

BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 23.—The *Herald* Cleveland correspondent is not reduced to guess work. He is permitted through a source, that may be relied on, to give nearly a complete list of the forthcoming cabinet as it now stands. It is as follows: Secretary of State, Blaine; Secretary of the Treasury, Charles J. Folger; Postmaster General, Charles Foster; Secretary of the Navy, Nathan Goff, jr. The other three members will be Horace Davis, of California, Jas. M. Wilson, of Iowa, and ex-Senator Howe, of Wisconsin. Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Garfield are warm friends, and as the General wants a member from the Pacific Slope to balance the two important offices he is giving to the east, there can be no better man selected than Davis.

The *Herald* says of the recent silence that has fallen on Blaine's name as proposed Premier. The Washington correspondent coruscated with Blaine. He was to be Premier and to have a Blaine cabinet, with Wayne McVeagh, from Philadelphia and the long-suffering Wm. H. Robertson, from Westchester, and there was to be a general reconstruction of things. Suddenly it ceased, and Blaine vanished behind the rheumatism. Chandler, of New Hampshire, Governor McCormick, of Arizona, Elkins, of New Mexico, and their associates melted into air like the witches in Macbeth. We never hear of Blaine men at Mentor nor at Washington, all is silence.

Lieut. Commander Gorringer furnished a *Tribune* reporter yesterday with the following statement concerning the expense of transportation: The net cost and expenses of removing, transporting and erecting the New York obelisk, \$7,384,404 was the net cost, and expenses of removing, transporting, placing and repairing pedestal, steps and base, was \$2,873,200. Total net cost, \$10,255,603. This does not include the cost and expenses of the steamer which must be recovered from her sale. The word "expenses" is used to designate and include the amounts that have been paid for the use of money needed to carry on the work. These amounts aggregate \$1,597,303. Deducting the cost of lowering and removing and transporting it 5,382 miles by water and 11,520 feet by land, and erecting the New York obelisk and its pedestal and base, is \$86,603. After the arrival of the obelisk in the port of New York, W. H. Vanderbilt advanced \$45,000 in three installments towards defraying the current expenses of carrying on the work. On Feb. 1st, he paid \$18,732 more, and Feb. 7th, \$40,000, making in all \$103,732 which he has advanced.

WASHINGTON, 23.—The Senate commerce committee is still considering the river and harbor bill and expect to complete it to-night, and report to-morrow. The committee have added a number of amendments, increasing the total bill, but say they will pass the bill in the two Houses by sending it to a conference committee. Every day that passes lessens the chances of the final passage of the bill. The commerce committees of both Houses say they have been criticised and condemned for not giving information as to every item in the river and harbor bill. Their excuse is the report of the chief engineer of the army, in which all the information in regard to the bill is based, and it was not received from the public printer until yesterday; consequently what the committees know had to be gathered. This is the excuse of the committee for the incongruities of the bill. A great deal of comment is made on the fact that the President's Message delivered at the opening of Congress, has not been printed. There have been numerous applications for it.

Chicago, 23.—The *Tribune* has a Mentor special, which is summarized in its hands as follows: Garfield is now understood to have crossed his Rubicon. The slate, as reported to be prepared, is as follows: Secretary of State, J. G. Blaine; Secretary of the Treasury, Chas. J. Folger; Secretary of the Navy, Nathan Goff; Postmaster-General, Charles Foster; Attorney-General, Howe; Secretary of War, Davis, of California; Secretary of the Interior, either Wilson or Allison of Iowa. Lincoln was left out because the Illinoisan has got the bighead. Goff had a sure thing all the time, so had Foster, and Howe was lucky. The following statement

The *Inter-Ocean* says: It is reported that a syndicate, of which George M. Pullman, of Chicago, is the principal member, has been formed to purchase the controlling interest in the northern Pacific.

The *Inter-Ocean's* Washington says: Capt. Ead's Tehantepec ship railway scheme died hard in Congress. It is supposed the Floyd-King fracas in the House the other day gave it a quietus for the session, but Eaton came to the rescue in the Senate the other day, offering a resolution declaring the interests of the people of the United States are involved in the subject of ship canals and other ways for transportation; that the question must be met with frankness due all other peoples. The bill was lost.

The *Journal's* Washington special says: Senator Logan requests your correspondent to contradict the story that he said possibly Robert Lincoln would go into the Cabinet as Secretary of War. Gen. Logan says he hopes Lincoln will go into the Cabinet, and the war office would be the place for him, but he does not know he is to be appointed.

A gentleman whose opportunities for absolute knowledge are unquestioned, and who has recently been at Mentor, says: The above is the wildest guessing. He strikes from the above the name of Folger, Goff, Howe and Davis. He says Conkling will have to take a back seat in this administration and Blaine will be the dominant factor, that Robert Lincoln will undoubtedly get a portfolio, that Folger has no showing and that California may yet get recognition. Above all, he says, Garfield is so closemouthed that not one of the news-mongers has been able to pump him and he is so discreet that nobody feels injured by his reticence.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

The powder magazine at Cork has been forcibly entered and powder stolen.

Snowing hard again in New York with indications that the snow will turn to rain.

James M. Ray, one of the oldest residents of Indianapolis, died last night, aged 81.

The local administration bill in the German Reichstag has been shelved for this session.

The rumor that Ayoub Khan has declared war against the Ameer of Afghanistan is candid.

The New York *Post* says: The U. S. assistant Treasurer has received no orders to buy bonds.

It is rumored the government will interfere with the Parnell demonstration at Cork, on Sunday.

A farmer was shot dead near Buteraut, County of Cork, yesterday, in consequence of a land dispute.

Several private dispatches from Columbus, announce certainly that Foster will be Postmaster-General.

Many Sligor farmers who refused to pay rents higher than Griffiths' valuation, are hastening to pay the landlords their terms.

The question of the evacuation of Candahar will be shortly passed in the British House of Lords. An exciting debate is anticipated.

Nineteen prisoners charged with conspiracy to murder the European residents of Kalapore have been found guilty. Sentence deferred.

Fifty families leave Canada next week by special train for Dakota. The exodus to the United States is rapidly decreasing the population in the Dominion.

The home rule members of the Commons are determined to exhaust the sittings to-day and to-morrow, with amendments to the protection bills.

The thirty-fifth ballot at Harrisburg, for United States Senator, resulted in the formal election of John J. Mitchell. The vote was Mitchell 150, Wallace 92, Macrugh 1, Brewster, 1.

Gambetta, in a speech yesterday, said he would impose on himself a certain reserve, until a day when the country might think fit to designate him plainly to fill another role. The *Temps* infers that he will not refuse the premiership.

Mitchell, the new Pennsylvania Senator has always been hostile to the Cameron machine. He is a great student, made no money in politics, has a clear record, is a stalwart Saxon in appearance, and will

be the handsomest man in the new Senate.

The conference of ministerial representatives of the colony of Australia, which commenced on the 7th ult., terminated on the 27th. It agreed to a resolution that warrants issued in one colony for the arrest of offenders, also wife deserter, shall be in operation in all.

In the Commons, Gladstone gave notice of the consideration of the bill for the better protection of person and property in Ireland. If the amendments were not concluded to-day he would move to have all the amendments put forthwith at 7 o'clock to-morrow evening, and immediately afterwards to commence debate on the third reading of the bill.

[For the DESERET NEWS.]

MORMON POLYGAMY FROM A PHILOSOPHICAL STAND-POINT.

The unlawful act of Governor Murray in giving a certificate to Campbell, the very small minority candidate for Delegate to Congress, has drawn the attention of the press generally throughout the United States to Utah and the Mormons. In those references one is forcibly struck with the flippancy with which polygamy is alluded to, with the *a priori* conclusions of its evil effects, with the variety of means suggested for its extermination, with the apparent purity of society in general, and the impurity of the Mormons in particular. It is also curious to notice the wild, incoherent and primitive views entertained by (perhaps otherwise intelligent) men who ostentatiously pride themselves in being emancipated from the superstitions of the past and in being no longer influenced by them.

Nearly all these writers claim that polygamy is bad because it is in opposition to law, the religion of the Christian world, its morality and physical and social well-being.

Truth is eternal, being co-existent with space, matter and Deity itself, and as such is the very essence of life. By it then let the foregoing assertions be judged, and if they stand the test, let us forsake polygamy; if contrariwise, let such divest their minds of all their preconceived erroneous ideas and look at it candidly, fairly and squarely. And in order that we may look at it harmoniously, let us define the terms good and bad.

That definition given by an eminent philosopher is probably as correct as any that can be given, which is that a thing is either good or bad according as it conduces to and subserves life or as it hinders or destroys it.

Those who apply the religious test to polygamy are the most clamorous, use the most epithets and are so inconsistent that before we shall endeavor to enlighten, we must enjoin them to study the Bible and think of those worthies which they hold up as bright examples, such as Abraham, Jacob, David, Solomon and a host of others.

Whether polygamy is against morality is such a complex question, involving as it does the whole ethical code, that we do not purpose to enter into its consideration, particularly when that of physical and social well-being settles this as well as the religious one.

It is asserted that polygamy is wrong because it is practiced in opposition to the law of Congress of 1862 which prohibits and entails penalties upon it. Now perhaps the converse of this may be said with more justice, and it may be that the law in this case is wrong because it prohibits it. The Constitution of the United States is the gauge by which all laws are or should be framed. It is therein expressly stated that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." True, the constitutionality of the said law has been ruled upon by the highest judicial tribunal in the land, and it has been declared to be consonant therewith; but the empirical decisions made perhaps under the influence of prejudice, do not make essentially wrong that which is essentially right, nor false that which is true. It is too late in the day for any legislative body to declare anything criminal which does not endanger the wellbeing of the individual or society.

Polygamy in Utah existed long before the passage of the law against it, therefore it is not against the law,

but the law against it. This is a factor which seems to be ignored altogether by our opponents and one which gives a favorable instead of unfavorable view. It is a fact that none can deny, that polygamy is a most important and integral establishment of the religion of the Latter-day Saints, and this being the case, any law of the United States framed against is clearly unconstitutional, in so far as we are concerned; and the enforcement of such a law is an act of persecution which history clearly informs us is calculated to perpetuate in lieu of annihilating. There are other phases to this question, but this will suffice for any candid minded person.

Now let us look at the most important assertion that polygamy is opposed to physical and social well-being. Society can be said to be in its highest state when it brings the greatest totality of life in self, offspring and fellow-man; and in general terms conduct should be such as to conduce to the preservation of the individual, family and society. Excess or defect in the individual causes disorder, deranges the functions bodily and mental, and entails weakness on the progeny. If polygamy as practised by the "Mormons" is an excess or defect physically, for it certainly is an excess or defect, or it is not. Taking the affirmative then, it is in opposition to the above rule; if the negative, then it is in harmony with the laws of life, and as such is worthy of the countenance, at least, of every intelligent being.

The great majority of earth's inhabitants have been polygamous from time immemorial and are unto this day. This may be a startling declaration for some, but it is never the less true. Now excess or defect brings disorder, and if polygamy is such we should have, by this time at least, the earth very sparsely inhabited, by a race of puny, weakly beings, if any at all were left. The evidence on this subject taken from the effects of "Mormon" polygamy indubitably show that it is in harmony with life. Look at their children and deny it if you can? What can we say about polygamy endangering life when we daily meet boys, resultants of such unions, weighing over 200 pounds and their parents perhaps not over 150. We speak of a thing as good or bad according as it is ill or well adapted to achieve the end in view. The great end of life in man is perpetuation, for without this all other means of happiness fail. If polygamy does this to the greatest extent then it is good and true, and it is useless for even 50,000,000 to fight it, for sooner or later they must succumb; if it is bad, prospective legislation is useless, it will die a natural death and the 50,000,000 need have no fear of being contaminated by 150,000, they can afford to be generous.

Let our Senators and Representatives, our philosophers, our intelligent men consider this, ere any coercive measure (truly a relic of barbarism) is advocated or adopted toward those 150,000 industrious, peaceable and truly moral people; let them, in all their deliberations upon this point, bear in mind the aphorism above enunciated, that the conduct of all men should be such as to conduce to the preservation of the individual, family and society and not to its destruction or annihilation; let them remember that the true deterrent of evil does not lay in representations of fines and imprisonments, but in moral precepts and examples. Get the mind of the individual and you have him mind and body. Cease the hue and cry about loyalty for it is coeval with the ghost story.

In the meantime the "Mormons" will remember that "the dogmas of one age are often the heresies of the next;" that the youth on whom diligence is enjoined turns out to be the man of business so absorbed in labor that he cannot be induced to relax; that their worst enemies are the religious bigot and the canting hypocrite; that therefore the opposition is weak and stands on a sandy foundation; that their ultimate triumph is sure and certain and near at hand, for history repeats itself, coming events cast their shadows before them, and truth is mighty and will prevail.

WILLIAM R. MAY.

Nephi, Feb. 10, 1881.

Negro laborers in the tobacco belt, Va., are forming a league which prohibits members from hiring to white planters, the object being to force land-owners to work tracts on shares.

HYRUM SMITH'S BIRTHDAY.

NORTH OGDEN, FEB. 12, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

To celebrate the anniversary the birth of Hyrum Smith, the R. S. gave a social reunion party at the Hot Spring school house Feb. 9th. The exercises commenced twenty minutes to six, and concluded at fifteen minutes past two o'clock.

During the evening a song, composed for the occasion, by Mrs. M. A. Cragun, was sung by herself and others; also a number of other songs. A recitation "The Assassination of Joseph and Hyrum Smith" was given by Miss Jennetta Ferris.

A few very appropriate remarks were made by Bishop Amos M. Cook, in which he spoke of the Patriarch Joseph being linked to the Prophet Joseph by the ties of affection and religion.

During intermission all partook a good picnic. The efficient manner in which the house was decorated, was very appropriate for the occasion. At the head of the hall the inscription worked in large letters on a field of blue, TO COMMEMORATE THE BIRTH OF THE PATRIARCH HYRUM SMITH, born Feb. 9th, 1800. Martyred June 27th, 1844. At the sides of this were the photographs of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, R. S. Snow, George Washington and other prominent characters, covering the entire north end of the room. The remaining sides and end were decorated with appropriate mottoes, pictures and emblems.

The whole presented a fascinating scene, and one long to be remembered by the Saints who participated therein. The whole was conducted by the sisters, and was well worth of praise and imitation.

BEGINNER.

Correspondence.

LODI,
Montgomery County,
Mississippi,
Feb. 8, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

There is quite an extensive field for missionaries in this State, as the greatest portion has not been visited by any of our elders for many years and a Mormon elder seems to cause a feeling of curiosity to enter into the minds of the people, who have never seen nor heard the principles of our doctrines explained. Great many seem to be disappointed when they have heard the articles of our faith and doctrine explained, they seem to teach something other than Bible doctrines.

The minds of the people generally are so prejudiced against us by untruthful stories that are set afloat by our enemies, that they are afraid to investigate for themselves into the principles of the gospel of Christ.

And as their reverend divines have got such a hold on the minds of the people, it seems hard to be loose from their grasp. But one, once in a while, will break bands of prejudice, and investigate for themselves the truth of God's work, and when they begin to see the Scriptures for themselves they will generally come forward and obey the gospel.

We have had some true friends in this State, who do all in their power to accommodate us, and are interested in the spreading of truth. We have got good openings up to us in Springport, La. County, and Lodi, Montgomery County, and Brothers Price, Banks are trying all they can to open up a place in Corona, La. County, and Dallas, Pontotoc County. They have held four meetings in Corona, and are beginning to meet in opposition. We claim as a woman that some are investigating principles of the gospel, for we some begin to hunt after truth, the devil begins to exert his power against them.

Brother E. W. McBride, who arrived in this State from Utah Jan. 30th, 1881, commenced with will and a determination to correct error. He and I are laboring together. We held a meeting at Mount Vernon, Sumner County, last Sunday, 6th, the first held there, and out an appointment for another meeting on Sunday, Feb. 20th, the same place. The brethren in this State are all well.

Ever praying for all in the land of truth, your brother in the land of the covenant.

WM. THOMSON, JR.