

BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN.

LONDON, Ont., 14.—The jury find the capsizing of the steamer *Victoria* was from water in the hold, which probably leaked in through a hole made by a stone or snag. The boiler was not securely fastened and the stanchions supporting the upper decks were too slender. The engineer was grossly negligent in not telling the Captain of the dangerous condition of the boat. The captain is blamed for being wheelman and captain, having to little time for both positions, and is blamed for not properly examining the boat before leaving Spring Bank. The manager failed in his duty in not employing enough hands for the boat, and in not having it inspected, and the government inspectors are to blame for passing a boat which was unfit to carry a large load of passengers. The jury urge the government to be more stringent.

WASHINGTON, 15.—The treasury investigation committee to-day submitted a preliminary report to Secretary Windom, of evidence found against the custodian's department. The committee report that they found a regularly organized ring, which had been in existence for several years, and been misappropriating money and defrauding the government. The officials and employees who are connected with the ring, will be dismissed at once, and a more complete and thorough investigation will be ordered. All facts heretofore reported in the Western Associated Press dispatches relating to the selling of carpets and other frauds of the ring, are reported by the committee.

ALBANY, 14.—In the afternoon Senator Sessions testified he was an expert in promoting the interest of candidates. He knew the evening before Bradley's disclosure what was coming. It was rumored on the street. He did not attempt to see Bradley about it. Was once a witness in a bribery case in the senate in which he had acted as counsel for the payee, or it might be called a lobbyist. Paid no money to anybody to vote for the measure. Was a lobbyist 6 or 7 years off and on, advocating such bills for adjournment as he was paid for advocating. He denied being intimate with Winans when he left the republican party and went over to the democrats and lost control of the house to the republicans. Knew Forsythe, of Troy, and got \$1,000 to oppose the Albany bridge bill; had assisted in Washington in one or two little matters, but never divided the pay he got. Went up to Woodin's room after leaving Bradley in the Delevan house; told the caucus June 8th that he had secured a vote. Witness thought he had secured Bradley to vote for Depew, as Bradley said witness would not be disappointed in his vote. Witness was surprised when Bradley voted for Conkling and Platt. Never had any reason to believe Bradley corruptible. Adjourned.

Senator Sessions testified he knew of no legislator receiving a vote in any legislature. Had no theory as to where legislators could be influenced. Had no reason to believe Bradley could be influenced by money or that he was dishonest; believed him honest. When he first talked with Bradley the latter said, "maybe you won't be disappointed in my final vote," which witness construed to mean Bradley was now voting to please some Grant men in his district and would finally vote for Depew. He did not know that Barbarer with whom he had several talks in Woodin's room was in the pay of the Central Railroad and never heard anything of the Central Railroad in his room. Had seen several games of cards played in his room for 25 cent raise. Couldn't swear to seeing Depew in Barbarer's room since May 29th. Had bought some stocks this year through Spencer Trask & Co. Did not know Depew kept an account there.

BURLINGAME, 15.—The cyclone in this county was more serious than telegraphed from Topeka. The cyclone first formed between Avonia and Olivet and then passed northwest, going out of the county in the direction of Pomeroy, Franklin County. In its course it killed five people, including John Rosencranz, John Harper, a man named Brown, two colored children and a person whose name has not yet been learned. The houses of the following persons were destroyed: F. Dexter, J. Rugby, Theo. Bence, Findlay Thompson, K. Thompkins, Philip Fine, sen., Philip Fine, jr., Wm.

Pickett, Jos. Pickett, J. E. Manly, J. W. Sargent, I. E. Marshall, two houses, E. L. Marshall, two houses, J. C. Rankens, tenement houses, W. Vanderslyce, Andrew Wood, J. Wiley, Mrs. Wells, W. Merriwether, N. E. Young, — Myers, H. L. Powell, Mr. Brown, Phillip Lotta, David Duffield, John Rosencranz, E. T. Martin, John Collyer, J. W. Buner, Jessie Lee, Mr. Calkins, Mr. Bartram, John Harper, J. Riggins, and undoubtedly many others. They were all farm houses in an old settled county, many of them fine residences. At Quenemo the Presbyterian church was destroyed and one other building. Of the first 27 buildings enumerated a majority were upon the opposite road leading from the west into Quenemo. The people were absent attending the Sunday schools which accounts for the saving of life. The large number badly hurt were citizens in the buildings. The uninjured turned out and all were comfortably cared for. The loss of property is enormous, but cannot be safely estimated. For 15 miles in the most densely settled and best part of O-age County, the cyclone cut a swath of desolation and death. Entire farms were stripped of buildings, cattle and much of vegetation. At one place only a piece of tire a foot long, and a hub, was left of a wagon.

MORMONISM.

Authentic Account of the Origin of this Sect from one of the Patriarchs.

DISCOVERY OF THE PLATES.

And the Translation of the Book of Mormon.

(From the Kansas City Journal, June 5, 1881.)

In view of the large Mormon immigration that is now pouring into this county, and also in view of the difficulties that have heretofore existed between that sect and the people of Jackson County, the *Journal* has taken the trouble to ascertain the facts as to the origin of the sect, as well as the history of their expulsion from Jackson County in 1833.

The translation of the Book is said to have been witnessed by eleven persons, as follows: Martin Harris, David Whitmer, Oliver Cowdery, Christian Whitmer, Hiram Page, Jacob Whitmer, Joseph Smith, sr., Peter Whitmer, jr., John Whitmer, Hyrum Smith, and Samuel H. Smith, all of whom except David Whitmer are long since dead. David Whitmer,

THE ONLY LIVING WITNESS,

has resided since 1838 in Richmond, Ray County, Mo., and the *Journal* dispatched a reporter to Richmond, to interview the "last of the eleven."

The reporter called at the residence of Mr. Whitmer and found the patriarch resting in an invalid's chair looking very pale and feeble, he having but just recovered from a long and severe illness. In person, he is about medium height, of massive frame, though not at all corpulent, his shoulders slightly bent as with the weight of years. His manly, benevolent face was closely shaven, his hair snow white, and his whole appearance denoted one of nature's noblemen. The education acquired during his boyhood days and his long life devoted to study and thought, have stored his mind with a vast fund of information.

After introducing himself, the reporter opened the conversation as follows:

"Mr. Whitmer, knowing that you are the only living witness to the translation of the Book of Mormon and also that you were a resident of Jackson County during the Mormon troubles in 1833, I have been sent to you by the *Journal* to get from your lips

THE TRUE STATEMENT OF FACTS in regard to these matters. For nearly half a century the world has had but one side only, and it is now our desire to present to our readers for the first time the other side."

"Young man, you are right. I am the only living witness to the Book of Mormon, but I have been imposed upon and misrepresented so many times by persons claiming to be honorable newspaper men, that I feel a delicacy in allowing my name to come before the public in newspaper print again."

"I am sorry to hear that, but I promise you that we shall only give your statement as you make it, and will not misrepresent you in any manner."

After a few other remarks of the

same tenor the reporter at last induced the patriarch to furnish the desired facts, which he did in the following language:

BIOGRAPHICAL.

"I was born near Harrisburg, Pa., January 7, 1805, but when only four years of age my parents removed to the State of New York, settling at a point midway between the northern extremities of Lakes Cayuga and Seneca, two miles from Waterloo, seven miles from Geneva, and twenty-seven miles from Palmyra, where I lived until the year 1831. In the year 1830 I was married to Miss Julia A. Jolly who is still living. The fruit of our union was a son David J. Whitmer, now aged 48, and a daughter, now Mrs. Julia Schweich, now aged 43 years, both of whom are now living with me. I first heard of what is now termed Mormonism, in the year 1828. I made a business trip to Palmyra, N. Y., and while there stopped with one Oliver Cowdery. A great many people in the neighborhood were talking about the finding of certain golden plates by one Joseph Smith, jr., a young man of the neighborhood. Cowdery and I, as well as many others talked about the matter, but at that time I paid but little attention to it, supposing it to be only

THE IDLE GOSSIP

of the neighborhood. Cowdery said he was acquainted with the Smith family, and he believed there must be some truth in the story of the plates, and that he intended to investigate the matter. I had conversation with several young men, who said that Joseph Smith had certainly golden plates, and that before he had attained them he had promised to share with them, but had not done so, and they were very much incensed with him. Said I, 'How do you know that Joe Smith has the plates?' They replied, 'We saw the plates in the hill that he took them out of, just as he described it to us before he obtained them.' These parties were so positive in their statements that I began to believe there must be some foundation for the stories then in circulation all over that part of the country. I had never seen any of the Smith family up to that time, and I began to inquire of the people in regard to them, and learned that one night during the year 1827, Joseph Smith, jr., had a vision, and an angel of God appeared to him and told him where certain plates were to be found, and pointed out the spot to him, and that shortly afterward he went to that place and found the plates, which were still in his possession. After thinking over the matter for a long time, and talking with Cowdery, who also gave me a history of the finding of the plates, I went home, and after several months Cowdery told me he was going to Harmony, Pa., whither Joseph Smith had gone with the plates on account of the persecutions of his neighbors, and see him about the matter. He did go, and on his way stopped at my father's house and told me that as soon as he found out anything, either

TRUTH OR UNTRUTH.

he would let me know. After he got there he became acquainted with Joseph Smith, and shortly after, wrote to me telling me that he was convinced that Smith had the records, and that he (Smith) had told him that it was the will of heaven that he (Cowdery) should be his scribe to assist in the translation of the plates. He went on and Joseph translated from the plates and he wrote it down. Shortly after this Cowdery wrote me another letter, in which he gave me a few lines of what they had translated, and he assured me that he knew of a certainty that he had a record of a people that inhabited this continent, and that the plates they were translating gave a complete history of these people. When Cowdery wrote me these things, and told me that he had revealed knowledge concerning the truth of them, I showed these letters to my parents, and brothers and sisters. Soon after I received another letter from Cowdery, telling me to come down into Pennsylvania and bring him and Joseph to my father's house, giving as a reason therefor that they had received a commandment from God to that effect. I went down to Harmony and found everything just as they had written me. The next day after I got there they packed up the plates and we proceeded on our journey to my father's house, where we arrived in due time, and the day after we commenced upon the translation of the remainder of the

plates. I, as well as all of my father's family, Smith's wife, Oliver Cowdery, and Martin Harris, were present during the translation. The translation was by Smith, and

THE MANNER AS FOLLOWS:

"He had two small stones of a chocolate color, nearly egg shape and perfectly smooth, but not transparent, called interpreters, which were given him with the plates. He did not use the plates in the translation, but would hold the interpreters to his eyes and cover his face with a hat, excluding all light, and before his eyes would appear what seemed to be parchment, on which would appear the characters of the plates in a line at the top, and immediately below would appear the translation, in English, which Smith would read to his scribe, who wrote it down exactly as it fell from his lips. The scribe would then read the sentence written, and if any mistake had been made the characters would remain visible to Smith until corrected, when they faded from sight to be replaced by another line. The translation at my father's occupied about one month, that is from June 1 to July 1, 1829."

"Were the plates under the immediate control of Smith all the time?"

"No, they were not. I will explain how that was. When Joseph first received the plates he translated 116 pages of the book of 'Lehi,' with Martin Harris as scribe. When this had been completed they rested for a time, and Harris wanted to take the manuscript home with him to show to his family and friends. To this Joseph demurred, but finally

ASKED THE LORD

if Harris might be allowed to take it. The answer was 'No.' Harris teased Joseph for a long time and finally persuaded him to ask the Lord a second time, pledging himself to be responsible for its safe keeping. To this second inquiry the Lord told Joseph, Harris might take the manuscript, which he did, showing it to a great many people, but through some carelessness allowed it to be stolen from him. This incurred the Lord's displeasure, and he sent an angel to Joseph demanding the plates, and until Joseph had thoroughly repented of his transgressions would not allow him to have the use of them again. When Joseph was again allowed to resume the translation the plates were taken care of by a messenger of God, and when Joseph wanted to see the plates this messenger was always at hand. The 116 pages of the book of 'Lehi' which were stolen were never recovered nor would the Lord permit Joseph to make a second translation of it.

"A few months after the translation was completed, that is in the spring of 1830, Joseph had the book published and this (showing a well-worn volume) is a copy of the first edition which I have had in my possession ever since it was printed."

"When did you see the plates?"

"It was in the latter part of June, 1829. Joseph, Oliver Cowdery and myself were together, and the angel showed them to us. We not only saw the plates of the Book of Mormon, but he also showed us the brass plates of the Book of Ether and many others. They were shown to us in this way. Joseph and Oliver and I were

SITTING ON A LOG

when we were overshadowed by a light more glorious than that of the sun. In the midst of this light but a few feet from us appeared a table upon which were many golden plates, also the sword of Laban and the directors. I saw them as plain as I see you now, and distinctly heard the voice of the Lord declaring that the records of the plates of the Book of Mormon were translated by the gift and the power of God."

"Who else saw the plates at this time?"

"No one. Martin Harris, the other witness, saw them the same day and the eight witnesses, Christian Whitmer, Hiram Page, Jacob Whitmer, Joseph Smith Sr., Peter Whitmer, Hyrum Smith, Jno. Whitmer, and Samuel H. Smith saw them next day."

"Did you see the angel?"

"Yes; he stood before us. Our testimony as recorded in the Book of Mormon is absolutely true, just as it is written there."

"Can you describe the plates?"

"They appeared to be of gold, about six by nine inches in size, about as thick as parchment, a great many

in number, and bound together like the leaves of a book by massive rings passing through the back edges. The engraving upon them were very plain and of very curious appearance. Smith made fac similes of some of the plates, and sent them by Martin Harris to Profs. Anson and Mitchell, of New York City, for examination. They pronounced the characters reformed Egyptian, but were unable to read them."

"Did Joseph Smith ever relate to you the circumstance of his

FINDING THE PLATES?"

"Yes; he told me that he found the plates in the early spring of 1823; that during the fall of 1823 he had a vision, an angel appearing to him three times in one night and telling him that there was a record of an ancient people deposited in a hill near his father's house, called by the ancients 'Cumorah,' situated in the township of Manchester, Ontario County, N. Y. The angel pointed out the exact spot, and sometime after he went and found the records or plates deposited in a stone box in the hill just as had been described to him by the angel. It was some little time, however, before the angel would allow Smith to remove the plates from their place of deposit."

"When was the church first established?"

"We had preaching during the time the book was being translated, but our church was not regularly organized until after the book was printed in the winter of 1828-29. The first organization was in Seneca County, New York, under the name of 'The Church of Christ.' The first elders were Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, Hiram Smith, John Whitmer, Peter Whitmer and myself. On the 4th of April, 1830, the church was called together and the elders acknowledged according to the laws of New York. Our instructions from the Lord were to teach nothing except the Old and New Testaments and the Book of Mormon. From that time the church spread abroad and multiplied very rapidly. In the summer of 1830, Parley Pratt, Peter Whitmer and S. Peterson went to Kirtland, O., and established a branch of the church, which grew very fast, and soon after a temple was erected, which is still standing. During the winter of 1830 the same parties went to Independence, Mo., and established a church and purchased very large tracts of land in all parts of Jackson County, as well as a large amount of property in the town of Independence, including the site for a temple. The reason of the emigration to Jackson County was that Smith had received a revelation from God designating Independence as the place of the gathering of Saints together in the latter day. Joseph Smith and Elder Sidney Rigdon, of the Kirtland church, established the church in Jackson County, but soon after returned to Ohio. The temple has never been built at Independence, but the site still remains vacant and the deeds are held by the church, and have no doubt but that at some future day

IT WILL BE BUILT.

About 500 people emigrated from Ohio to Jackson County and the church there increased in number with extraordinary rapidity during the ensuing two years. They lived in peace in Jackson County until early in the summer of 1833, when difficulties arose between the church and citizens of the county. What first occasioned these difficulties I am unable to say, except that the church was composed principally of Eastern and Northern people who were opposed to slavery, and there were among us a few ignorant and simple-minded persons who were continually making boasts of the Jackson County people that they intended to possess the entire county, erect a temple, etc. This course occasioned hard feelings and excited the bitter jealousy of other religious denominations.

"The church at Independence established a newspaper called the *Morning and Evening Star*, which published the revelations and prophecies of Joseph Smith and the doings of the church, which caused a great deal of hard feeling among the citizens. I was at that time living three miles east of Waterloo, and the first intimation I received that the people intended driving us out of the country, was an address between an organized mob of about 80 citizens and about 18 Mormons which occurred at Wilson's station near Big Blue, about the middle