

EVENING NEWS.

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AT FOUR O'CLOCK.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Wednesday, September 28, 1887.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THE Fifty-seventh Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be opened at 10 o'clock on Thursday, October 6th, 1887, in the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City, and will continue until the business necessary to be transacted has been attended to. The officers and members of the Church are respectfully invited to attend.

On Friday evening there will be a general meeting of the Superintendents, Teachers, and all interested in the Sunday Schools.

On Saturday evening there will be a meeting of the Priesthood.

These meetings will commence at 7 o'clock in the evening.

We wish the officers of these organizations to bear these appointments in mind.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
In behalf of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

THE WAY IT STANDS.

THE other day an unfriendly journal published in this city made the following statement:

"The News last evening charged that Chief Justice Kane had, in his court, overruled a decision of the Supreme Court of the Territory. Of course the News did not realize how grave a charge it was making against the Chief Justice, or that the Chief Justice to do an act like that would be a direct violation of his oath of office. A decision of the Supreme Court is the law until it shall be repealed by an equal or higher authority, and Judge Kane's office is the law of the Territory of Utah." The basis for the foregoing assertion was the following paragraph published in a News editorial: "During this week Chief Justice Kane took occasion in the case of Andrew Homer, to reassert the position he took on the question of presumptive cohabitation, as decided in the Territorial Supreme Court in the Snow case. The decision was to the effect that cohabitation with a legal wife was presumed on the merits of relationship, evidence of association being unnecessary. Judge Kane dissented from this view and held that there must be some evidence of association. He has reasserted, in charging a jury, the position he then took, and its soundness is so clear as to be almost self-evident."

It will be difficult to understand by what process that could be construed into charging Judge Kane with having "overruled a decision of the Supreme Court of the Territory." That point needs no comment.

The statement of the News was called forth by the following remarks of Judge Kane (stereographically reported) in his charge to the jury which tried the case of Andrew Homer, indicted for unlawful cohabitation:

"If you believe from the evidence, gentlemen of the jury, that Janina Homer was the lawful wife of Andrew Homer during the time mentioned in the indictment, and at the place mentioned in the indictment, that fact is a strong presumption that she cohabited with him; but it is not conclusive, unless you further believe from the evidence that he claimed her, during the time mentioned, as his wife, and by his language and conduct held her out to the world as such. Therefore if you believe from the evidence that Homer was the lawful wife of the defendant, and that, at the place mentioned in the indictment, the defendant, as he claimed her as his wife, and held her out to the world by his language or conduct as such, or if he visited her or associated with her, the law conclusively presumes that she cohabited with him; and if she was his lawful wife, or if he claimed her as his wife, or if he visited her or associated with her, the law conclusively presumes that she cohabited with him; and if she was his lawful wife, or if he claimed her as his wife, or if he visited her or associated with her, the law conclusively presumes that she cohabited with him."

Without referring directly to the books it does not appear difficult to guess the course of the trial on this subject. It is an accepted thing that the law is progressive. If lower courts were perpetually bound on legal points in cases outside of these in which superior courts have given decisions, progression would in one direction practically cease, as it would shut off a proper way for the law to grow. The higher tribunal could be corrected.

There appears to be two processes by which the corrective method can be reached. One is by a judge of a lower court crossing the record by instructing a jury contrary to a superior court decision. In doing this, the judge blocks the wheels of justice, the party aggrieved being enabled, to make the matter a ground of exception, and thus have it carried up on appeal for review. In this way the higher court, if it finds at originally committed an error, can correct itself, and thus the ends of justice be progressively served.

Take the case in point. Judge Kane evidently considered the decision as presumptive cohabitation bad law. He so expressed himself at the time it was rendered. The evidence favors the idea that his opinion was unchanged. This being the case it would seem to be more in keeping with his oath of office to legally proceed in a manner that would lead to a correction of what he believes to be an error than to let it rest and operate, according to its view, in subversion of the ends of justice.

The other prominent method by which errors committed by higher courts can be corrected is for the party aggrieved when a lower court decides in accordance with a decision which emanated from a superior source, to appeal to the latter. A case in point occurred recently. The Territorial Supreme Court decided in the Yerian case, that the law gave to Justices of the Peace jurisdiction in certain cases of misdemeanor in which the penalty did not exceed imprisonment for six months and a fine of \$200 was excessive; and that the Legislature had no power to make it. In the case of the People vs. Wm. Douglas, of Ogden, charged with battery, the accused was taken before a Justice of the Peace, and a case was demurred to the jurisdiction of the Justice was introduced, but overruled. The case was appealed to the First District Court, which, in accordance with the decision in the Yerian case, sustained the demurrer. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the Territory, the case being very carefully operated by Mr. C. C. Richards,

attorney for the People. The result was that the Court reversed its former decision and held the law to be valid. Lower courts frequently decide contrary to decisions of superior tribunals without being chargeable with a violation of official oath. An instance may be cited. The method adopted by the courts here of segregating a continuous offense into parts and finding a corresponding number of indictments or counts against the same individual, as was done in unlawful cohabitation cases, was contrary to all the decisions on that point ever given by the Supreme Court of the United States. The court itself, in ruling upon the points issue in the Snow case, so stated in substance:

"An object in referring to this subject is simply that we may be properly understood and the truth be clearly elucidated."

THE "VOLUNTEER" AND "THISTLE."

The great contest for supremacy between the "Volunteer" and the "Thistle" has excited interest on both sides of the Atlantic, this being the third attempt on the part of our kinsmen beyond the sea to capture the much-coveted trophy, the America's cup. The first of the three races was sailed yesterday, and was won by the former craft by nineteen minutes and a few seconds. This, in a course of fifty miles as nearly an even contest as possible, and one of them win; in fact, it is a result which indicates that good or bad judgment at some important time, and not superior qualities as a sailing vessel, may have given the honors of the occasion to the "Volunteer."

It is a good thing, and a wise one for nations to be properly and strongly represented on the great common highway. As on land, all the messengers and carriers should not be alike. Some should be for tonnage especially, others for speed, with a view to speed more than anything else, and others again for offensive and defensive purposes. But in the midst of all these, which are mainly useful, we must have a sprinkling that are ornamental in construction and designed for pleasure merely, and such is the "Thistle" which is now on her way to the steamer has almost banished the breeze from the domain of propulsive power on the great craft of the mighty deep; there is no such genuine, easy pleasure connected with breasting the billows on a deck beneath which the monstrous throbs of a mighty engine pulsate and heave and which the powerful gyrations of a propeller send quivering and continuous shocks throughout every joint and bolt of the superstructure. And it requires a skill which is not altogether a mechanical acquirement to so direct one of the elements as to be able to ride safely and serenely over another; there is something of inspiration in the mind which enables man to capture and control what he cannot grasp and wield with his human hands.

We will never, so long as such influences and attractions exist, dispense with a vessel as propelling power. In fact it never has, even on steamers, been entirely dispensed with. Our meaning is that there will always be craft that carry no other motor. The record made by such vessels is one too grand and consequential to permit them to be belost sight of or unused, even if there were no other considerations. It is by means of such a vessel that all the known habitable lands of the globe were brought in communion, and if we now use it for no other purpose than sporting and speculation, it will still be a vigorous reminder of the time when it was our only dependence, and that without its benign aid the continents of the earth might still have been to each other more distant and unknown than are any of the planets in our solar system.

There will always be yachting, because there will always be some means of traversing the waters; and that particular method of sailing is as much a diversion from the prevailing methods of international communication as baseball and lawn tennis are from the daily routine of labor. It is no wonder, therefore, that so much money is spent on swift and elegant yachts, nor that our cousins abroad should have made so many ineffectual efforts to wrest from us the emblem of supremacy.

A DISSENTING OPINION.

A SHORT time since the News contained a ruling of the Circuit Court of California in the application of the Pacific Railroad Investigating Commission for an order to compel Leola Stanford to answer certain questions. That ruling was handed down by Justice Field and concurred in by Judges Sabin and Sawyer, and took the broad ground that a man cannot be compelled to testify regarding his private and confidential business transactions; and furthermore that the act of Congress creating the Commission was unconstitutional. These Judges, composing three-fourths of the Court in banc, made a conclusive settlement of the case, and the Commission had to depart without obtaining the information it sought.

It was intimated at that time by Chairman Patterson of the Investigators, that the opinion of Judge Hoffman, the fourth member of the Circuit Court, when forthcoming would be a dissenting one, and so it proves to be. It was filed yesterday, and an extensive synopsis of it will be found in our telegraphic columns to-day.

Judge Hoffman holds that the application for the order was made in precise conformity with the act referred to (held to be unconstitutional by the majority), and that it depends largely upon this and quotes extensively from it, showing how by its terms the aid of the courts was to be invoked on such occasions as that by which the Commission was confronted in the Stanford case. He points out that they were specifically empowered to examine and compel the production of evidence, and that the Commission was created by the government to obtain information. He arrives at the conclusion that obtaining testimony by means of inquiry is an indispensable adjunct of legislation, and it is, therefore, a power impliedly and necessarily conferred upon Congress by the Constitution. Since it cannot be claimed that the Commission in and of itself compel an unwilling witness to testify, and that the lack of such information would tend to render ineffective and of so effect the wholesome legislation of Congress, it follows as a matter of course that the aid of the courts must be called in, and courts possess inherent power in such cases whether the parties are before them or not.

It would take up too much space to do full justice by review to the learned Judge's opinion. It is not practically valuable, of course, for the case is settled the other way. It is only useful and of consequence as illustrative of the general fact that all matters being subjects of controversy have a stronger and a weaker side, and of the fact that the weaker side, which was forcible and important brought to the surface of human affairs by means of the proceedings conducted before Senator Stanford.

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Durham, Hereford and Poll Angus Bulls are the principal breeds used by cattle men.

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