

BANCROFT.

A correspondent who uses the initials "E. R. T." sends us the following from a late issue of a newly-established evening paper in this city:

George Bancroft is 89. He says he still remembers his early days, when he got only two dollars for an article, and was glad to get it. That's before he held up the Mormon Church on the history racket.

Using this clipping for a text "E. R. T." writes as follows:

The enclosed clipping from your evening contemporary is a fair illustration of the intelligence that directs the assaults made by that paper and a certain morning sheet upon all who are so indifferent to popular prejudice as to say a word in favor of the "Mormon" Church, when in their opinion the facts justify it. The ignorance of the paper referred to is so dense that it is unable to distinguish between George Bancroft, the historian of the United States, whose identity is familiar to the very school children, and Hubert Howe Bancroft, the distinguished author of "Native Races of the Pacific States."

The last named in his volume on Utah gives it as his opinion that the facts do not point to the "Mormon" Church as the instigator of the Mountain Meadow massacre. Mr. Bancroft is known by his voluminous and exhaustive work above alluded to, wherever the English language is spoken, and scholars and students of archæology, of the highest eminence have testified to the great value of his work in all its details, but particularly as regards its fair, impartial spirit and reliability.

So thorough has been his research, so broad and comprehensive his grasp of all the facts pertaining to his subject, in these volumes, that the encomiums lavished upon his work by those who have made a life study of the history and archæology of America are sufficient to impress one and all with the thought that he who undertakes to disparage the ability or impugn the motives of one whom all capable critics acknowledge to be great writes himself down an ass.

To take issue with Mr. Bancroft upon a question of evidence would have been the exercise of a right belonging to all. But to assail as corrupt, to stigmatize as false to all sense of honor or shame (as was recently done in your morning contemporary) a man whose life, public and private, is above reproach, simply on account of a difference of opinion, is the act of a blackguard, and denotes the absence of the first instincts of a gentleman.

TRIED AND ACQUITTED.

The important trial, which has for so many weeks occupied the public mind in Arizona, has today, December 14th, been brought to an end by the acquittal of all the defendants. It is the most important

case ever tried in Arizona. On May 11th, 1889, Major J. W. Wham, paymaster U. S. A., when proceeding from Fort Grant to Fort Thomas with about \$29,000 with which to pay the troops at the latter post, was attacked in a pass in the Graham Mountains by a force estimated at twelve or fourteen men. After a fight of thirty minutes, in which eight of the eleven soldiers comprising the escort were wounded and which resulted in the flight of the U. S. troops, the bandits captured the treasure and escaped. At once troops from Forts Thomas, Grant, Bowie, Huachuca and Apache were sent out in every direction to scour the country.

As the robbery was committed just at the entrance into the Gila Valley, suspicion was directed against the settlers, who are mostly Mormons, and some persons were arrested, viz.—Gilbert and Milford Webb, David Rogers, Thomas Lamb, M. E. Cunningham, W. and L. Follett. Of these some were Mormons and others not. They were arrested in May and have been in jail ever since. The trial began November 11th and was pushed with all zeal by the United States Government, which, with its millions of treasure, troops, skilled detectives and a hundred witnesses, did all that unlimited power could to secure conviction.

The trial derived additional importance from the fact that it was considered that Mormonism itself was on trial. It was called the "Mormon robbery," and public opinion was very much against not only the defendants but the whole of our quiet, law-abiding people in the Territory. In addition to this Judge Sloan, a Methodist, was evidently biased against the defense from the first overruling objections, but almost uniformly siding with the prosecution.

Colonel Herring opened the case for the prosecution in a speech of two whole days, covering every possible point, ably seconded by L. M. Franklin and H. Jeffords, the leading attorney for the government.

Benjamin Goodrich, assisted by Delegate Marcus A. Smith and Colonel Hereford, conducted the defense in a masterly manner, displaying most brilliant oratory, legal acumen and earnestness; and with everything against them gained a complete victory and full acquittal of defendants.

The courthouse was packed. In summing up and charging the jury, Judge Sloan gave brief but very clear and impartial instructions. After being out but about two hours the jury brought in a unanimous verdict of not guilty. As the discharged men entered the streets they received a complete ovation from the citizens of Tucson, who were wild with joy at their acquittal, testifying in a lively manner the change which public opinion had undergone.

In all, over two hundred witnesses came to this old city and spent over two months, at great loss of time and money. But why is there no recompense for men unjustly accused and held in prison

for almost seven months? There certainly should be some return made them. For seven months they have laid in jail, anxious for trial; but the prosecution, at ease in their offices or homes, felt no such anxiety for possible justification of innocent men, and suffered them to linger month after month.

It was not alone a desire to see justice administered and law and order sustained that caused such a determined effort to convict these men, but reputations of prominent men were at stake, and, not least, the fear of losing the "blood money" offered as reward for conviction of somebody—it did not matter much who, but preferably Mormons. It was expected that the conviction of so many Mormons would materially aid Gov. Wolfley in his efforts to secure the disfranchisement of so unpopular a class of democrats, and thus give the republican party full swing in Arizona, and in a little while two additional republican Senators in Congress. A very nice little game. Time will show how it will succeed or fail.—*Correspondence, Logan Journal.*

STAKE CONFERENCES.

ST. JOSEPH.

The Quarterly Conference of the St. Joseph Stake was held on Sunday and Monday, December 15th and 16th, 1889, at Pima. Those occupying the stand were President C. Layton, and counselors, the Bishops of most of the wards, members of the High Council and others. The attendance was good. All the wards were well represented except St. David.

The speakers during conference were President Layton, his counselors, W. D. Johnson and M. H. Merrill; Bishop Samuel Clarridge and Elders George Skinner and Henry Boyle. The principal subject dwelt upon by each of the speakers was that of repentance. Besides this they instructed the Saints in their duties, and exhorted them to be diligent in performing the same so as to be acceptable to the Lord.

It was shown by the reports that the health of the people is satisfactory and that the majority are striving to live their religion. All present had a good time.

THOS. E. WILLIAMS,
Stake Clerk.

MILLARD.

The quarterly conference of this Stake was held at Fillmore, Nov. 24th and 25th. Present, Apostles F. M. Lyman and Abraham H. Cannon, of the local authorities, President Ira N. Hinckly, and most of the High Council. The attendance was large, and much valuable instruction was given by the speakers. Apostles F. M. Lyman and A. H. Cannon addressed the conference on the subjects of charity, and the education of our children in all stages—physically, mental, morally and religiously, and tithing, and the order of the Priesthood. The regular Priesthood meeting, was held on Sunday evening, with a good at-