

## EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

THE details of the circumstances of the terrible calamity, under which fourteen persons were suffocated or crushed to death outside the Bristol Theatre on the evening of the 26th ultimo, (Boxing night,) have reached us through the British newspapers. It appears that on the evening in question vast numbers of people assembled outside the theatre long before the hour of performance, anxious to get good seats to witness the new pantomime. This was especially the case at the entrances to the pit and gallery, which branched out from a long crooked passage, about twenty feet wide, but which, at first, pursues a straight coursedown a steep descent for about fifty feet, the gradient being nearly one in five. This passage was the scene of the disaster.

The crowd contained a large proportion of women and mere children, and also a large proportion of men, who were rendered excited and reckless by drink. It is probable that many women and children went early, by reason of their comparative helplessness and as the only course by which they could hope to obtain good places; and that for this reason they contributed so much to swell the number of victims. During the long time of waiting the crowd became very disorderly, and various loud outcries proceeded from them; but these were only regarded as part of the natural course of events.

At last, and probably when the first forward movement was made in response to the opening of the door leading to the pit, some unfortunate woman is said to have fallen. It is probable she was pressed upon by the crowd on the hill behind, and that the support previously afforded to her by some one in front was suddenly withdrawn. At all events she fell nearly in the middle of the passage and just above the pit entrance. At this point the course of the entering crowd tended in two directions. Those going to the pit wished to turn sharply to the left, and, if they were already on the right hand side, wished to push across the course of those who were going straight on a little further before the outer passage made its turn toward the gallery. With this conflict between the two bodies aiding the effect of the general crush, the poor woman was no sooner down than others were pushed over her. The heap of fallen momentarily increased, but still there was room enough for eager comers to pass on either side of them, and many passed by, trampling over them. The rush into the theatre was not checked until it was nearly full, and then a person mentioned at the pit entrance that a boy was down outside and fainting. On hearing this the two policemen on duty at the theatre, pushed into the passage, and soon discovered the real state of affairs, and with the help of a few determined men from among the crowd itself they kept back any further rush. At this some one gave the alarm of "fire" which greatly helped to deter the mob from coming down. The police, door-keepers and others then set to work to clear the ground. When it was first cleared it is said that forty men, women and children were lying in a heap. Some rapidly recovered and went away; but fourteen corpses were at once taken into the refreshment room of the theatre.

So completely had the shrieks and cries of distress resembled the ordinary commotion of the night, and so completely was the whole matter outside the building, that neither the audience nor the actors were alarmed, and many of them did not know what had occurred until the following morning.

The performances were continued as though nothing had happened, the manager thinking, with a house full of the very people who had just trampled on the fallen, that he could not stop the pantomime without producing a riot or panic, and either would have certainly entailed additional disaster. His course has been very generally approved and his reasons for it are deemed satisfactory.

The local papers contain many instances of hair-breadth escapes. Several people were rescued from the crush by good Samaritans, who let down a rope from the roof that overhung the passage; but at last this rope was dragged away from its owners, thrown down and trampled upon. So little sense of the great danger was there among the crowd that some persons whose actual companions were separated from them and killed, succeeded in making good their own way into the theatre, and enjoyed the performance without any anxiety about the fate of those who were less fortunate.

ANOTHER SLICE OFF UTAH.—The *Territorial Enterprise* of the 22d inst. says:

"Senator Stewart has introduced a bill into the body of which he is a member 'to change the boundaries of the State of Nevada,' by adding to the State all the territory lying between its present boundary and the following described boundaries, namely: Commencing at the southeast corner of the State of Oregon; thence north to the centre of Snake River; thence southeasterly up Snake River to the 43d degree of north latitude; thence east along said parallel to the 34th degree of longitude west from Washington; thence south to the 41st parallel of north latitude; thence west to the 36th degree of longitude west from Washington; thence south to the 38th degree of

latitude; thence west to the present boundary line of the State of Nevada; provided, that said Territory shall not become a part of the State of Nevada until said Stateshall, through its Legislature, consent thereto. The bill was referred to the Committee on Territories. A bill, which we presume to be the same, has been introduced in the House by Representative Fitch."

This bill, if passed, will give to Nevada all that part of Utah lying north of the 41st parallel of north latitude, which includes all the territory north of a line drawn from its eastern to its western boundary and passing in the immediate neighborhood of Farmington. It also cuts off one degree of the western boundary of Utah, as far south as the 38th degree of North latitude, leaving the southernmost portion of our Territory in *statu quo*. Did this boundary line not run west at the 38th degree of north latitude, but was continued to the southern boundary of Utah, it would absorb most of the settlements in "our Dixie."

SWITZERLAND, though possessed of a republican form of government cannot boast of a most liberal code of laws. The practice of torturing persons in order to make them confess is still permitted and carried out within its borders. Quite lately, a man in the canton of Zug was accused of theft; he acknowledged before the criminal court that he had appropriated the missing property, but he resolutely denied having stolen them, stating that he accidentally found them, upon which the court ordered further inquiry to be made. It next appears that from the 26th of October to the 5th of November the prisoner was put on bread and water diet; but he made no confession. Thumbscrews were then applied to the prisoner, but still he made no confession. Six blows were next given him with a stick; he writhed and groaned, but declared he could say no more than he had said already; upon which six more blows were administered. "If you kill me, Mr. Judge, I cannot say anything else." The prisoner was brought before the court and once more earnestly questioned, but he adhered to his former statement. Upon this he was again placed on the ordinary prison diet. It is time Switzerland followed the example of other civilized countries and abolished such a system of criminal procedure, and it is highly probable that this case will be brought prominently before the Federal Council, and may probably be the means of remedying the evil.

HOWARD'S BILL.—The *Territorial Enterprise* of the 22d inst. gives the following synopsis of Senator Howard's bill. We believe its information is in the main correct.

"Senator Howard has introduced a bill in Congress 'to regulate descent in the Territory of Utah,' which was referred to the Committee on Territories. It provides that real or personal property in Utah, not disposed of by last will or testament, shall, upon the death of the owner, and subject to his debts, descend to his children born in lawful wedlock; or if he had none, to various other relatives who are specified minutely; and the bill provides that a woman shall not be deemed the widow of an intestate who has not been lawfully married to him, or who, not having been thus married to him, has cohabited with him or been considered by herself as his spiritual wife, according to the rites, usages and customs of the Mormons."

A FEW days ago we published in our telegraphic dispatches a condensed account of a terrible storm that passed over Kentucky and the neighboring States, on the night of Sunday, the 16th inst. The telegrams, however, failed to give a full idea of the mischief done by the storm, and we now condense, from the columns of the *Louisville Commercial*, an account of the terrors of that night at Cave City, Kentucky, a small town of about four hundred inhabitants, where the storm raged in its greatest fury.

During the day it rained by spells, with occasional thunder and lightning; but when night came on the rain grew heavier and the wind gathered strength, until about half-past four, when a distant roaring was heard coming from the west, and a dense black cloud, shrieking, whistling, roaring as it traveled, gradually approached the town. It was accompanied by sharp, loud, electrical discharges, whilst balls of fire burst and flew in its front, and within it, continually curling and vibrating, were myriads of electrical spirals. Before it reached the town the air grew warm and thick, the flashing of the lightning became one continuous glare, and suddenly all grew dark again. A moment after the wild work of destruction began, house after house was torn from its foundation, and roofs, walls, floors, furniture and inmates scattered in every direction or carried along with the rushing storm. Trees, from ten to twenty inches in diameter, were wrenched up by the roots, twisted into fantastic shapes, splintered and thrown down again, or carried bodily away, sweeping along as with a huge "besom of destruction," fences, planking and every thing else that stood in the way, strewing the road with shapeless heaps and confused piles of large and small trees, as a child might fling a handful of crushed and broken wisps of straw to the winds. When the wild wind whirled away, but a little remained of Cave city, the strong well built

houses of the rich, and the humble shanties of the negro laborers had all fared alike, all were torn down and scattered to the four winds. The air was literally filled with fragments of the upturn houses, and the furniture, bedding, portions of trees, rails, and every possible thing that could be torn from the earth and borne on the wings of the wind, were deposited thickly over the ground for thousands of yards. Here and there a heap of dirty shreds and torn rags, showed all that remained of the clothing of the inhabitants, who stood wounded and shivering on the spots where there homes once stood, or by the side of the ruins, with their dead around them, and nothing but the dreary, desolate land to meet their eyes. In Cave city and vicinity thirteen persons were killed at once, and about fifty wounded, of whom it is feared at least a quarter will die. Many escapes were most miraculous, one editor indeed saying, how human life in many cases was spared, was as miraculous as our Savior raising the dead."

In other places many lives were lost and much damage done, but nowhere was the destruction carried on in such a remorseless manner as at Cave city.

From late telegraphic dispatches it would appear that Chicago is in earnest in establishing a vigilance committee, and not before it was wanted, if the *Tribune* of that "metropolis of the West" tells the truth. Listen to its revelations:

"Never was Chicago so crime ridden as now. A black cloud of terror seems to hang over the city, and our law-abiding citizens with one accord, as if their feelings were connected by some subtle sympathy, apprehend the danger, and cast about them for a remedy. Crime is fearfully on the increase, and assumes a bolder aspect with every succeeding deed. Criminals are literally in possession of the city, and move and act according to their own sweet will. A score of burglaries is a poor night's work; a half dozen cases of garroting in the course of an evening is scarcely worthy of comment, and nothing short of a Pantin horror would startle our citizens just now, so inured have they become to the sight of wickedness and crime."

## LEGISLATIVE.

## COUNCIL.

January 21.

Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Letters of thanks, accepting the freedom of the Council, were received from General Gibbon, C. H. Hempstead and E. D. Hoge Esqs.

The Committee on the joint resolution to the memory of the late Governor Durkee presented the same, which was adopted and sent to the House for concurrence.

The memorial to Congress for annual sessions was returned from the House with slight amendments, and was referred to the Committee on Memorials.

Notice was received from the House that it had passed the bill incorporating Washington city, Washington county.

The financial report of Juab county, was read and referred. Adjourned.

## HOUSE.

Jan. 21.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

The act to incorporate Washington city was read a second and third time and passed.

The memorial to Congress for annual sessions was reported back from the committee with slight amendments. A bill to incorporate Willard city, Box Elder county, was read and referred.

Adjourned until Monday.

## COUNCIL.

Jan., 22.

Council met pursuant to adjournment. The Committee on Memorials, to whom was referred the House amendments to memorialize Congress for annual sessions, reported the same back with further amendments; it was laid on the table to come up in its order. Adjourned.

Jan. 24.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The petition of the citizens of Kane county for the appropriation of the Territorial taxes for the year 1870, to assist them in defraying the expenses incurred in the erection of forts against the depredations of hostile Navajo Indians, was read and referred.

A petition from the Citizens of Kane county, for an appropriation to alter and improve the road in that county was read and referred.

Adjourned.

## HOUSE.

Jan., 24.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

The following was received and read:

Utah Territory, Executive Office,  
Salt Lake City, Jan. 21, 1870

To the Hon. Orson Pratt,  
Speaker of the House.

Sir:—I have the honor to inform you that I have signed and approved the joint resolution of the Council and House, con-

gratulating the President and Board of Directors of the Utah Central Railroad for the energy displayed in the completion of said road, and also to inform you that I have caused a copy of the same to be forwarded to the President and Directors of the Utah Central.

Very Respectfully,  
S. A. MANN,  
Acting Governor.

The House concurred in a joint resolution of respect to the memory of his Excellency, the late Governor Durkee.

The financial reports of Weber and Cache counties were read and referred.

A bill entitled "An Act incorporating Hyrum City, Cache County," was read and referred.

Adjourned.

## COUNCIL.

Jan. 25.

Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The financial report of Davis County was read and referred.

The petitions of the citizens of Cache and Rich counties for an appropriation to aid them in finishing the Logan canon road was read and referred.

Adjourned.

## HOUSE.

Jan. 25, 1870.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

The petition of the City Council of Payson city, praying for amendments to their city charter, was read and referred.

A communication from Z. Snow, Esq., Attorney General, praying for an amendment to the law pertaining to appeals from the Probate to the District Courts, was read and referred.

"An Act further defining the duties of Territorial and County officers or agents," was read and referred.

Adjourned.

## COUNCIL.

Jan. 26.

Council met pursuant to adjournment.

An act for the relief of the public printer for the eighteenth annual session was passed and sent to the House for concurrence.

The petition of J. T. Willis and fifty others for an appropriation of \$1,500 for improving the county road from Toquerville to South Ashcreek was read and referred.

Two communications were received from the House and read, after which the Council adjourned.

## HOUSE.

Jan. 26.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

The financial report of Summit county was read and referred.

"An act for the relief of the public printer" was read and approved, and the bill passed.

"An act to provide for the protection of stock from contagious diseases" was reported adversely to, and a substitute bill entitled "an act to amend an act pertaining to animals running at large" was read and referred.

The Committee on Municipal Corporations reported adversely to the petition of Payson City Council as their city charter provides the authority asked for.

"An act in relation to incorporations and co-partnerships for agriculture, manufacturing and other purposes" was reported back, from the committee with amendments. Adjourned.

CAUCUS MEETING.—On Saturday afternoon a caucus of the citizens of this city was held in the Tabernacle for the purpose of nominating city officers, to be elected on Monday, the 14th proximo.

Bishop Edward Hunter was elected Chairman, and Paul A. Schettler Esq., Secretary of the meeting.

A nominating committee was appointed by the chair, consisting of Elders Wilford Woodruff, Geo. Q. Cannon and J. C. Little, who nominated the following gentlemen:

Mayor, Daniel H. Wells.

Alderman for First Municipal Ward, Isaac Groo.

Alderman for Second Municipal Ward, S. W. Richards.

Alderman for Third Municipal Ward, A. H. Raleigh.

Alderman for Fourth Municipal Ward, Jeter Clinton.

Alderman for Fifth Municipal Ward, A. C. Pyper.

Councillors—Theodore McKean, Thomas Jenkins, Robert T. Burton, John Clark, Henry Grow, Heber P. Kimball, Lewis S. Hills, Thomas McLelland, John R. Winder, City Recorder, Robert Campbell, City Treasurer, Paul A. Schettler, City Marshal, J. D. T. McAllister.

The minutes were submitted to and unanimously sustained by the meeting.

Speeches were made by several speakers when an adjournment *sine die* took place.

BIRTH.—Lydia Virginia Dickson, wife of Robert Dickson, 14th Ward, Salt Lake City, was delivered of a noble little son, January 22nd, at 15 minutes before 12 a.m. Mother and child are doing well.—Com.

COMING.—An Omaha dispatch informs us, that the Pullman Hotel train that started West yesterday morning, had every seat taken. The travel westward, from the Missouri, is at present far heavier than that going eastward.