

BY TELEGRAPH.

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AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 29.—The *Herald's* Washington special says: It is not possible or expedient any longer to conceal that there is serious trouble in the Cabinet. Certain of the President's nominations have caused a feeling which may result in the resignation of two of its members. The nomination of Wm. E. Chandler to be Secretary of the Treasury was, it is said, made against the protest of Attorney General MacVeagh, and without his consent. The Solicitor General is the right arm of the Attorney General, his deputy and mainstay. The President has set his heart on having Chandler occupy this place. His name is now before the Senate for confirmation, and it is reported this evening on what seems entirely trustworthy authority, that the President who, at one time thought of recalling Chandler's name, had determined not to do so. It is possible, of course, that Chandler may not be confirmed, and Phillips, who has been Solicitor for a number of years, and who has declined the judgeship of the Court of Claims, offered him the other day by the President, would in that case retain the Solicitor-Generalship, unless the President should, after the adjournment of the Senate, remove him, in which event Mr. MacVeagh will retire from the attorney-generalship, holding Mr. Chandler's appointment as evidence that the Attorney General does not possess the confidence of the President.

The nomination of Mr. Robertson to be collector of New York, is the cause of another cabinet trouble. As the President has refused to withdraw Robertson's name, it is possible James will withdraw from the cabinet. It is even rumored to-night that the President will accept McVeagh's and James' resignations, and that their successors are already picked out.

Washington, 29.—Attorney General MacVeagh is at his office this morning attending to business as usual. When the current report that he was inclined to resign his office was mentioned he said he did not anticipate leaving the cabinet. He declined to talk when interrogated as to past differences of opinion as to the wisdom of Chandler's appointment, and intimate that whatever objection he might have had to any of the President's appointments, such objection had not been sufficiently strong at any time to warrant his retirement from the department of justice.

There is no change yet in the Senate situation, but it is probable that some arrangement will be made by to-morrow for an executive session, as the nominations are accumulating rapidly. The men nominated by the President are getting very nervous, and urge executive session.

A close friend of Secretary Blaine said this afternoon that the nomination of Robertson would not be withdrawn under any circumstance. While Conkling and Platt dislike the nomination the reports of their waging war against the administration are exaggerated. The opinion in high official circles is that there will not be war inside the republican party. Attorney-General MacVeagh pronounces the report of his contemplated resignation as without foundation. Strong pressure is being brought to bear to induce the President to withdraw the nomination of Chandler for solicitor general, and if he will not withdraw it, an attempt will be made to reject him in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, 29.—The difference between readjusters and Bourbons in Virginia on the debt question is about as follows: The McCallough or debt-payer's bill, fixed with the consent of the creditors, the debt of \$32,000,000, made the coupons receivable for taxes and other dues to the State, and the bonds are non-taxable. It fixed the rate of interest at an average of four per cent. The bill which the readjusters stand by, fixed the debt at less than \$20,000,000, made the coupons not receivable for taxes, made the bonds taxable, and the rate of interest three per cent. It was proposed to make this bill a law without the consent of the State creditors, on the ground that it was just to both creditors and the State. The readjusters' bill excludes from the State debt, interest accumulated during the war and reconstruction period. The McCallough bill includes this.

NEW YORK, 29.—President Green, of the Western Union Telegraph

Company, told a reporter regarding the proposed new company: I can say, with the greatest confidence, that there is not a shadow of foundation for such reports. Stager resigned a while ago as vice-president of this company, but he then expressed a wish to retain his seat in the board until it was wanted, because he did not wish entirely to sever connection with the company, in the service of which he had been for nearly 30 years. Twice before, within three or four years, Stager has offered his resignation, but he was prevailed on to withdraw it. Lately it was again offered under circumstances that made it impossible for the board to refuse to accept it, lest the reasons for the resignation were personal. He has much business that he is anxious to look after. He has considerable property.

The *Times*: The accounts given by fruit growers of Maryland and Delaware at the present appearance of the peach orchards of these States do not give an encouraging prospect, and seems to confirm the accuracy of the story that the excessively cold weather not only greatly endangered the peach crop for the year, but the orchards themselves. Fruit growers of these States during the past week or two have become alarmed because of the failure of the fruit buds to show signs of healthy life. One farmer in a celebrated peach centre, writes his landlord that he has made a careful investigation of peach orchards on the farm and he cannot find a live peach bud among all the 19,000 trees. Old orchards are all killed, as there is no sign of life in the buds.

OMAHA, 29.—The water having subsided in the Platte Valley, the work of repairing the Union Pacific is being pushed with great vigor, and by Saturday next the damage will be repaired so as to admit of running through trains again. Meantime the Union Pacific trains will be run with little or no delay over the Burlington and Missouri road to Kearney, which road is to-day again in condition to receive and handle these trains, and no further trouble is feared. Three delayed Union Pacific trains arrived here this evening. Through freight will to-morrow be forwarded over the Burlington and Missouri. The damage to main lines of road will first be repaired, and then will follow the big job of work on branches. Over 50 per cent. of the bridges have been washed away in Nebraska by the freshet, and numerous grist mills have been destroyed. Cattle, sheep, hogs, etc., have been drowned in large numbers in Platte Valley.

The ice went out of the Elkhorn River, this afternoon, without doing any damage, except knocking the Union Pacific bridge ten inches out of line; but it can easily be repaired.

It is impossible, as yet, to procure more than meagre facts about the condition of the towns in Platte Valley inundated, owing to the fact the telegraph lines are only partially rebuilt. Three lives are known to have been lost, but it is believed a number more perished. The loss of stock and property counts up into the hundreds of thousands. It is intended now to run the Union Pacific trains through direct by Friday.

Fort Pierre, 29.—Ice broke in the Missouri at midnight on Sunday, overflowing this post to the depth of five feet, driving the inhabitants to the bluffs. It has since receded greatly. The steamer *Weston* sunk at the levee at Yankton. The steamer *Meade* is floating down stream with the ice.

CHICAGO, 29.—London advices from New Castle say that a messenger from Potchefstroom reports the place surrendered the day peace was signed, after hard fighting, in which 18 British soldiers were killed and 90 wounded. The Boers captured 3,000 pounds of ammunition and two guns.

Hidelberg.—The report of the surrender of Potchefstroom is confirmed. The provisions sent under the conditions of the armistice reached there 24 hours after the surrender.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., 29.—H. Lannan was taken before the United States commissioner this afternoon on the charge of having used the mails for fraudulent purposes. According to his own admissions he has been sending circulars as a real estate directory, asking the remittance of \$1 in each case, for the directory, when in fact he had no such work on hand. Being forced to divulge his printer's name, he led the officials into a still more important swindling scheme, by which, through bogus stock reports he had commenced to dupe a large patronage. His real name is not divulged on ac-

count of his highly respectable connections.

SANTA FE, 29.—Eighty of the best citizens of Rio Arriba County, petitioned Gov. Wallace to take prompt action against the desperadoes who disgrace the territory. Wallace ordered Adjutant General Frost to go immediately with 60 stands of rifles and 10,000 rounds of ammunition, and organize two military companies to act as a sheriff's posse. The robbers are led by Ike Stockton, and have their headquarters near the Colorado line at Durango.

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., 29.—Another alleged wonderful case is reported here, Mrs. Henry Ingram, having taken no food since October last, when, having had some teeth pulled, she was unable, on account of nausea, to retain food, and has taken nourishment by absorption only. She sometimes absorbs a quart of liquids through the pores. Her stomach is totally paralyzed. The problem is how long will she last.

PHILADELPHIA, 29.—The Pennsylvania Central road offers to take the Centennial building to New York for nothing and the owners offer it for \$250,000 to the World's Fair commission. It cost \$1,800,000 at first and would cost \$1,250,000 or more now. The committee will consider the proposition.

NEW YORK, 30.—The *Herald's* London special says: It has transpired that the sudden calling together of the British cabinet yesterday afternoon was caused by the receipt of alarming intelligence from Ireland. Two questions were discussed by the ministers, one was the Basuto war, the other was a confidential report of the Irish government. Mr. Forster announced that intelligence from Ireland was of the most disquieting character although the attitude of the people appeared to be tranquil on the surface. Mr. Forster stated that according to information in possession of the Irish government the tranquility of the people had increased the business of the authorities, who regard the lull before the storm. Information in possession of the Dublin Castle authorities caused the government to believe that an insurrectionary outbreak may be expected at any moment. Mr. Parnell's present attitude was regarded with disquietude. His apparent inactivity was thought to indicate that he anticipated the inauguration of a movement of a different character from that which he had been conducting. His two visits to Paris are regarded as inexplicable, government not having been able to assign any sufficient reason for them.

At a land league meeting held to-day the subscriptions received the ensuing week were announced as amounting to £2,399, all but £100 being from America. Dillon stated that the organization was spreading rapidly and that there are now a larger number of strikes against the payment of rent than at any previous time.

Proceedings in the Morey letter case will be finally disposed of in a few days. Assistant District Attorney Bell, who has had charge of the case from the commencement being satisfied, after a careful examination, that the letter was not written where it was originally claimed to have been penned. A *nolle prosequi* will, therefore, be entered, and the bondsmen will be released. Witness O'Brien alias Lindsay, now in the Toombs having pleaded guilty on the indictment charging him with perjury, will shortly be brought up in the Court of General Sessions for sentence.

H. L. Morey, who claimed he was the uncle of the man to whom the letter was written, is confined in the House of Detention, but having furnished valuable information to the prosecution, will probably be liberated in a few days.

The *Herald's* Paris says: The funeral of M. Oscar De Lafayette was celebrated with great pomp at St. Clothilde to-day. It was attended by several ministers, a number of prominent members of the legislature. The president of the Republic was represented at the ceremony. Gen. Noyes, who was one of the pall bearers, made a brief but affecting speech at the tomb in Pere la Chaise. In telling his praises, he recalled many personal virtues of the deceased senator, and the never-to-be-forgotten services rendered to America by his great progenitor. The assembled crowd of Frenchmen were much gratified by the earnestness and appropriateness of this tribute on the part of our minister. M. D. Freycinet is likely to get the seat

in the Senate, which is left vacant by M. De Lafayette's death.

FORT SCOTT, Ks., 29.—A private dispatch received here to-day announces the death of Harry A. Brown, son of ex-Governor Neal S. Brown, of Nashville, at Albuquerque, New Mexico, yesterday. Particulars are not given. He had been in the employ of the Adams Express Co. about five years, and was the man who drove the mail robbers out of his car at Kinney, Kansas, in January, 1878. Other daring exploits have attested his courage, on account of which the company has valued his services.

THE "MORMON" SITUATION.

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHURCH EMIGRATION AGENT.

ELDER W. C. STAINES AND A N. Y. REPORTER.

From the New York Evening Telegram of March 16.

Elder W. C. Staines, of the Mormon Church, who is the Utah emigrant agent in this city, was interviewed to-day by a *Telegram* reporter, for the purpose of obtaining his views on the Mormon question. He went to Salt Lake City in 1847, and has ever since been one of the leaders of Mormonism.

Mr. Staines, asked the reporter, "is it true, as stated in the inauguration speech, that the constitutional guarantee of absolute religious liberty is not enjoyed by the people of Utah?"

"No, if it is meant that any other religious denomination is restrained from that liberty by the Mormons; yes, if it is meant that the government does not allow the Mormons to enjoy this constitutional guarantee. Why, before the Gentiles had Churches of their own, Brigham Young allowed their members to preach in the Tabernacle. The next passage in the inauguration speech is that which states that 'the Mormon Church not only offends the moral sense of mankind by sanctioning polygamy, but prevents the administration of justice through the ordinary instrumentalities of law.' As to the first half of this passage, which says that 'the Mormon Church offends the moral sense of mankind by sanctioning polygamy, I claim that this is only because those persons whom the President multiplies indefinitely by calling mankind, whose moral sense is offended by polygamy are people who have been brought up in religions that teach monogamy. If the same persons had been born and brought up Mormons their moral sense would not be offended by polygamy. The moral sense which polygamy offends is merely a matter of religious training. It is not like the instinctive feeling implanted by God in the human breast which tells us it is wrong to steal or murder without being told it is so by some one else, or even in spite of being told that it is laudable to do so. There is no feeling like this which tells a man it is wrong to take more than one wife. It is simply a prejudice arising from the religious training which a person has received.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

"As to the statement that the Mormon Church, 'prevents the administration of justice through the ordinary instrumentalities of law,' I suppose that the President here alludes to the difficulties which the government encounters in convicting Mormons of polygamy. Now it is not likely that when there is a law which entails imprisonment for two or five years and a fine of \$5,000 on conviction of having more than one wife that a Mormon who breaks this law is likely to tell every one of it. His brother Mormons do not wish to know whether he has more than one wife. His marriage to the wives is privately performed in the Temple or Endowment House. The wives themselves are not going to give information by which they will be deprived of the support of their husband for two years or more, and so it is no doubt difficult for the government to get evidence sufficiently strong to convict. Every effort is made by officials, detectives, &c., to obtain admissions. They will meet a little child and ask who its father and mother are and endeavor to get information which they are unable to obtain from their parents. The officers may suspect that the three or four women living with a Mormon are married to him, but sus-

picious count for nothing without evidence.

IS IT A CRIME?

"As to the charge of polygamy being a criminal practice which destroys the family relation and endangers social order, it is only criminal in the sense that it is against the law. As for it destroying the family relation, I will admit this much, of course where a wife loves her husband deeply it is impossible for her not to be jealous of attentions to any other woman. Nevertheless they are as happy as many of the married women who have only one husband. The charge is made against us that we take more than one wife to gratify our lust. This is not the case. It is because it is a tenet of our religion, because our religion teaches us that procreation is one of the noblest works of nature, and that every woman should have the opportunity of becoming a mother if she so desires.

THE CHURCH AND THE LAW.

"The next passage runs thus: 'Nor can any ecclesiastical organization be safely permitted to usurp the smallest degree the functions and powers of the national government.' Now the usurpation, if any, is on the side of the government. All the Judges, the Governor, etc., are appointed by the government. The jurors are usually divided half and half between the Mormons and Gentiles, but we are excluded altogether in some instances. There is a case in point in the courts of Salt Lake City at the present time. A number of cattle were stolen from the church herd and several men were arrested. In selecting a jury, the attorney for the defendants, Mr. Brown, claimed that the church was a corporation, that all belonging to it were interested party, consequently no Mormon should be allowed on the jury. The point was so decided. Now, suppose a Catholic church in this city was robbed of its precious vessels, would an objection to a Catholic as a juror, on the ground that he was an interested party, because he belonged to that Church, be sustained? Then, again, take for instance the case of Cannon and Campbell, of Utah, who are now contesting for the seat in Congress from Utah. Cannon, the Mormon candidate, received over eighteen thousand votes, while Campbell received about thirteen hundred, yet the Governor gave Campbell the certificate. When Cannon's seat was previously contested, on two occasions, by defeated candidates, they could not obtain a certificate from the Governor, but Campbell has obtained one this time."

THE GOVERNMENT AND MORMONISM.

"What effect will the inauguration speech have on Mormonism?"

"None. It will not affect the emigration of Mormons to Salt Lake City in the least, nor will it have any effect on those living there. Polygamy is one of the tenets of our faith, and all true Mormons would sooner die than give up any portion of that faith. You may fine us, imprison us, drive us away, even kill some of us, but Mormonism will still survive. You may call me an enthusiast, fanatic, what you like; but if I had to choose between death and giving up my religion, I would simply say, 'kill me.' I believe 100,000 Mormons would do the same. Religion is something above the laws of man. When the law says I must give up a tenet of my religion, I answer, that God has given me a belief in that tenet, and I cannot give it up. I advocate passive resistance, not active, but in case the government should do as some papers have advised, and send out an army to put down Mormonism by brute force, it would be difficult to say what would happen. When in 1857, during President Buchanan's administration, more than 2,000 United States troops, under the command of General Sidney Johnson, were marching on Salt Lake City, the Mormons who were to guard the town were ready to set fire to it the moment it became inevitable that Salt Lake must fall into the hands of the invaders. Brigham Young was to give the signal by firing his own house. Although my home had cost me \$9,000, yet I stood ready to apply the torch as soon as it should become necessary to sacrifice it. If the army had attempted to enter Salt Lake City at that time, they would have found it only a mass of burning ruins. But, happily, an understanding was arrived at, the troops turned their faces homeward, and Salt Lake City was saved. The Mormon Church does not meddle in politics except inasmuch as they are compelled to do so for their