

MILITARY COURT.

On Friday last a court of inquiry, under military regulations, was held in the canvas Library Room, at Camp Douglas, to investigate charges preferred against the renegade soldiers, who were arrested at Bountiful, Davis county, while attempting to abduct Mrs. Agnes Pack, the particulars of which we gave in our last issue.

The court consisted of Col. Evans, commander of the post, Capt. Wallace, quartermaster, and Capt. Black. Lieut. Stillman was appointed judge advocate, or perhaps, more correctly speaking, recorder, for the keeping of the minutes of the proceedings, was by far the most onerous part of his duties; at least this is the opinion of our reporter.

The six prisoners, who are by no means the most innocent-looking men, were then, after having heard the charges read, called upon to plead. As might have been anticipated, they all pleaded *not guilty*.

John Pack, jun., George D. Grant and Joseph and Benjamin Argyle were duly sworn for the prosecution, and testified to all that we stated last week, and also to several other items of the most despicable conduct imaginable, which had not previously come to our knowledge. If we had space it would give us pleasure to present the testimony in full; but as we have not, a brief review must at present suffice.

The prosecuting witnesses being through with, the court took a recess till one o'clock, at which hour it resumed its session. On the witnesses for the defence being called, a host of apparently very willing subjects were on hand to give, either their own, or such version of the disgraceful affair as their dignified preceptors had indicated to them. That these witnesses were packed no sensible man that listened could for a moment doubt, for they worked into each other's hands admirably. Mrs. McMillen, however, was not quite "prepared" to answer the adroitly propounded questions of Col. Evans, which he insisted upon being answered for the purpose of exonerating himself from the implication of complicity in the attempted kidnapping of Mrs. Pack, which had been thrown upon him by the prosecuting witness, Grant, who, in giving his evidence, said: "I asked the two men who first came up what authority they had; if they had got a writ of any kind, and one of them replied, 'We are ordered here by Colonel Evans; Agnes is under age and we are going to have her, dead or alive.'" When closely questioned upon this point, and called upon to state by whose authority she took that possession of men with her, she reluctantly answered: "I applied to the Governor to get some assistance to fetch my daughter away, and he told me to go to Gen. Connor, and he (Gen. Connor) would send with me such confidential men as were necessary. I accordingly went to Gen. Connor, and he said that he was willing the men should go, but they must go in citizen's clothes; and said that I might choose such confidential men as I desired. They went as citizens, and I received my orders from Gen. Connor, with permission to choose such men as would suit me, and such as were willing to go as volunteers."

We were almost prepared for anything, but hardly prepared for such startling revelations as these. That an Government officer would take any part in the preconcerting of such fiendish plans, we could not have previously been easily made to believe, but the above statement must either be true, and the officials therein named accessories to the fact to this heinous outrage, or this old woman, who appears to be so much beloved in certain quarters, has sworn to more than one base falsehood.

About four o'clock in the afternoon the court adjourned, with the announcement that it would again convene in the evening to read over the evidence and make its decision, to be thereafter submitted to Gen. Connor for confirmation.

It is generally supposed that military prisoners are kept in close confinement, or under the restraint of a strong guard; but at Camp Douglas they seem to have inaugurated a more liberal way of doing things, for when the court adjourned, the accused walked cozily off in such directions as their inclinations led them.

We have not yet learned the decision of the court, but as the accused have been frequently seen prowling around town, we infer that

they have not been considered worthy of punishment.

By the bye, what has become of that drunken vagabond who made the demonstration at the Penitentiary some five or six weeks ago, and who was delivered over by the civil authorities to the proper officer at Camp Douglas?

PROGRESS OF THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

During the past winter and since the invading Confederate army was defeated and driven from the State last fall, the people of Missouri till recently have been, as represented, enjoying measurably a season of peace, having only been subject to the murdering and plundering operations of the guerrillas, who have been constantly prowling about in various parts of the State, and to the felonious acts of the soldiery stationed within its borders for the protection of the old flag, and to counteract the movements of the bushwhacking guerrilla bands whose tender mercies towards the Union-professing population have been and still are exceedingly cruel.

From the Federal soldiery, according to reports, those not loud in their professions of loyalty, and many who were, have received some exceedingly harsh treatment, and hundreds of men have been shot without waiting for the formalities of a trial, and their property taken or wantonly destroyed—suspicion of disaffection to the Government or of entertaining feelings of disgust relative to the arbitrary acts of the military, having been, as stated, sufficient cause for the institution of such proceedings. The conduct of Union troops in numerous instances is represented to have been exceedingly tyrannical and cruel and not tending much to foster and cherish the love for the Constitution, laws and institutions of the country, which may still exist in that ill-fated State. The demonstrations of the guerrillas and of the Secessionists generally against those entertaining different views relative to political matters have been relentless, and from the hands of the ultra-Unionists and Seceders the few who have been peaceably inclined and not disposed to fight when not required thereto by military rules and regulations, have received no mercy, and each of the belligerent parties have seemed to vie with each other in robbery and killing such non-combatants wherever found. The State, nevertheless, has enjoyed for several months an immunity from invasion, during which time the Union cause has been in the ascendancy, as represented, and the belief has often been expressed, in military and other circles, that the war in Missouri was virtually at an end.

For some time past and till within a few weeks, the public have been led to believe that there was not a detachment of Confederate troops north of the Arkansas river. An official report to that effect was published on the 11th of April, which stated that the north side of the river had been swept clear of the Confederates, and that Fort Gibson was occupied by Federal troops, but the representations were that the enemy was increasing his force on the south side and held all the fords. The next announcement made relative to affairs in that quarter was, that the Confederates, three thousand strong, with four pieces of artillery, under Gen. Cabell, made an attack on Fayetteville, Ark., on the morning of April 18th, and, after a severe engagement, which lasted four hours, was repulsed with heavy loss. The next report stated that the Federal troops had evacuated Fayetteville and were falling back towards Springfield, Mo., followed by a rumor that Marmaduke with a formidable force was advancing towards Pilot Knob, where Col. Smart was in command. His scouts on Black river were driven in on the 18th. As soon as Col. Smart was advised of the approach of the enemy he sent out a detachment to hold him in check, giving him time to load up his teams ready for leaving, in the event a retreat should become necessary, which subsequent events proved to be a wise precaution, as the post had to be abandoned, and Col. Smart had to fall back after destroying the stores which he could not take away. The retreat was effected in good order, as stated, notwithstanding the enemy at one time got in Col. Smart's advance after he evacuated the post and made a desperate effort to capture the entire force. Gen. McNeil was soon in motion with his force stationed at Bloomfield, marching towards Pilot Knob, expecting to reach that place on the 23d, and a large force

of cavalry was detached from Springfield to get in the rear of and cut off the retreat of Marmaduke, whose force was estimated at twenty thousand men. Gen. Price also was said to have had twelve thousand at Potosi, in Cape Girardeau county.

Gen. Marmaduke is reported to have made an attack on Cape Girardeau on the 26th with eight thousand men, Gen. Bainbridge being second in command. A battle ensued, which continued for three hours, resulting in the discomfiture of the enemy, who retired with considerable loss.

The Confederates are represented to have stripped the country through which they passed of everything moveable that could be made subservient to their use in the prosecution of the war, sparing neither Unionists nor Secessionists, asking no questions as to which party they were politically attached. Their loss in the attack on Cape Girardeau was subsequently reported to have been about sixty men and seventy-five horses killed and two hundred men wounded.

On Sunday night after the enemy had been repulsed at Cape Girardeau, Gen. Vandever, with the 1st Iowa, attacked their encampment near that place and captured several hundred prisoners. Marmaduke retreated towards Bloomfield. At latest dates Generals McNeil and Vandever were following him, as stated, with the expectation of cutting off his retreat and capturing a large portion of, if not his entire army.

HORRIBLE EXPLOSION—GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.—DEATH OF HIRAM KIMBALL AND THOMAS ATKINSON.

A telegram was received, sent over the wires from Los Angeles, on the afternoon of Friday, May 1st, announcing that Hiram Kimball and Thomas Atkinson, who were on their way from this city to the Sandwich Islands as missionaries, had been killed at San Pedro, by the explosion of the Ada Hancock, but when was not stated. On Saturday, another dispatch was received here, setting forth that the Ada Hancock, a small steamer employed as a tender in carrying passengers from the wharf at San Pedro, to the steamer Senator, which was at anchor in deep water five miles from the landing, exploded her boiler on the 27th of April, by which awful occurrence forty of the sixty passengers on board were instantly killed, and all the others, with the exception of seven, wounded. Among the killed were Capt. Seeley, W. T. B. Snodgrass, Frederick Kerlison of the late General A. S. Johnston, Dr. H. M. Myles, W. P. Ritchie, Mr. Atkinson and Hiram Kimball, Mormon missionaries, and Capt. Joseph Bryant Fitch. No further particulars were given.

Elders Kimball and Atkinson left this city on the 2d day of March last, according to the best of our remembrance, on a mission to the Sandwich Islands, which, as understood, they solicited from some cause which we never heard definitely stated. They proceeded to the Pacific by the southern route, and after leaving the lower settlements in Washington county, nothing had been heard from them, excepting that they were met by some of the merchant trains from San Pedro, till the announcement of their death as above stated. With Mr. Kimball we have been acquainted some twenty-five years. Mr. Atkinson was to us an entire stranger, and we believe that he had not long been a resident of the Territory. Mr. Kimball was about fifty-seven years, and Atkinson about fifty-three years of age. Each have left a wife and family to mourn their departure from this state of existence, under circumstances peculiarly calculated to produce grief and sorrow.

So far as our memory serves us, or our recollection extends, these two men are the first who have lost their lives by any similar casualty either in going or returning from a mission to preach the gospel to Adam's benighted descendants in any part of the earth. Several of the Elders have died in foreign lands and in distant parts of the American continent; but none, we believe, have ever been killed before by any explosion of a steamer, the wrecking of a vessel at sea, or by any of the many railroad accidents which have proved so fatal to thousands within the last thirty years.

By the explosion of the steamer Saluda at Lexington, Mo., on the 8th of April, 1852, some twenty-five or thirty emigrants for Utah lost their lives out of the one hundred and ten

on board, and of the two hundred and fifty passengers, only about ten escaped death, with the exception of those calling themselves Saints. That was a calamitous affair, and the first and last of the kind affecting emigrants from the old world or the Eastern States, en route for Deseret, that has ever occurred; but neither of the returning missionaries on board, of whom there were several, were materially injured.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

Yesterday afternoon Company H., 3rd Infantry, C. V., Capt. Black left Camp Douglas to establish a post at or near Soda Springs, as we announced last week, and company E., of the same regiment, left for the West to establish a post at Reese River, Overland Mail Route, as we are credibly informed. Capt. Black took with him about thirty baggage wagons, one third of which were ox teams. We understand a company of cavalry will follow shortly, which will return as soon as the post shall have been located.

About one hundred of the scapegraces who have been hanging about Camp Douglas all the winter, went north with Capt. Black's command, and about the same number went west with company E. Thus far all right, and we hope the balance of the Camp followers will soon imitate their example.

DISGRACEFUL.—To see a drunken man, claiming to be a citizen, reeling about the streets, or stretched out on the side walks, even in "Whisky street," is not a common occurrence in Great Salt Lake City, and a circumstance of that kind generally attracts considerable attention. A bacchanalian, who had been indulging quite too freely, took lodgings on the street corner, near the "Hay scales," on the afternoon of the first instant, and became the "observed" of all passers-by. On making inquiry as to the name of the unfortunate individual, a wag who was standing near replied that the man's name was Bywater; but, from appearances, he had made a mistake and been buying whisky, in which opinion those present unanimously concurred. We had not before witnessed such a disgraceful scene, nor heard of any similar occurrence for a long time, with the exception that some one reported having seen a young man on his way home from the Bench, a few days since, in a fuddled condition.

MAY-DAY.—On Friday morning last, at an early hour, companies of juveniles were seen passing through the streets, wending their way toward the hills and canyons surrounding the city, on a May-day excursion, to celebrate that festive day in gathering wild flowers and in wandering over the hills and through the vales, gamboling the while in the sportive innocence of childhood, without much constraint. There were, however, but few, comparatively, who were not accompanied either by their teachers, or some person in whose charge they had been placed, to keep them in order as far as possible, and to prevent accidents, which too often occur on such occasions. On their return in the evening, many of them were bedecked with flowers, and there were not many among them who did not bear some badge or make some display indicating the nature of the amusements they had participated in during their rambles, with which all apparently had been highly delighted.

FIRST DISTRICT FEDERAL COURT.—The court appointed to be held in the First District on the third Monday in April, and which, as we announced in a former issue, was on that day adjourned till Wednesday last, fizzled out, after a session of two minutes.

We have learned from our Utah correspondent that Marshal Gibbs had been indefatigable in his exertions to have the Seminary fitted up for the holding of court, but as no funds had been forwarded by the department at Washington with which to pay the expenses of the court, the Marshal very properly declined to summon jurors and witnesses until he was put in possession of "greenbacks" sufficient to keep good the credit of our old Uncle, and hence Judge Drake adjourned the court till the second Monday in September.

DEPARTURE.—Mr. Isaac R. Thompson, who accompanied Hon. Frank Fuller to this place in 1831, and had acted as his private secretary and clerk since that period, left in the overland coach on Monday evening for San Francisco, where he intends to reside for the future. He is a most estimable young man, and we join with his numerous friends in wishing him every success.