

CORRESPONDENCE.

BIRENO, LITTLE GRAND VALLEY,
San Juan County, Utah,
Dec. 20th, 1886.

Editor Deseret News:

In the News of Dec. 14th you published an account of a shooting scrape over the jumping of a piece of land on the La Plata river in New Mexico, formerly belonging to W. J. Stevens, in which my name was mentioned. Your correspondent stated that I had agreed with C. Bigler to stop on the place till noon, Nov. 8th. C. Bigler was at the ranch Nov. 8th. I then and there told Bigler that I would leave the ranch on Monday morning, Nov. 8th. I did not make any agreement to stay till noon, neither did he request me to stay. Now I make this statement as it is doing me an injustice connecting my name in any way with the affair, and I wish to intrude upon enough of your space to publish this statement that the facts in the case may be known.

HENSON WALKER, JUN.

MALAD, Dec. 29th, 1886.

Editor Deseret News:

Being on a pilgrimage to these northern regions, with nothing else in particular to do, I have concluded to pencil you a few items of things which have come under my notice on the way.

Christmas eve, dropping off at the picturesque little town of Willard, I found all the young people (and many of the older ones) gathered in their comfortable rock schoolhouse dancing the hours away ready to welcome with bappy smiles, glad hearts, and tripping feet, the advent of Christmas. After the clock struck twelve and thus announced its arrival they dispersed, and many of them retired to the homes where they found rows of empty stockings awaiting their arrival in the role of Santa Claus; and right well did they play their parts, judging from the merry shouts of happy children everywhere to be heard the next morning. Eager to reach the end of my journey and complete the Christmas joy of at least one whose happiness the presence of a certain "baby boy" was needed to make it complete, I resumed my journey. Christmas though it was. About 23 miles by train and 30 by team will land me at the end of my journey. At leaving Willard I make two wishes for its inhabitants besides the general one which includes all good things for the dear companions and friends of my youth. Those wishes are, that they are long blessed themselves with a meeting house worthy of themselves and their religion, and that something could be done to beautify the resting place of the departed loved ones, laid away on the hillside just north of the town. Will the day never come when sagebrush and sunflowers will cease to adorn our cemeteries?

After crossing the Bear River I find the beautiful snow concealing much of the otherwise bare earth, more bare than usual this season owing to the dry summer just past. I can only season this bit of narrative with one small adventure; no narrow escape from "redskins," although we passed some hundreds of the now peaceable, industrious Lamanites in their quiet homes at Washakie, in the distance; neither did we have a chase from the wolves and coyotes, though we could hear plainly their carols from afar off on the hills after it became dark, but the adventure was simply a sudden change of position from a sitting posture on the spring seat in the light wagon to the somewhat unusual one on hands and knees in the mud; this was caused by the forward wheels being suddenly divorced from the hind ones, leaving the latter, the box and ourselves as alimony. The result was that while the horses walked on with one portion, the other portion indignantly cast us out, as stated above. We soon reunited affairs and reached the end of our journey in safety, being well plastered with sweet mud.

This being holiday week, amusements are in full blast, theatricals and concerts, or rather, both combined, somewhat replace the dance, showing that even here the latter is on the wane, mental enjoyments taking the place of physical ones—the change is certainly an improvement—at least it will be when our mental entertainments rise a little above the silly nonsensical comic business which some of our young people at present seem to think the only proper stuff to enjoy. These are no special allusions to the Maladites. Salt Lake I fear is equally guilty. St. John has a dramatic and musical organization; they gave one entertainment at Samaria and are at Malad City this week. While the Samaritans boast a dramatic association, they show the effects of "a social glass" in Malad during the week. In this respect we might add that it will take some fine acting to excel some free exhibitions given on the subject during Christmas week here and elsewhere. Prof. Miffin is also around with a magic-lantern show. All these with their ordinary every night and day duties keep the Malad people busy. There is some talk of having Prof. E. Wooley take charge of 150 or more juveniles and teach them to sing and read music. Such a move, if carried out, must result in great good to the community here, as the young need; and are adapted for such an elevating study, and the people are invariably great lovers of music. Such a move alone can secure to them future excellence in singing, as these children grow up to manhood and womanhood.

The people bear patiently the wrongs heaped upon them by their political oppressors, everything going on quietly, and doing the best they can under existing circumstances, although their votes are thrown out. All is peace and quietness. UTK.

OGDEN OCCURRENCES.

The Trial of Bishop Bassett Concluded—Verdict, "Guilty"—Sentenced to the Full Extent of the Law.

Thursday morning, in the District Court, after calling the jury roll, the arguments in the Bassett polygamy case were commenced by Mr. Hiles for the prosecution. He began by informing the jury that the defendant belonged to a Church which practiced the offense with which he is charged, and the object of which is to defeat the object of the law, and their procedure is clandestine, various and infamous. He is a Bishop in that Church—a bright and shining light, and if he shall continue to improve until death shall overtake him, he may hope to become an Apostle, a Prophet, a Seer and a Revelator, and, indeed, to run the whole gamut of the Mormon ecclesiastical system. Counsel stigmatized the defendant as

A SCAMP AND A LIAR.

He appealed to the passions and prejudices of the jury, all of whom are known to be not in sympathy with, but diametrically opposed to "Mormonism" generally and polygamy specially, at least the latter ostensibly. He then referred to the statement of Mrs. Sarah Bassett on the stand, that the defendant had admitted to her on the 17th of August, 1884, that while at Logan he had committed polygamy by marrying Kate Smith, and the court would instruct the jury that such admissions and confessions were of the greatest weight and of the highest importance in this case. It will be for them to weigh the credibility of these statements. Counsel then reminded the jury of the love that the prosecuting witness had borne the defendant, the sacrifices that she must have made for him; she had left the home of her ancestors for him, the land of her birth, which she may never see again, and for all this he had deserted her. Yet this man is a Bishop—"the anointed of Aaron, to teach the people the way of salvation."

MR. HILES

is either unable or unwilling to argue this question legally, logically and reasonably. But he can talk very glibly about superstition, ignorance and polygamy "which is opposed to all the sweets of civilization," and can prate Ingersoll, whom he loves to quote as authority on this question of plural marriage, at which "civilization shall strike with an iron hand." He said the prosecuting witness was born in the faith, was a child of the faith, but blood rose above the faith, and he said, "God bless the blood and down with the faith." He labored hard to throw discredit upon the sworn testimony of Kate Smith, and to induce the jury to believe that she had been married to the defendant in 1884, in the Logan Temple.

MR. RAWLINS

followed. He reminded the jury of difficulties under which the defendant is placed, with the prejudices of all who are opposed to the practices of himself and all his co-religionists, and that in the pleading of the prosecutor all the doubtful legal points are made to appear against him. He is made to bear not only the sins that he may have ever committed, but to bear the obloquy of all the offenses that his co-religionists have ever committed, and that they are made by the prosecution a pretext for calling him a villain, scoundrel and trickster; and all this to terrorize the jury and to embarrass them in making up their burden. He wished to disabuse their minds of all their impressions, and desired them to look at the question calmly, dispassionately, legally and justly, and not convict and send the defendant to prison for five years for a crime of which he is not guilty. Counsel thoroughly reviewed the testimony of the witnesses, and argued clearly that there was nothing whatever in it on which the defendant could possibly be

CONVICTED LEGALLY.

He then read from the application for a divorce, which set forth that the defendant had just cause to ask a separation from his wife; among other things was that of desertion by her, and that they had not lived together happily in their marriage state. Counsel said the cause of their domestic infelicity was not his marriage with Kate Smith, for he was not married to her until after he had procured the divorce from his first wife. Referred to the testimony of the second Mrs. Bassett, and said that it was plain, straightforward, unaffected and truthful, although Mr. Hiles endeavored to impress the jury with the idea that her statements were false, perjured, and that she wilfully lied. But her character was above reproach and her testimony is unchallenged, and uncontradicted by any other witness on the stand; and no witness ever bore him or herself with more

FRANKNESS, CALM DIGNITY and composure than did Mrs. Kate Smith Bassett. Counsel repudiated

the idea that because a man is a "Mormon" he is a rogue, a scoundrel, a trickster, a villain or a scapegrace. There are as truthful and honest people in the "Mormon" Church as there are in any of the Christian churches; and it does not follow that because Mr. Hiles has said the defendant is a rascal, that it is true, and because Mr. Hiles has said the divorce bill was fraudulent, that does not prove it to be so. But Mr. Hiles spoke outside the record; nevertheless, the divorce is genuine and the defendant had the legal right to marry a second wife, and could not in consequence, be convicted of polygamy. He urged the jury not to be swayed by the fustian and humbuggery that had been inducted into this case by the prosecution for the purpose of belogging and confusing their minds and to procure his conviction. The jury must guard against these unjust influences, and bring in a truthful verdict, which will acquit his client. Mr. Rawlins closed his argument at 12:30 p.m. The court then took recess.

MR. DICKSON

addressed the jury, commencing at 2 p.m. He adverted to some remarks of Mr. Rawlins, at the opening, which he designated as unwarrantable and unprofessional; and that he had stated yesterday that he (Dickson) had insinuated that, when yesterday a juror spoke to the defendant, the minions of the law had been set upon the heels of the jurors, lest there should be any bribery in the case.

Mr. Rawlins disclaimed that he intended any such insinuation as are attributed to him here and simply remarked that during the intermission on Wednesday, a juror was seen to shake hands with the defendant and that the prosecution had called upon the court to enquire into the matter. It may be here observed that yesterday, when the matter was called to the attention of the court, Mr. Burrows, a juror in this case, said he knew the defendant by sight, and meeting him shook hands with him. No conversation whatever took place between them. After the ordinary greeting they each went their way.

Mr. Dickson disclaimed that the government and its officials were pursuing an unjust course towards this class of people (meaning the "Mormons") without proper cause. A controversy ensued between counsel on the matter, which the interposition of the court settled.

Mr. Dickson then said if the defendant was a Gentle, bishop, priest or official of any religious or other society, counsel would have no hesitancy in saying that with the evidence that is now before the jury, they

WOULD CONVICT HIM

of the crime with which this defendant is now charged. Mr. Dickson then traveled over the ground which had been so often traversed by counsel on both sides—the statements of the two Mrs. Bassetts in regard to the second marriage of the defendant. He said he would say as his friend, Mr. Hiles, had said, that the defendant was as characterless a scoundrel as ever disgraced society; that he was base and cruel, which his conduct to his wife proves. He ought to be whipped with a scorpion whip. He deserved to be sent to the penitentiary for the remainder of his days. He said the downright meanness, infamy and treachery perpetrated by him towards his wife is without a parallel in the history of crime; and there is no evidence to prove that, after all these years of married life, she has not been a truthful, dutiful and loving wife. He said—trying to quote from the revelation on celestial marriage—Mr. Bassett depended on the threat that the woman who opposed that revelation should be destroyed, to influence, comfort, pacify and reconcile his wife to his plural marriage, and to prevent her from delivering him to the officers of the law. Counsel again, in a most vehement manner, and in burning words, denounced the defendant as an infamous hypocrite, and then said: "He, the anointed of the Lord! No. He is the

ANointed OF THE DEVIL!

He a Saint! If heaven is filled with such Saints as Bishop Bassett, God preserve us from such a resting place." This peroration was greeted with applause by some of the audience. Counsel continued his address chiefly in this style, uttering a volume of terrible invectives against the accused until one might think there is not one pale spot in his whole composition, but that all was as sable as the blackest midnight. In closing his remarks he said this good, saintly Bassett had lived up to his faith, and as a reward of his baseness and perfidy had been elevated to the Bishopric. He asked the jury to find a verdict of guilty against him, as charged in the indictment.

At 3:55 p. m. the court charged the jury, and at 4 o'clock they retired to consider their decision. The charge was brief, clear and fair.

OTHER ARRAIGNMENTS.

Henry W. Maury was then arraigned and listened to a three-count indictment charging unlawful cohabitation. He received a copy of the indictment and took the statutory time to plead.

Mark Bigler was next called and pleaded not guilty to a one-count indictment charging unlawful cohabitation. No time is set for the trial. It may go over for the term.

At five o'clock the jury returned into court with a verdict of

GUILTY AS CHARGED

in the indictment. When the jurors came in the murmur of voices was suddenly hushed and an almost deathlike silence prevailed pending the delivery of the verdict.

Mr. Rawlins made a motion for a new trial, which was denied. An appeal to the Supreme Court of the Territory was then asked and granted, the bonds being the same as heretofore.

Time for judgment having been waived, the Judge then requested Bishop Bassett to stand up. He was asked the usual question, if he had anything to say why judgment should not be passed upon him. He replied "Yes," and said he was not guilty. The court asked him if he was not aware of the existence of the Edmunds law. Mr. Bassett replied that he was, but he had never violated that law. The court said the jury had decided that he had broken that law and had hence brought their verdict of guilty. Defendant replied that he had nothing more to say. He was then sentenced to

FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT

in the Utah penitentiary, and to pay a fine of \$500. After this the Court took a recess till 7:30 p. m.

Mrs. Sarah W. Bassett sat apparently calm and unmoved for some time after the verdict was announced; she then bent her head very low and gave way to an outburst of grief. The court room was densely packed with spectators each day during the trial. Great interest was evinced in the result by this community generally, and many are surprised and disappointed at the verdict in view of the evidence given on the trial.

THE OGDEN HISTORY.

To-night the demurrer to the injunction prohibiting the payment by the city government to E. W. Tullidge of \$1,000 to assist him in writing and publishing the history of Ogden City, etc., was called up. Capt. R. Smith appeared for the plaintiff and Judge Emerson for the defense. Mr. Emerson said in making the opening remarks, that the complaint does not contain facts sufficient to warrant the injunction. A reply followed by Captain Smith for the complainant, and after a rejoinder by Judge Emerson, in which he showed pointedly and emphatically that the city government had ample power given in the charter to appropriate the amount stated for the proposed history, and that the complaint contained no cause of action for the injunction, and that plaintiff had no right to bring this suit, he asked for a decision of the court on the power of the City Council.

The court took the matter under advisement.

Ecclesiastical Affairs—Relief Societies, Sabbath Schools, Etc.

JAN. 7, 1887.

There is a comparative lull in court business, and it may not be out of place at this season of the year to say something of

MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL.

The good work began some time since in Weber Stake by President L. W. Shurtliff and his counsel has already borne much good fruit, and the outlook for the future is cheering. The Stake Presidency continue their visits to the families of those who are imprisoned for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus; and also to the families of those who are exiles for the same cause. The hearts of the people are comforted and made glad by such administrations; they have testimonies that their afflictions and sacrifices are sanctified unto them and they are inspired with new zeal, energy and determination to "endure to the end." The influences of their labors are felt throughout the Stake. Bishops hold block meetings and administer counsel, kind words and instructions suitable to the times and circumstances of the people, and all are attended with good results. The teachers partake, in a great measure, of the good influence exerted by their Presidents and Bishops, and as a result, the people are visited more punctually and effectually.

THE HOME MISSIONARIES

exhibit commendable zeal in filling their appointments to the several wards in the Stake, and enjoy much of the spirit of their calling; they feel great freedom in their administering the words of life and truth to the Latter-day Saints. The Bishops and Saints all bear testimony to the good results of the labors of the Elders in this part of the ministry.

On New Year's day the Stake general Priesthood meeting was held in this city. There was the largest attendance that we have had for years past. Every quorum seemed to be well represented, and all appeared to be imbued with the spirit of life, energy and an increased desire to do their duties and labor to accomplish the purposes of God on the earth.

THE REPORTS

of the Bishops showed a great improvement among the Saints in the wards of this Stake. There is more union among them, and the heavy pressure that is forced upon them at the present time is drawing them closer together in the bonds of peace, concord and affection which the Gospel they have embraced incalculates. The meetings are better attended, the spirit of testimony is poured out upon them, and they are enjoying the gifts of the Holy Ghost in an increased degree.

On this account the meeting house was filled to its utmost capacity, and the spirit of their calling rested richly upon the Presidency of the Stake while imparting necessary instructions. The wants of the poor are supplied and none suffer for the lack of food and other comforts of life. On the same day the

RELIEF SOCIETIES

held a meeting in the Tabernacle, at which there was a large gathering of ladies from all parts of the county. The meeting was a protracted one and they enjoyed a great outpouring of the spirit of God; the gift of tongues, interpretation and prophecy was manifested, and it was a time of rejoicing that will be looked back to with pleasure, while on their onward and upward course the members of these excellent institutions will enjoy many more similar reunions.

On Thursday a number of the "Mormon" merchants closed their places of business during the time of fast meetings. The assemblies in the various wards were the largest, witnessed for years past. The donations for the poor were liberal.

THE SABBATH SCHOOLS

are better attended, and some of the houses, although extensions have been made in some places, are too small to accommodate all the children who should attend these praiseworthy institutions. A commendable zeal is shown by superintendents and teachers to promote the growth of the young in the principles of the Gospel. The same is true of the young men's and young women's institutions for the improvement of the mind on subjects of general interest as well as theology. I do not wish to imply that the Latter-day Saints in this section are perfect, by any means; but it is pleasant to note improvements occasionally as they occur.

I must note an incident or two that occurred, among many others, on the first day of the New Year. Bishop John I. Hart is in England on a mission. He has been on several. On January 1st the family were all at Ogden—they reside at West Weber—and did not return until past 6 o'clock in the evening. When they reached their residence, it was enveloped in darkness. Sister Sarah Hart, or "Aunt Sarah," as she is familiarly and affectionately called by the people there, opened the door, when a

BLAZE OF LIGHT

illuminated the large room and she and the other members of the family were greeted with a joyous welcome from the hearts and voices of the Saints with whom the apartment was literally packed. The light revealed a long table loaded with rich viands, which had been brought there by friends for the occasion during the absence of the family. Over 50 of the members of the ward were present. As soon as the family had recovered from their complete and genuine surprise, as many as could, sat down to the table and enjoyed the rich feast that so many willing hands had contributed; they then made room for more until all had partaken. After enjoying themselves for a few hours, a hymn was sung, prayer was offered, and about 20 of those present delivered brief addresses expressing the warm friendship they entertained for their beloved Bishop and his family. The members of the family responded in words of gratitude, and at a late hour the assembly dispersed.

A night or two previous to the day on which Elder Harvey Murdock was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary, and to pay a fine of five hundred dollars for obeying the commands of God, the Bishop and Counselors and a number of the Saints in Harrisville gave a pleasant surprise to him and his family. They testified their warm regard for him and his in a similar manner to that of the West Weber people at Bishop Hart's.

In the District Court to-day, John Davis sued for the recovery of a horse from Charles Ducheneau, claiming that the latter obtained the animal from him feloniously. He asked either the horse—or rather colt—or its value, \$50, \$30 damages, and the costs of suit. It is not yet settled.

Whether in consequence of the great moral improvement, or the inability of the police to detect offenders, if there are any, in Ogden, it is nevertheless a fact that there is a dearth of business in the Justice's Court at present.

To-night the Second Ward rendered to a full house the beautiful drama "Condemned to Death." The play was well presented and much appreciated. It was followed by an amusing farce, "My Turn Next." The performance will be repeated to-morrow night.

Six More Victims for the Penitentiary—Indictment Quashed—Horrible Infanticide.

JANUARY 8, 1887.

Saturday afternoon I went to the City Hall, where a

MOST HORRIBLE SIGHT

met my gaze. On the floor in an upper room opposite the marshal's office lay the mutilated body of a female infant, rigid with frost and in a fearful condition. The first discovery of this horror was by Joseph Flygare, a youth about sixteen years of age. He lives on the west side of Smith street, opposite Lester Park Square. He was standing near the house, when he saw a dog approaching from the northwest entrance