

Local and Other Matters.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 11.

THE REYNOLDS TRIAL.

A Verdict of Guilty.

When the prosecution closed yesterday President D. H. Wells was recalled to the stand, by the defense, for the purpose of proving that polygamy, with which the defendant is charged, is a doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which defendant is a member.

The testimony of this witness, as brought out by the interrogatories of the defense, prosecution, Court and a juror, was to the effect that he, witness, had been a member of the Church aforesaid since 1839. Plural marriage was a doctrine of the Church and Kingdom of God, given by the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith, for the continuation of the lives connected with the pre-existence of the spirits of mankind, and for the exaltation of the faithful in the world to come. It was connected with the principle of eternal increase, and the promise that to the increase of the righteous there would be no end, while the wicked would come to a full stop. It was revealed for the eternal salvation and exaltation of man in the future, and to correct numerous existing evils of the present. A woman was a jewel in the crown of man, and children in that of a woman, man being the head of the woman as Christ was the head of the church. Plural marriage carried out in its intent and purpose, would cure the social evil, and was as far above the latter as the heavens were above the earth, and as superior as light to darkness. The existing state of society in the world generally fostered a condition for men to corrupt women and cast them aside. The revelation made it an imperative duty to take them, make wives of them and preserve and not destroy life.

It was a doctrine of the church that when male members came to a thorough understanding of the revelation on and principle of plural or celestial marriage, and other circumstances being favorable, if they failed to obey it they would be under condemnation, and would be clipped in their glory in the world to come. The circumstances that would excuse a person would be physical incapacity and the like. The revelation says that they to whom this revelation shall come and who can and will not obey it shall be damned. The doctrine was enjoined upon all male members of the Church whose circumstances were favorable to their taking a plurality of wives. Damnation did not consist of the infliction of pains, but of being debarred the enjoyment of blessings through not being valiant for the truth, except it might be in the case of the sons of perdition, who were those who had advanced in the things of God and then turned against them. Damnation or hell, in the sense as understood by the church, did not consist of fire and brimstone.

The church was organized in 1830; the revelation on polygamy, was first published in 1852 or 1853, in this Territory. Joseph Smith was the founder of the church; he was murdered by a mob on June 27th, 1844. The revelation on celestial marriage was given through him from the Lord in 1842 or 1843. The doctrine was practised before it was made generally public to the church.

Witness knew the defendant as a member of the church since 1864. Knew he had accepted the doctrine in question as a portion of his faith, and if there was a man more sincere than another he believed Geo. Reynolds to be that man. Witness performed a marriage ceremony consistent with that doctrine between the defendant and Amelia Jane Schofield, and that the reputed first wife of defendant was present on the occasion. Understood defendant to enter into the relation of plural marriage consistently with his religious faith.

In answer to the prosecution witness said that he knew that celestial marriage, as revealed through Joseph Smith from the Lord, was from heaven. He had borne testimony to it a great many times, and his knowledge came by the ministrations of the Holy Ghost, which spoke with the still small voice to his spirit.

It was the privilege of all to have this knowledge, but with some it was probably a matter of faith only.

The only explanation that could be given of the manner of the Holy Ghost communicating knowledge to him was that it spoke to his whole being.

Before a person could take a second wife it was necessary for him to have the sanction of the Church authorities.

In answer to a question by Lucien Livingston, a juror, witness said the way he knew it was the Holy Ghost and not an evil spirit that testified to him was that there being "a light that lighteth every man that is born into the world, and the spirit of God giveth it understanding," and by that light he was able to discern that it was the Holy Ghost and not an evil spirit. It was not a matter of belief, but of knowledge, and those who wanted to gain it could do so by being obedient.

There were more than one God, but to us there was but one God, that was God the Father of Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ being the son of his Father, was God also, or, at least had the power to become so, which power would also be given to the faithful and righteous among men who received the revelations of the Lord in this life and carried them out, mankind being the children of God, and, if faithful, therefore his heirs and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

Orson Pratt and John Nicholson were sworn for the defense.

Orson Pratt was next called to the stand for the defense. His testimony was similar in substance to that of Mayor Wells, he also testifying that he knew, by the revelations of the Holy Ghost, that Joseph Smith, the man through whom the Lord revealed the doctrine of celestial marriage, was a prophet of God, that he knew it because this knowledge was one of the signs promised to follow the believer, as were also healing the sick, visions, &c., which things he had seen done by Mr. Smith.

John Nicholson was the next witness. He was a member of the Church. Knew the defendant to be a member of the same organization. Became acquainted with him in England over twelve years ago, and had been intimate with him there about two years and in this country about ten. Defendant was an Elder and a seventy in the Church. Was familiar with his views on plural marriage and had heard him preach in favor of that doctrine. He knew him to be a practical polygamist, and that in the estimation of witness, an honest man to his convictions of right did not exist. Witness was acquainted with defendant's two wives, Mary Ann and Amelia Jane Reynolds.

Bishop John Sharp was sworn for the defense. He was well acquainted with George Reynolds, and sometime previous to Aug 3rd, 1874, he had, in his official capacity, as Bishop of the 20th Ward, given defendant a certificate to the effect that he was worthy of being permitted to take a second wife.

Mr. Carey, the prosecuting attorney, here moved to strike out the evidence given by some of the witnesses for the defense; motion overruled by the Court.

The District Attorney briefly addressed the jury on the part of the United States, and was followed for the defendant by Messrs. Williams and Rawlins, whose arguments were intended to show that the main and essential element to be considered before the guilt or innocence of a party on trial was passed upon was the criminal intent on the part of the individual in committing any act with which he may be charged; that the defendant in the present case had not the slightest intent of that kind, but was impelled to act as he did under a potent and overwhelming religious conviction that if he did not do as he did there awaited him an eternity of condemnation; that polygamy was not a crime, only as it was made so by statutory enactment; that it was a religious practice, and that the constitution guaranteed religious freedom to all.

Mr. Carey replied briefly to the arguments of counsel for the defense, after which the Court delivered its charge to the jury.

The jury retired about half past four in the afternoon, and, after being out about two hours, returned with the following verdict—

"The United States vs. George Reynolds. We, the jurors in the above entitled cause, find the defendant guilty as charged in the in-

dictment, and recommend him to the mercy of the Court.

"HENRY SIMONS,

"Foreman.

"Jury Room, Third District Court, December 10th, 1875."

Defendant's counsel asked for a stay of judgment for ten days to give time for the necessary steps towards an appeal, which was granted.

The defendant was turned over to the custody of the U. S. Marshal, who released him on his own recognizances.

FROM MONDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 13.

Runaway.—On Saturday as Henry Bird was driving near Mr. Schettler's residence, 20th Ward, his team ran away. The clevis pin came out, causing the tongue to drop. The horses commenced kicking furiously and the wagon was toppled over and the team stopped. A young woman named Emma Hansen and young Bird were both summarily thrown out of the wagon, but neither of them was hurt.

Bitten by a Dog.—On Saturday, a little daughter of James Coult, of the 11th Ward, was badly bitten in the leg, near the knee joint, by a dog, near the residence of her grandfather, in the 9th Ward. The owners of vicious dogs should either chain them up or exterminate them. There have been several cases of parties being bitten by dogs lately, and in almost every instance the canine should be deprived of another chance to do the same thing again.

In Jail.—"Ben" Tasker is in jail. He appealed three cases of petit larceny, which had been decided against him by the Justice's Court, to the District Court. The latter set the appeal aside and ordered the Justice to proceed, and that procedure brings Tasker up in the chain gang, unless he shall pay \$150 and the costs of the three cases. Should the fines remain unpaid the stock on the range will be able to rest securely for a while, so far as "Ben" is concerned.

An Honest Lad.—On Thursday last a gentleman called at this office and informed us that he had the misfortune to lose a purse containing \$40 and an order for four tons of coal. On Friday James D. Decker, a fourteen year old son of Isaac and Hannah Decker, called at the office with the purse and contents, which he had found, and was desirous of discovering the owner with a view to returning the property to him. He is an honest lad, and, as such, has the fundamental material in him for a sterling man.

The News from Beaver.—Considerable interest will be created by the dispatch, in another column, concerning court proceedings at Beaver. We understand the statements of our correspondent to be based on a report of the grand jury in the Second Judicial District Court. There appear, from the representations in the dispatch, to be some serious discrepancies in the Marshal's accounts, but it is to be hoped that these discrepancies are only apparent, and that he will be able to explain them satisfactorily.

District Court.—Monday, Dec. 12th.

The People, &c., vs. W. W. Hardwick, forgery.

This day came the People, &c., by the District attorney, and the defendant in his own proper person, who, being arraigned in open court, pleads not guilty. Thereupon comes a jury who were duly empaneled and sworn to try the case—

Charles Read, Lucien Livingston, James Eardley, T. R. Jones, James McGuffey, B. I. Cummings, Emanuel Kahn, Warren F. Reynolds, David Evans, P. H. Laonan, John Reading, George F. Prescott.

Witnesses, Thos. Taylor, Robert Howarth, L. J. Peterson, Ed. Gilmore.

The Court instructed the jury that the prosecution had not made out a case of forgery, and they bring in a verdict in accordance with this charge.

Verdict.—"We, the jury in the above entitled cause, find the defendant guilty, as charged in the indictment."

Verdict set aside by the Court.

The People, etc., vs. James O'Brien, F. Curtis, and Alber Wilson, larceny.

Having been previously arraigned and pleaded not guilty, came a jury, etc., as follows—John W. Snell, B. F. Dewey, Henry Simons,

F. Armstrong, Allen T. Riley, James Johnson, Nathan J. Lang, F. Ciesler, T. W. Ireland, Ed. L. Butterfield, Homer Brown, John Tingey, James Van Tassel, Samuel Woodward, S. J. Lees.

Witnesses, Jonathan C. Royle, Clara Morrell, W. G. Phillips. For the defense, Charles Rich, Joseph Phelps.

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, 8.—A large number of memorials were presented and laid upon the table.

The following are the Senate committees.

On privileges and elections, Morton chairman, Logan, Mitchell, Wadleigh, Cameron, of Wis., McMillan, Salisbury, Merriman, and Cooper.

Foreign relations, Cameron, of Pa., chairman, Morton, Hamlin, Howe, Frelinghuysen, Conkling, McCreery, Bogy and Eaton.

Finance, Sherman chairman, Morrill of Vt., Ferry, Frelinghuysen, Logan, Boutwell, Jones, of Nev., Bayard and Kernan.

Appropriations, Morrill, of Me., chairman, Windom, West, Sargent, Allison, Dorsey, Davis, Wither and Wallace.

Commerce, Conkling chairman, Spencer, Boutwell, Cameron, of Wis., Burnside, McMillan, Ransom, Dennis and McDonald.

Manufactures, Robertson chairman, Booth, Bruce, English and Wallace.

Agriculture, Frelinghuysen chairman, Robertson, Harvey, Davis and Jordan.

Military affairs, Logan chairman, Cameron, of Pa., Spencer, Clayton, Wadleigh, Burnside, Gordon, Randolph and Cockerell.

Naval affairs, Cragin, chairman, Anthony, Morrill, of Me., Sargent, Conover, Norwood and Whyte.

Judiciary, Edmunds chairman, Conkling, Frelinghuysen, Wright, Howe, Thurman and Stevenson.

Post offices and post roads, Hamlin chairman, Ferry, Dorsey, Jones, of Nev., Dawes, Paddock, Salisbury and Mackey.

Public lands, Oglesby chairman, Windom, Harvey, Hamilton, Paddock, Booth, Kelly, McDonald and Jones, of Fla.

Private land claims, Thurman chairman, Bayard, Bogy, Edmunds and Christianity.

Indian affairs, Allison chairman, Oglesby, Morrill of Me., Ingalls, Clayton, Bogy and McCreery.

Pensions, Ingalls chairman, Allison, Hamilton, Booth, Bruce, McDonald and Withers.

Revolutionary claims, Stevenson chairman, Johnston, Goldthwaite, Morrill, of Vt. and Wright.

Claims, Wright chairman, Mitchell, Wadleigh, Christianity, McMillan, Cameron, of Wis., Caperton, Cockerill and Jones, of Fla.

District of Columbia, Spencer chairman, Hitchcock, Dorsey, Ingalls, Robertson, Merriam and English.

Patents, Wadleigh chairman, Windom, Dawes, Johnston and Kernan.

Public Buildings and Grounds, Merrill, of Vt., chairman, Cameron, of Pa., Paddock, Cooper and Whyte.

Territories, Hitchcock chairman, Cragin, Patterson, Christianity, Sharon, Cooper and Mackey.

Railroads, West chairman, Hitchcock, Cragin, Howe, Hamilton, Mitchell, Dawes, Ransom, Kelley and Caperton.

Mines and Mining, Sargent chairman, Hamlin, Alcorn, Harvey, Sharon, Goldthwaite and Randolph.

Revision of the Laws of the U. S., Boutwell chairman, Alcorn, Christianity, Caperton and Wallace.

Education and Labor, Patterson chairman, Morton, Morrill, of Vt., Burnside, Bruce, Sharon, Gordon, Mackey and Keys.

Civil Service and Retrenchment, Clayton chairman, Wright, Oglesby, Alcorn, Patterson, McCreery and Randolph.

Audit and control of contingent expenses of Senate, Jones of Nev., chairman, Dawes and Dennis.

Printing, Anthony chairman, Sherman and Salisbury.

Library, Howe chairman, Edmunds and Ransom.

Rules, Ferry chairman, Hamlin and Merriman.

Engrossed Bills, Bayard chairman, Withers and Anthony.

Enrolled Bills, Conover chairman, Roberts and Kelly.

On the Levees of the Mississippi river, Alcorn chairman, Clayton, Harvey, Cooper and Cockerill.

To examine the several branches of the civil service, Boutwell chairman, Conkling, Allison, Merriman and Eaton.

On transportation routes to the seaboard, Windham, chairman, Sherman, West, Conover, Mitchell, Burnside, Norwood, Davis and Johnson.

WASHINGTON, 13.—Anthony presented a memorial signed by 2,325 members of the Society of Friends, of New England, in favor of international arbitration for the settlement of disputes between nations without resorting to arms. In presenting the memorial Anthony said that any measure looking to the settlement of disputes without resorting to arms was in the interest of humanity; referred to the committee on foreign relations.

Sargent introduced a bill to protect persons of foreign birth against forcible restraint or involuntary servitude; referred to the judiciary committee.

Davis submitted a resolution citing the law requiring reports to be made to Congress annually, of persons indebted to the government, with a list of defaulters, the amount of defalcation, &c., and calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury to inform the Senate why such reports have not been made. In submitting the resolution Davis said that no report had been made since 1865, and he believed that an immense sum was due the government by defaulters. It was stated last year, when a similar resolution was offered, that it would cost \$75,000 and would require several months, to furnish the list of defaulters, the amounts involved, &c.

Morrill, of Vt., submitted a resolution instructing the committee on foreign affairs to inquire into the expediency of providing by a general law for the extradition of fugitives from justice, and also the propriety of refusing an asylum to fugitive criminals and removing them from the country, he thought we could raise up enough of our own; the resolution was agreed to.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, 10.—After the reading of the journal the oath was administered to the Chaplain and to Egbert, who was absent on Monday.

On motion of Gibson a resolution was adopted, adding to the committees of the House, a committee of eleven, to be known as the Committee on the Mississippi Levees.

Hopkins offered a resolution that so much of the message of the President as relates to the Centennial be referred to a select committee of thirteen.

A point of order having been made that the message had already been referred to a committee of the whole, and was not in possession of the House, the resolution, by unanimous consent, was finally adopted.

AMERICAN.

NEW ORLEANS, 8.—Robert A. Watt, a well known citizen, has preferred a charge against Col. Fred. Meyer, supervisor of internal revenue in this district, alleging that that officer has, for some time, been cognizant of frauds upon the U. S. Government by the St. Louis Gas Co., and has failed to take proper action or to report the fact to his superior officer. The main feature is the allegation that the company have made and sold to consumers, during a number of years, a much greater quantity of gas than they reported to the revenue collector, thus defrauding the government of large sums in the way of taxes. The charges were presented to U. S. Commissioner Enos Clarke, and were by him referred to U. S. District Attorney Dyer.

WASHINGTON, 8.—Kelley's bill for the sale of timberlands is a copy of the bill passed by the House last Congress, authorizing any one person or association to purchase at \$1.25 per acre, 160 acres of timberland in California and Oregon, or Washington Territory, or forty acres in any other territory.

The Secretary of the Interior has rejected the claim of \$180,000 of Van and Adair, on account of services as attorneys for the Osage Indians, on the ground that they have already received full compensation, and that the practice of attempting to protect the Indians through attorneys at the expense of the Indians is a vicious one.

NEW YORK, 8.—The coroner's jury in the case of Sarah Conkling, a school girl who was murdered at Rutland, brought in a verdict.