Alaska are to constitute for the first year's operations of the government a Legislative Council, and are empowered to provide the legislation required to put the Government into operation and to perfect the necessary details. A working Territorial government, their authority as provided by Congress, is to continue until otherwise authorized by the Executive. To divide the Territory into counties and to provide for the registration of voters. All male residents over 21 years of age, including Indians who speak the English language intelligently and adopt civilized habits, who are citizens of the United States by nativity or naturalization, or by the terms of the treaty with Russia, and who have resided in the Territory six months prior to any general election, shall be qualified to vote.

The bill also provides for the election of Delegates to Congress, on such day as the Governor may appoint. The judicial powers of the Territory under the bill are to be vested in a supreme court and five inferior courts. The justices of the inferior courts are to be appointed by the legislative council.

As foreshadowed two weeks ago the publication of the statement from the plaintiff in the seduction suit against Senator Hill, of Georgia, repudiating her affidavit and exculpating the Senator, has to-day brought the lady lawyer, Mrs. Belva Lockwood, to the front, and her counter-statement is, this evening, a racy topic in gossiping circles. She shows, by affidavits of responsible parties, that the plaintiff, Miss Raymond, did make oath to the charges and sign the papers in the case, with full

knowledge of their contents, and Mrs. Lockwood further declares that she is prepared to prove that her client was subsequently bought off by Senator Hill's son and a friend of Hill, who visited her for that purpose immediately after the suit was brought.

INDIANAPOLIS, 5.—A terrific tornado passed over the city about 11 o'clock last night. A large number of houses were unroofed, chimneys blown down and trees uprooted. The Central Avenue Methodist Church was almost entirely demolished. One dwelling-house was lifted from its foundation and carried five or six feet. The inmates of the house escaped with slight injury. Two or three persons were seriously injured, but so far as known no lives were lost. The damage cannot be estimated, but it is quite large in the aggregate.

Louisville, 5.—A violent storm of wind and hail prevailed early this morning. At 3.20 the speed of the wind was 48 miles an hour, the highest ever recorded at this station. From 3.20 to 4 o'clock rain and thunder continued, but the wind quieted down gradually from 20 to 12 miles an hour. So far as heard there has been no serious damage.

Toledo, 5.—During the prevalence of a heavy storm of wind and rain, early this morning, the chimney of the Buckeye Brewery was blown down, falling on and crushing in the engine house, in which were three policemen. The men had taken refuge at the brewery, two were killed and one seriously injured. The wind attained a velocity of 72 miles an hour, doing considerable damage to roofs, freight sheds, etc., and prostrating telegraph lines in all directions.

NEW YORK, 5.—The New Jersey republicans, on motion of Wm. A. Lynn, one of the editors of the *Evening Post*, passed the following resolution unanimously:

Resolved, That inasmuch as the unlimited vote of the party is necessary to its success in November, we deem it inadvisable that Gen. Grant should receive the nomination of President from the Republican National Convention at Chicago, and it is the wish of this Convention that the delegates elected here shall oppose at Trenton the choice of any delegate to Chicago who favors Gen. Grant's nomination.

MILWAUKEE, 5.—The *Sentinel's* Winneconne (Wis.) correspondent says: The entire winter wheat crop of that section will be a failure, caused by frequent freezing and thawing. Most of the farmers plow it up.

LEAVENWORTH, 5.—Chief Douglas this afternoon sprang from the second floor of the guard house, and ran half a mile while the guards fired six times. He was retaken and put in close confinement.

SCRANTON, 5.—An explosion of fire damp took place at shaft number two, East Nanticoke this afternoon; one man was killed; eight are still in the mine, supposed to be killed with foul air.

#### FOREIGN.

LONDON, 3.—A St. Petersburg dispatch says: After the morning serenade, the Czar had a reception, at which the officers of the Imperial suite and of the higher grades of the army were present. At 11.30 a.m., members of the council and civil functionaries were received. At noon there was a solemn procession to the Palace Church, the Czar escorting the Czarina. After the Te Deum had been sung, the Czar received the diplomatic body in the throne room. This was followed by a brilliant assembly, at which 4,000 guests were present. At 3 o'clock p.m., a cantata, composed by Prince Peter of Oldenburg, was sung by school children, the performance with the national anthem and hymn, "Long Life to the Czar!" The Duchess of Edinburgh officiated for the Czar at the assembly. The Duke of Edinburgh was present at all the ceremonies, wearing the uniform of the Duchess' regiment of lancers. The publication of Emperor William's letter of congratulation to the Czar, with the counter-signature of Prince Bismark, has created a very favorable impression in all the European capitals.

A dispatch says: That with the appointment of Melikoff the course of Russian life will be gradually toned back to its normal channels of development without the employment of any harsh or incompetent measures.

A convention has been concluded between Great Britain and Germany securing the co-operation of war vessels in preventing the slave traffic.

Dublin Castle authorities have made representations to the government in favor of the renewal of the peace preservation act of 1875, which expires this year.

Private advices from Berlin state that Emperor William, while at dinner with Count de Vallier, expressed the most friendly sentiments toward the ambassador of the French government, and said there was no ground for anxiety as to the continuance of good relations between the two countries.

Noyes, the American Minister to Paris, has returned from his tour to East Africa and Spain and resumed his functions.

Sir John A. McDonald stated in the Canadian House of Commons to-day that it was at one time feared the recent injury to Princess Louise would result fatally, and the consequence of the accident is not yet altogether removed, though she is considered out of danger.

Commaroff, shot recently while in company with the Chief Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, has died of his wounds. The assassin escaped.

The Spanish army for 1880-81 has been fixed at 90,000 men for Spain; Cuba, 38,000; Philippine Islands, 10,000; and Porto Rico, 3,395.

LONDON, 4.—The *Sportsman* says: Boyd, the oarsman, has recently shown wonderful improvement in form, in consequence of which, and the urging of Christopher Barrass, his chief supporter, he has issued a general challenge declaring he will row any man in the world over a straight three mile course on the Tees, in three months from the signing of articles, for £200 a side and will allow £25 expenses to his competitor.

The man who shot at Melikoff is a semi-idiotic person who was probably a tool in the hands of the nihilists. He seemed to be half drunk when arrested.

LONDON, 4.—Moditsky, Melikoff's would-be assassin, said at his trial, that Gen. Melikoff would be killed by some of his comrades; that although his own attempt had failed, a second or, if necessary, a third attempt would be made.

Extraordinary precaution was taken on the anniversary of the Czar's accession to preserve order. Every possible point of vantage was guarded against explosion or conspiracy.

Moditsky, who fired on General Melikoff yesterday, has been tried, sentenced, and will be hanged tomorrow. He is said to be a student and feigns lunacy.

The Paris *Temps* says: Emperor William on arriving at the French Embassy at Berlin on Monday last, expressed to Count De Saintvallen his great pleasure at being there. The Emperor added: "Convey to Premier De Freycinet assurance of my heartiest respect for his ability and firmness." The Emperor said there was not a word of truth in the rumors of disagreement between himself and Prince Bismark, and added that the latter, like himself, wished for peace.

The British Consul at Salonica telegraphs Sir Austin Layard that he has received a letter from Colonel Syne, saying that himself and wife are well treated. The chief of the brigands has disappeared and negotiations for their release are constantly interrupted.

#### Correspondence.

Interesting from Box Elder County.

WILLARD CITY,  
Box Elder Co.,  
March 1st, 1880.  
*Editors Deseret News.*

During the long winter, which still lingers, as though loth to leave us, we have spent the time in various ways. Diphtheria visited many families during the early part of the season and a considerable amount of faith and careful nursing was required to prevent many of our youth being carried off by its ravages.

Births, however, have more than compensated for the casualties of time and disease; and nine pairs of the young people, following in the footsteps of their worthy predecessors, have been joined in the holy bonds of wedlock.

Our day and Sunday schools, three in number, have been very well attended, and the Mutual Improvement Associations' meetings have been quite interesting.

Our recreations have consisted of dances, theatres, musical entertainments, etc., among which the following are worthy of special notice.

1st. Our Sunday School jubilee, held on the 6th and 7th ult., at which the classes were examined

from the Scriptures and various Church publications, interspersed and enlivened with songs, recitations, dialogues, select readings, music by the brass band, etc.

2d. During the evenings of the above named days, an operetta, consisting of two parts, entitled "The Orphans of New York," and "The Two Old Maids," composed and directed by Brother Evan Stephens, was performed by the juvenile singing class in a very creditable manner.

3d. Subsequently, on the evening of the 21st ult., another production by the same author, entitled "The Gipsy Maid," was presented to the public, by the adult singing class, in a manner which, to say the least, evinced great ability and careful training.

4th. Last Saturday evening the Willard Dramatic Association performed a drama composed by Brother Robt B. Baird, entitled "The Lost Relic," which, although not beyond the reach of criticism, possesses merit seldom found in the works of a novice.

Thus, you see home talent is being utilized, home production encouraged, and we are endeavoring to spend the time in a profitable manner.

Permit me, while writing to call your attention to a source of annoyance to the people of this place. Our mail matter frequently passes by the settlement, and, after roaming around somewhere in the regions of the north for one, two, or three days, returns and is distributed to us. Besides the chagrin it causes to receive newspapers several days after they are due, fancy a communication sent by express requiring a person's immediate attendance at some point within 20 miles, and his receiving it after it has journeyed to the terminus of the U. & N. R. and back! Is there no remedy?

Very respectfully yours,  
JAMES J. CHANDLER.

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