

on his way from Camp Douglas, last Saturday night, about ten o'clock, the ball whizzing past his head. He stated that the party who fired the shot was posted under a shade tree, close to the residence of Mr. B. H. Schettler. This statement is evidently of a piece with the one about the attempted stabbing. We have made enquiries of people residing in that vicinity, but no one can be found who heard the report of the alleged firing.

It is to be hoped that the investigation will be of such an exhaustive and detailed nature as to leave no doubt as to the character of the statements about those alleged attempted assassinations. Should there be any truth in them, however, which scarcely appears possible, then let the guilty parties be hunted up and suffer according to their demerits.

**The Rocky Mountain Locust.**—The Bulletin No. 2 of the United States Entomological Commission is replete with important information on the natural history of the Rocky Mountain locust, and is illustrated so that the young naturalist may begin the study of that branch of entomology with advantage. We understand all our settlements will have copies of this very interesting and instructive little pamphlet sent to the care of the resident presiding officers. It is to be hoped that a large amount of efficient aid will be given to the Central Department, now engaged in collecting data for future guidance as to the best mode of getting rid of the Rocky Mountain locust. Those who may not be familiar with the mode of mailing specimens of the little pests which are now making their appearance in this city, may leave them at the Museum, whence they will be forwarded to Washington.

**Chickening the 'Hoppers.**—In Cache Valley, according to a gentleman who recently passed through that country, they have a novel way of fighting the grasshoppers. Covered wagons are placed on farms where the hoppers are thickest, and each wagon is made the temporary coop of a large flock of chickens, which during the day are let loose and pick up the jumping insects by the millions. At nightfall the chickens roost in the wagons, and are driven to other portions of the farm, let loose again in the morning, and continue daily their destruction of the hoppers. — *Corinne Record, May 31.*

**Gone East.**—The Laramie Sentinel announces that "District Attorney Howard and Bishop Stenhouse" passed there the other day on their way East. "Bishop" Stenhouse is good, but if we know the gentleman—and we think we do—there is as much Bishop about him as there is Cardinal about a bull. — *Corinne Record, May 31.*

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, JUNE 2.

## INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION FABRICATION.

**A Foundationless Sensation—A Villainous Plot to Create Prejudice Against the "Mormons."**

For the purpose of investigating the alleged assassination of Jerome B. Stillson, New York Herald correspondent, Mayor Little, the City Attorney, Chief of Police and others met at the Walker House at 2 o'clock, yesterday afternoon. There was considerable interest in the proceedings, manifested by the presence of a large number of gentlemen, most of whom were non-"Mormons."

Mayor Little was appointed chairman, Messrs. Byron Groo and J. C. Young Secretaries, and George F. Gibbs stenographer.

Mr. Baskin appeared to object to the appointment of Mr. Gibbs, giving no other grounds than that he didn't know him. There being no other stenographer handy, and being given to understand that the reports would be submitted, for approval, to the witnesses before publication, Mr. B. waived his objection.

In reply to a question the chairman stated that he was not there by virtue of his office as Mayor, but to take part in an informal investigation of the subject under consideration.

Mr. James B. McKean expressed his regret that the proceedings were to be extra-judicial, as the oaths

administered would have "no binding force," and there was no power to issue a subpoena for any witness that might be wanted. He thought it might be necessary in order to get a witness named Davidson, who, in his hearing, had asserted he had "heard that shot" which Mr. Stillson asserted had been fired at him.

The Mayor asked Mr. McKean if a notary public had not authority to administer oaths, when the latter replied, he did not wish to be understood as objecting.

Half an hour passed, and Mr. Stillson who had been invited, put in no appearance.

General Bane suggested that a committee be appointed to wait upon him, and tender him a formal invitation.

Hon. Barbour Lewis thought Mr. Stillson could speak the truth as well without a committee as with one.

Mr. C. W. Stayner, notary public, administered the oath to the stenographer, and, subsequently, to each witness who testified.

Mr. Stillson, who was sufficiently under the influence of strong drink for it to be plainly perceptible, arrived, and, by request of Mr. Rawlins, gave a statement of the two alleged attempts to assassinate him.

In brief it was to the effect that, while driving along First South Street, on his way from Camp Douglas, about 11 o'clock on Saturday night, a man, who was standing under a shade tree, near the corner of Pine Street, close to the residence of Mr. B. H. Schettler, fired a shot at him, the ball whizzing past his head. He was a large man, the same he believed who attempted to stab him on Thursday afternoon, at the Walker House. He had been informed by gentlemen that such occurrences were not extraordinary in this Territory.

He then proceeded to relate the alleged attempt at his assassination in the Walker House, at about two o'clock on Thursday afternoon, a substantial account of which, according to his statement was published in yesterday's NEWS. Mr. Pfoutz, his amanuensis, called a short time before the occurrence, and he requested him to leave and return shortly, as he was about to change his clothing. In the interval occurring between the leaving of Mr. Pfoutz and his return, shortly afterwards, the attempt was made, as heretofore described.

Mr. Stillson, by request, was about to proceed to describe the alleged attempted assassination, when Deputy Marshal A. K. Smith objected. Some discussion ensued on the point, the chairman deciding that the description be given.

It was about as follows—A tall, dark, gentlemanly, good-mannered man, black goatee on his chin, dark hair and complexion, plenty of white shirt front, black coat and dark cravat.

Mr. Stillson said that the blow was made with a knife. As the man delivered it he said, "Take that, you handsome son of a b—h," and it was so powerful as to knock him down, rendering him insensible for some time. He exhibited the evidences of the cut. There was a hole, about an inch wide, through the left breast of the vest, also through two photographs, the cut in one of the latter being an inch long, and the other a little longer. He also exhibited a silk handkerchief with several cuts in it, which he said he did not discover until this morning. There was an indentation or bend in the buckle of his suspender and a small hole in the cloth part of it, just above the buckle, and a probe in the shirt front, and a small wound or abrasion on his breast, which was not exhibited. Mr. Stillson sent for Marshal Nelson and Mr. Erb, the latter being lessee of the Walker House, and informed them of what had occurred and also related the circumstances to others. Mr. Stillson said he believed the would-be-assassin escaped at the rear, by the fire escape.

Mr. Stillson then wished to make a statement of another kind, and went on to state that when he came to this Territory he did not suppose that such cowardly attacks upon his life would occur here. He did not wish to be understood to ascribe them to any particular class of the people. He came here as a journalist, to inquire into the true condition of affairs, and had published a part of what he had learned. Some portions of his reports had doubtless been disagreeable to the Mormons. The attacks upon him had been made within

a few blocks of the Lion House. He then alluded to some statements incorporated in an article which appeared in the Salt Lake Herald, reflecting upon himself, which he characterized as mendacious, &c.

Having spoken his piece he subsided, when Mr. McKean again poked in his say about there being no authority to issue a subpoena and the great importance of having the testimony of Mr. Davidson, who "heard that shot."

Mr. Erb testified to having been called for by Mr. Stillson, who made a statement to him that an attempt had been made to assassinate him about 35 minutes past 2 on Thursday. He, in company with Messrs. Johns, McCormick and Walker, examined as to the probability of any person gaining ingress or egress by the fire escape and satisfied himself that no person had done so. Had any strange person gone to or from Mr. Stillson's room by the usual entrance three chambermaids, who were in the hall, would have been likely to have observed him, and a person going out by way of the servants' stairway would have to pass into the steam room, and would be almost sure to be observed.

Mr. McCormick's statement, in relation to the examination of the fire escape, was the same as that of Mr. Erb.

Mr. McKean announced that Mr. Davidson, who "heard that shot," was present and he was next examined. His testimony was that he lived in the 9th Ward, three-quarters of a mile distant from the residence of Mr. B. H. Schettler, and that he heard the report of a gunshot, on Sunday night, the sound appearing to come from the direction of the City Hall.

Emil Preefer, bell boy at the Walker House, did not see any person answering the description given by Mr. Stillson about the hotel that day. He was in the office, at the foot of the stairs, and had any stranger of that kind passed up or down he would have been likely to have seen him.

Dr. Hamilton had seen the injury upon the breast of Mr. Stillson. The spot was small, there being an abrasion of the skin, the flesh around the part being natural. Mr. Stillson complained of soreness when the part was handled.

The three chambermaids, already alluded to, who were sewing in the hall way, at the time the occurrence was alleged to have taken place, were examined. They saw no one but Marshal Nelson, Mr. Erb and the bell boy pass to or from Mr. Stillson's room.

Mr. B. H. Schettler testified that he was, on Saturday night, at his home, at the corner of Pine Street; retired about eleven and went to sleep about half past eleven. Heard no report of a pistol shot, and did not know of any one in that neighborhood who did.

Deputy Marshal A. K. Smith, in answer to a question whether he had any knowledge as to who the party alleged to have made the attacks upon Mr. Stillson was, said he had made a conclusion, intimating that he knew something. His "mind was made up" on the subject and he preferred not to answer.

Marshal Nelson expressed himself in a similar way to that of his deputy, A. K. Smith. He did not know "any thing worth speaking about here." Mr. Stillson made a similar statement to him as he did here.

Dr. Winslow corroborated the statement of Dr. Hamilton, with the exception that the latter scarcely reached his ideas about the size of the wound.

Mr. B. Y. Hampton passed the residence of Mr. Schettler about 11 o'clock on Saturday night, and saw no man lurking around, heard no shot and saw no carriage.

Mr. Pfoutz, amanuensis to Mr. Stillson, corroborated the latter's statement about requesting him to leave the room and return after he had changed his clothing.

City Marshal Burt testified to having sent officers to investigate as to the alleged attempted assassination, and also made personal inquiries in regard to it. Did not know any man answering the description given by Mr. Stillson.

The meeting then adjourned sine die, with an understanding that the stenographer would have his report ready in about one week.

New that the investigation regarding the alleged attempt to assassinate Jerome B. Stillson has been had, it is in order to state the only sensible conclusion that can

be arrived at from the proceedings. Our most emphatic view is that it was a vile plot gotten up by the asid Jerome B. Stillson and perhaps a few others with whom he has lately been associating, to revive an anti-"Mormon" excitement. We therefore state it, as a proposition, that Jerome B. Stillson was not shot at on Saturday night, near the residence of Mr. B. H. Schettler, and that no attempt was made to assassinate him at the Walker House, on Thursday afternoon. This proposition is amply sustained by the evidence given at the investigation, because—

Outside of his own unsupported statements there is not a scintilla of evidence to show that such attempts were ever made.

No person can be found who heard the shot he said was aimed at him on Saturday night, notwithstanding that several families live in close proximity to the spot.

A ridiculous and conspicuously partisan attempt was made by Judge McKean and others to connect that alleged shot with that which Mr. Davidson said he heard on Sunday night, notwithstanding the fact that he lived over three quarters of a mile away, and the connection of the shots would have involved the remarkable phenomenon of the sound taking twenty-four hours in transmission that distance.

If Mr. Stillson is capable of lying about the Saturday night affair he is equally capable of doing the same thing about the alleged occurrence of Thursday. The falsity of the one statement vitiates and annuls the other. He cannot be believed.

The attack at the Walker House is alleged to have taken place in open day, yet not a living soul about the hotel saw any person answering the description given by Stillson. It was demonstrated that no one either came or went by the way Stillson said he believed the man made his exit, and it was the next thing to an impossibility for him to have entered or left by any other way without being observed.

He did not observe that his handkerchief was cut until yesterday, which looks as if he discovered also that the slowness of the wound did not tally with the cuts in his vest and the photographs, for the following reasons—

The cuts alluded to were all of them fully an inch wide, showing that the point had passed a distance of, at the least calculation, from one to two inches beyond the photographs. Between his body and the pictures, even including the fine textured silk handkerchief, there could not have been a resisting obstacle thicker than a quarter of an inch, and therefore that knife would have passed into the flesh from three quarters of an inch to an inch and a quarter. We tell facts, for the cuts on the photographs were measured during the investigation yesterday. There was a dent or bend in the buckle of the suspender, and a perforation of the cloth part above it, yet Mr. Stillson described the blow as given from the raised hand. Can anyone tell how the blade point could have slipped upward under such circumstances? To say the least, it would be a most extraordinary incident. We are perfectly safe in saying that no person of ordinary observational powers can examine the marks and the statement of the sensational victim without seeing the most glaring inconsistency.

There is no consistency either in his supplementary statement, in which he disclaimed any intention of blaming the perpetration of the alleged outrages upon any particular class of the people, and then stating, in the same breath, that some of his published correspondence had doubtless been distasteful to the "Mormons," and that the assaults had been committed within a few blocks of the "Lion House," meaning the residence of President B. Young; at the same time knowing that there were dozens of other residences intervening between it and the places where we assert no attempt ever was made to assassinate him.

There are two persons who, at the investigation, intimated that they knew something in relation to who the attempting assassin is. They are United States Marshal Nelson and Deputy United States Marshal A. K. Smith. We will here state that there are not wanting those who think they do know something about the affair. In making this admission they have taken the load upon their shoulders,

and we say, and it will be endorsed by thousands of others, Marshal Nelson and Deputy Smith, if you know anything about the alleged attempting assassin out with it, let the fellow be known and hunted down. As for Stillson, his statement about the alleged shooting everybody believes to be a lie, and that the alleged stabbing business is on a piece with it, and as Marshal Nelson and Deputy Smith intimate that they know something about the second affair it now rests with them to absolutely prove or disprove Stillson's statement.

The theory of not a few regarding the Walker House affair is that in the intervals between the visits of Mr. Pfoutz Mr. Stillson undressed, which he did, and that he cut through his clothing, etc., and made a slight, very slight abrasion of the skin on his breast. If this was done, then, after dressing, it was in order to send for Marshal Nelson, to hear the recital of the awful deed.

In conclusion we may say that, in our view, this assassination plot will not be likely to answer any particular object, save a salutary one. It will not be likely to either increase credence in the public mind in reference to the New York Herald sensations or strengthen the hands of District Attorney Howard at Washington. It will probably have a reverse tendency. Some of the most rabid anti-"Mormons" in this city, in speaking of the attempted assassination dodge, have expressed themselves emphatically as having not a particle of confidence in it. To use the very language of some, "it is too thin."

The description of the man he says attacked him answers quite nearly to Mr. Stillson himself. Was he the alleged assassin?

**Conference at Leeds.**—The Leeds Conference was held as per announcement on Sunday, May 6th, in the Mechanics' Institute, Bradford, Yorkshire.

There were present on the stand, Albert Carrington, President of the European Mission; W. W. Taylor, President of, and C. D. Evans, Travelling Elder in the Leeds Conference; Wm. Galbraith, President of and Stephen L. Richards, Travelling Elder in the Manchester Conference; and Elder H. W. Naisbitt, from the Liverpool Office. The congregations, afternoon and evening, numbered some five to six hundred, who were very attentive to the speakers, President Carrington and H. W. Naisbitt; the hall is a very compact and pleasant one, much more so than usual, the singing was good, being aided by some three or four instruments, the whole under the leadership of Brother Isaac Dawson, of Bradford. Many of the Saints were present from the surrounding district; these were kindly cared for by the Bradford Saints, who, with their usual hospitality, made their crowding visitors feel quite at home.

A priesthood meeting was held on the morning of the same day, in the Croft Street regular meeting house, during which the statistical reports were presented by the Branch Presidents,—the financial report of the Conference was presented by President W. W. Taylor, the whole being satisfactory and encouraging to those assembled. The authorities were then sustained in the usual manner, and an interesting meeting closed; indeed the Conference was an altogether agreeable one, the day was fine, and everything seemed to conspire to make the occasion such as should be long remembered; one of the local papers gave a good spirited and fair report, another was of the usual type, impregnated with the assumption that "nothing good could come out of Nazareth!"

H. W. N.  
—*Millennial Star.*

**For Provo.**—Presidents B. Young and John W. Young, and a number of members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, left yesterday evening for Provo, for the purpose of holding a special Conference, to last three days, commencing this morning.

**Can He Be Got?**—Mr. James B. McKean wants a judicial functionary, competent to administer a "binding oath" to Mr. Davidson, who "heard that shot," aimed at J. B. Stillson, twenty-four hours after it was fired.

No notaries need apply. The oaths administered by them have "no binding force" and are extra-judicial.