

BELLEVUE GAZETTE.

HENRY M. BURT,
News and Local Editor.

BELLEVUE, N. T.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3, 1857.

JUDGE FERGUSON.

His Pre-emption and his Maligners.

We feel satisfied that when the public have read, even the few affidavits, which we have room to publish, out of twenty-three already made, showing that Judge Ferguson complied with the law, as an honorable man, in his pre-emption, they will see, as the facts are, how much wrong, and how base and palpable an injury, can be done a man, by those evil minded, ignorant, and wantonly unscrupulous men, for the purpose of gratifying a petty revenge, that rankles in the breast of that class of small minds. Let the facts speak for themselves. Fifty, yes, one hundred men, come up voluntarily, and offer to make affidavits, to sustain the integrity of an honest and injured man.

Read the affidavits in to-day's paper, and the subjoined facts, in connection with the history of his calumniators, then judge. Neither of the four persons who made affidavits against Judge Ferguson's pre-emption, claim, or pretend to claim, in any way, that Judge Ferguson was not the sole owner of the land, he pre-empted, as a claim, and that, too, by every principle of right. They, nor their friends, nor no one in the wide world, claim said tract as against said Ferguson. Why then, are these men, so much interested? We will show.

Eli P. Watson, the chief in swearing, of this beautiful trio, (for there is but three,—Marshall W. Stoddard, having explained himself, as will be seen in to-day's paper,) had a pretended claim against Judge Ferguson, in amount less than one hundred dollars. He, Watson, alleges that the Judge's boy, while playing on the prairie, following a team of Judge Ferguson's, and his hired man, sometime over a year ago, the boy set fire to the prairie, and two days and a half subsequent, to the setting of such fire, Eli P. Watson, had, as he alleges, some hay burned, by a prairie fire. If it was the fire set by the Judge's boy, that burned Watson's hay, had not Watson a remedy in law? But the truth is,—we know three good and substantial witnesses, who say they will swear, that the fire set by the Judge's boy, was not the fire that burned Watson's hay. Further, Watson had the patriotism, and honesty, say nothing about the impudence, to approach Judge Ferguson, on the day of election, in which Ferguson was a candidate for Delegate to Congress, saying to the Judge that he had not voted yet, and asking the Judge to arrange the settlement of burning hay, in dispute; and further remarking, it would have something to do with his, Watson's, course, in the election. Judge Ferguson, (as every body who knows him, knew, under the circumstances, he would do,) kindly remarked to Mr. Watson, that he might pursue such a course as he thought best, about voting, but he, (Judge Ferguson,) should not pay the unjust demand. Watson did vote for Ferguson's opponent, and did swear, we believe, that he did not see Judge Ferguson reside on his claim.

And as a guilty conscience needs no accusing, notice his swearing before a magistrate, while his knees are knocking together, from fear, and for shame,—knowing as he did, his veracity would be questioned, on this point, by honest men, he appeals to B. B. Chapman, for whom he voted, for Congress, and three great men away off in Michigan, to sustain him for truth, and that, too, before any body had questioned his word.

Another of this illustrious band of three, engaged in the conspiracy, to malign the fair fame of Judge Ferguson, is one A. W. Trumbull, who had a little misunderstanding with Judge Ferguson, nearly two years ago. Trumbull came to this county, about three years ago; and very soon thereafter, on one Sunday morning, proceeded up the Platte Valley, and took for himself a claim, that the son of a widow woman, from Illinois, had purchased three days before, giving in payment a gold watch. Mr. Trumbull being a man of large physical proportions, and seeing that the poor widow woman's son was physically small, and weak from consumption, with one foot in the grave, and the other setting upon, a portion of the beautiful soil of Nebraska, to make a home for his widowed mother; proposes that might, in such a case, would make right, and did hold said claim, and sold the same to Col. John S. Seaton, for one hundred and fifty dol-

lars. Whereupon, Mr. Trumbull proceeded to jump a claim owned by the Town Company of Bellevue, and within the corporate limits of said city. Said claim had a good house upon it, and about 20 acres of breaking done, at the time Trumbull jumped the same. Judge Ferguson was one who acted as a mediator between the Town Company and Trumbull, and Mr. Trumbull was paid two city lots, and \$200 in money, thereby selling again his right to pre-empt. Tread lightly, Mr. Trumbull, we have but just commenced. You agreed to settle honorably, and have peace with the company; and in good faith for the purchase money you got, and the money you had been paid, by said company, for labor done, when money was scarce. You were now ready for your regular business, and proceeded to jump 160 acres, that belonged to a young man of this place, by the name of Page, who had taken a trip to Iowa City, for a young wife. Page hearing that his claim had been jumped, wrote to the writer of this article, that he would not come back to Nebraska, unless he could get his claim. His venerable father came on, and pleaded with you, for justice and his son's right.—Did you pay that old man a single cent? "Might makes right," again. Did you stop here, contented with 160 acres? No, sir; you reached out, breaking faith with the Bellevue Company, and took more land than they claimed. You did not stop at this. You asked for 320 broad acres, and you made up the balance, by taking the land and improvements of an old veteran Government Officer, who had spent his hard earned gold, to improve it, as a future residence for his family. The noble, dignified, princely, courteous, and gentlemanly conduct, of this gentleman towards you, even after you had done wrong to him, should have been a withering rebuke to your act of injustice. Were you not, Mr. Trumbull, a witness less than ten days ago, for one Charles Fish, to pre-empt one half of the 320 acres? and how much, if any thing did you pay for such proving up? Did Fish cultivate, improve, and occupy said land, more than five days? Did he not eat his meals at another house, during the time? Who furnished Fish with lumber, to build his shanty? Again, have you not filed your intention to prove up on the balance? and that, too, after you had sold your right to pre-empt, twice, and for a moneyed consideration, all paid you? You, sir, live in a glass house. Your own personal safety, requires that you throw as few stones as possible, at your neighbor's house. From what we know of you, we are free to say, that we believe that had you been in the streets, where Christ stood, on one occasion, addressing a crowd, concerning the faults of a certain woman, whom the people were about to stone, there certainly would have been a stone thrown in the direction of that unfortunate woman, and the history of that transaction changed.

We now come to speak lastly of the next little great man, in this most remarkable play, for Justice, Chapman, God and Liberty. Wm. R. Watson is a brother of Eli P. Watson—is the very grave adviser of his brother's best remedy, to force Judge Ferguson to pay his brother's unjust and unlawful demand. He is the organ grinder—set to tune by B. B. Chapman. He pinches the tails of sundry small animals, and immediately thereafter they squeal,—to the satisfaction of the "grinder," and his presuming master.

Last spring, he ran for the office of Recorder of Sarpy County, receiving the vote of Eli P. Watson, his brother Charles E.'s vote, is voted for by Trumbull—thinks he got the vote of his hired man—is modest and votes for himself—in all, six votes. Sarpy County has five hundred voters. Chapman's paper says, to give credit to Trumbull, that he was elected, last fall, county sup't of common schools, of Sarpy County. The Nebraska lies under a mistake. Trumbull was elected two years ago, sup't of Douglas County. For the same office, for this County, he received last spring, thirteen votes.

It pains us to show up, to the public gaze, in so unfavorable a light, any citizen of Sarpy County, but they have permitted their names, as the maligners of an honest man, to be paraded before the public, through the columns of a hiring sheet, and duty and justice prompts us to detail these facts, that the admirers of this trio, may see what manner of men they are, and in what estimation they are held by this community.

To conclude, are not the above trio, just such kind of men, necessary for Chapman's vile purposes, to carry on the kind of warfare, he (Chapman) is an adept in? He knows his tools and how to select them, and how to plan their dirty work.

Judge Ferguson's Pre-emption.

Below will be found the several affidavits relating to the pre-emption case of Judge Fenner Ferguson, our Delegate elect, to Congress. We invite a perusal of them, and we believe all will be convinced that there has either been some tall swearing, or else certain parties were laboring under a great optical illusion. These affidavits are made by individuals that are well known to be men of unimpeachable veracity. To those *sore heads*, that have attempted to break the Judge's pre-emption, we will say, that the "end is not yet," and "*Lay on McDuffe! and damned be he who first cries hold! enough!*"

WILLIAM GREENHOUSE, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has resided in the County of Sarpy, and Territory of Nebraska, since the month of April, A. D. 1856; that he commenced to work for Judge Fenner Ferguson, of said County and Territory aforesaid, by the month, on or about the first of September, A. D. 1856, and continued so to work, for Judge Fenner Ferguson, up to the 18th day of August, A. D. 1857; that he knows well, of his own personal knowledge, the tract of land pre-empted by the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, situated in Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, and described as follows: being the North East quarter of Section number nine, (9) in Township number thirteen, (13) north of range thirteen, (13) east; and this deponent says, that he knows of his own personal knowledge, that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did, sometime in the month of April, A. D. 1857, build a comfortable and substantial house as above described, and immediately thereafter, to wit: in the month of April and May, of the year next above written, plow from sixteen to seventeen acres of land, or about that quantity of land, in amount not less than sixteen acres, all on the tract described above; and this deponent further says, that the land so plowed, was immediately, to wit: in the month of May and June, A. D. 1857, planted to corn, soya, to oats, and planted to potatoes, cabbages, beets, onions and other garden vegetables; and the various crops as above described, were raised on said land; and this deponent further says, that Judge Fenner Ferguson, with his own hands, and the help of this deponent, in the months of April and May, A. D. 1857, complete the fencing of eighteen acres of said land, as above described; and this deponent further says, that he knows of his own personal knowledge, that the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, with his wife and children, did live upon said land, as above described; that their household furniture and goods, were moved on to the premises, and that the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did reside with his family, upon the premises as above described, before and at the time he pre-empted said land, to wit: on the 6th day of July, A. D. 1857, and that he, Judge Fenner Ferguson, and his family, did live in the house above mentioned, on said tract of land, which house said Judge Fenner Ferguson, with his own hands, and the help of this deponent, built; and this deponent further says, that he was the witness for Judge Fenner Ferguson, in proving up his right to pre-empt said land, and all the facts set forth by Judge Fenner Ferguson, at that time, in his affidavit, (and this deponent, as the witness, are true; and this deponent further says that he knows one Eli P. Watson, living in the County aforesaid and Territory aforesaid, and that he knows that said Eli P. Watson held a personal animosity against Judge Fenner Ferguson; and this deponent says he believes that said Eli P. Watson, in making an affidavit, as he has been credibly informed, that he did make an affidavit, against the pre-emption of Judge Fenner Ferguson, was prompted by malice; and made said affidavit for the purpose of prejudicing the claims of Judge Fenner Ferguson, to his seat in the present Congress, as a Delegate from this Territory.

Attest. WM. GREENHOUSE.

Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 23d day of November, A. D. 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

THOMAS B. LEMON, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has lived in Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, since the 15th day of May, A. D. 1857; that he is well acquainted with Judge Fenner Ferguson of this County; that he has seen, time without number, Judge Fenner Ferguson, going in the direction of his claim, with a team, and implements of husbandry, and that on the last of June, or the first of July, 1857, he saw Judge Fenner Ferguson, and his family, packing up his household goods, and was informed by Judge Fenner Ferguson, and his wife, at that time, that they were moving to their claim; and this deponent further says, that on the same day above mentioned, in which he saw the Judge and his family packing up his goods, he saw Judge Fenner Ferguson, with a load of household goods, and his family, going in the direction of the Judge's claim; and this deponent further says, he knew that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, was at that time, absent with his family, from Bellevue, about one week; and this deponent believes, from many reasons, that said Ferguson and his family, were residing upon their claim. This deponent further says, that at the time, he was boarding at the Benton House, in Bellevue, with his family, and that said House was kept by a firm known as Stoddard & Coffman.

Attest. THOMAS B. LEMON.

Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 23d day of November, A. D. 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

BENJAMIN MEYER, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has resided with his family on the north-west quarter of section nine, (9), township thirteen, (13), north of range thirteen, (13), east in Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, since March, A. D. 1856; that he has known intimately, since that time, Judge Fenner Ferguson, of said County, and Territory; that he knows well the tract of land pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson, July 6th, A. D. 1857, to wit: the north-east quarter of section nine (9), township thirteen (13), north of range thirteen (13), east, of the principal meridian; that said tract of land, pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson, as stated and described above, is by section lines, exactly one half a mile from this deponent's land, described above, which this deponent pre-empted at the land office, at Omaha City, the 14th day of July, A. D. 1857; and upon which land this deponent, since March, A. D. 1856, has

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 23d day of November, A. D. 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

ANDREW M. POLLOCK, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he is the Treasurer of the City of Bellevue; that he has lived and resided in what is known as the County of Sarpy, and Territory of Nebraska, since the fall of A. D. 1855; that he has been acquainted with Judge Fenner Ferguson, of the County of Sarpy, and Territory of Nebraska, since that time; and that he knows the tract of land pre-empted, on the 6th day of July, A. D. 1857, to wit: the North East quarter of Section nine, (9) Township thirteen, (13) North of Range thirteen, (13) East of the principal meridian, lying in the County and Territory, aforesaid; that he knows of his own personal knowledge, that the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did, with his family, occupy said land, as above described, the summer last past; that he visited said premises in person, in company with one Barnhart Meyers, and his son Louis Meyers, some time in the fore part of July, A. D. 1857, and saw at that time, said Judge Fenner Ferguson, and his family; and they were residing on said premises, at the time; and this deponent further says, that he knows of his own personal knowledge, that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did, during the spring and summer of the present year, to wit: A. D. 1857, cultivate, fence, and otherwise improve said premises as above described.

ANDREW M. POLLOCK.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

LEMUEL BELDEN, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has resided in what is now known as Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, since September, A. D. 1856; that he is well acquainted with Judge Fenner Ferguson, and has been since that time; that he is well acquainted with the tract of land, to wit: the North East quarter of Section nine, (9) Township thirteen, (13) North of Range thirteen, (13) East of the principal meridian, pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson, on the sixth day of July, A. D. 1857; that he knows of his own personal knowledge, that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did cultivate, occupy, improve by fencing and otherwise, the tract of land above described, the last summer past, to wit: the summer of A. D. 1857, and this deponent further states, he saw Judge Fenner Ferguson at the time he moved his household goods, and family, on to said land, sometime in the fore part of the last summer, to wit: A. D. 1857, that he was a boarder at the Benton House, in Bellevue, at the time, which house was kept by a firm known as Coffman & Stoddard; that he has heard that one Eli P. Watson, had made an affidavit to the effect that Judge Fenner Ferguson, had never lived upon, or cultivated said land, above described; and that he verily believes, that said affidavit was made by said Eli P. Watson, if made at all by him, for the purpose of prejudicing the claims of Judge Fenner Ferguson, to his seat in Congress, as a Delegate from this Territory, and for this purpose only.

LEMUEL BELDEN.
Subscribed and sworn to, before me, a Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County. Witness my hand and seal of office, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

WILLIAM WILEY, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he is now the County Treasurer of Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory. That he has resided in what is now known as Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, since the fall of A. D. 1855; that he has known well, and intimately, Judge Fenner Ferguson, since that time; that he is well acquainted with the tract of land, to wit: the north east quarter of section nine (9), township thirteen (13), north of range thirteen (13), east of the principal meridian, pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson, July the 6th, A. D. 1857; that he, Wiley, did sometime in the month of August, A. D. 1857, pre-empt the south west quarter of the same section, pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson; that he, Wiley, resided upon the said quarter section, which he pre-empted, in a dwelling house of his own, and cultivated and raised a crop on the same, to wit: the last summer past; and that from the above favorable circumstances for personal observation, he states, that he knows, of his own personal knowledge, that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did with his own hands and the help of others, erect sometime in the spring of A. D. 1857, a dwelling house, on the north east quarter of section nine (9), township thirteen (13), north of range thirteen (13), east, and that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did occupy, cultivate, fence, and raise a crop on said land, above described, the last season past, to wit: the summer of A. D. 1857.

WILLIAM WILEY.
Attest, in presence of,
S. A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857; witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

BENJAMIN MEYER, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has resided with his family on the north-west quarter of section nine, (9), township thirteen, (13), north of range thirteen, (13), east in Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, since March, A. D. 1856; that he has known intimately, since that time, Judge Fenner Ferguson, of said County, and Territory; that he knows well the tract of land pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson, July 6th, A. D. 1857, to wit: the north-east quarter of section nine (9), township thirteen (13), north of range thirteen (13), east, of the principal meridian; that said tract of land, pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson, as stated and described above, is by section lines, exactly one half a mile from this deponent's land, described above, which this deponent pre-empted at the land office, at Omaha City, the 14th day of July, A. D. 1857; and upon which land this deponent, since March, A. D. 1856, has

WILLIAM WILEY.
Attest, in presence of,
S. A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857; witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

A. C. STRICKLAND, of the city of Bellevue, Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has been a resident of said city and county, since the eleventh day of August, A. D. 1856. That he has known Judge Fenner Ferguson, intimately, since that time. That he knows the tract of land, pre-empted by the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, on the 6th day of July, A. D. 1857, to wit: the N. E. quarter of section nine, Township thirteen, north of range thirteen, east of the 6th principal meridian; and this deponent further says, that

and does up to the present time, occupy with his family; and this deponent further says, that he knows of his own personal knowledge, that Judge Fenner Ferguson, aforesaid, did, sometime in the spring of A. D. 1857, erect a dwelling house, upon the tract of land described, above, as pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson; and that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did, with his family, live upon and occupy said premises, as above described, in the summer season, last past, A. D. 1857; and this deponent further states, that the last season past, to wit: the summer of 1857, cultivate, fence, and raise a crop, or crops, upon said premises, above described; and this deponent further says, that he has been informed, that one Eli P. Watson, had made oath, that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, had never resided upon, or cultivated, the tract of land, described above, as pre-empted by him, Judge Fenner Ferguson; and this deponent further states, that he believes that such oath or statement, if made by said Watson, was made with the malicious and willful intent, to prejudice Judge Fenner Ferguson's claim to his seat in Congress, as delegate from this territory; as well as to the great damage of said Judge Fenner Ferguson's reputation, and just rights, in the premises.

BERNHARD MEYER.
Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857; witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

LOUIS MEYER, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has heard the foregoing affidavit of Bernhard Meyer's read, and that he is a son of the deponent, above described, and that he knows, of his own personal knowledge that the matters and facts, set forth, in said affidavit, are all true; and the deponent further states, that he has been, in person, many times upon the premises, described in the affidavit, of Bernhard Meyer, as those pre-empted by Judge Fenner Ferguson, the summer past, and that he knows Judge Fenner Ferguson, with his family, consisting of his wife and three children, and himself, were residing upon the premises as described above, and this deponent says, that he is in his twenty-second year, and has lived with his father, since he has lived in Sarpy county, Nebraska Territory.

LOUIS MEYER.
Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857; witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he was a member of the last Legislature, and is a member of the present Legislature, of the Territory of Nebraska, as a representative from Sarpy County. That he has been a resident of what is known as Sarpy County, in said Territory, since the fall of A. D. 1854. That he has known Judge Fenner Ferguson, since that time. That he knows the tract of land pre-empted by the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, on the 6th day of July, A. D. 1857, to wit: the N. E. quarter of Section nine, Township thirteen, north of Range thirteen, east of the 6th principal meridian, situated in Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory. That he knows of his own personal knowledge, that said Judge Fenner Ferguson, did occupy by living on the premises, above described, with his family, the last summer past, to wit: A. D. 1857. That the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, cultivated by raising several various kinds of crops upon said premises, described above, the last season past. That the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, raised, cultivated and gathered, or caused to be gathered, said crops; and this deponent further says, that he is well acquainted with the laws of the United States, and their provisions relating to the right of pre-emption, and he knows of his own personal knowledge, that Judge Fenner Ferguson, did honorably comply with the spirit of the law, and was thereby justly entitled to the right of pre-empting the said described tract of land; and this deponent further says, that he personally knew that Judge Fenner Ferguson, did not leave a residence which he had a title, in the territory, for the purpose of pre-empting the said described tract of land; and further, this deponent verily believes, that the only land in this territory, to which the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, has right by title, in the said tract pre-empted as above named, to wit: on the 6th day of July, A. D. 1857; and this deponent further says, that he knows well, one Eli P. Watson; also, one A. W. Trumbull, who, he has been credibly informed, had made affidavit, to the effect, that Judge Fenner Ferguson, had not complied with the law, in such cases made and provided, in pre-empting the tract above described, and that he verily believes, that if said affidavits were so made, by the persons above named, they were made for the purpose of prejudicing the claim of the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, to his seat in Congress as the Delegate from this territory, and for the further purpose of gratifying a personal revenge, by reason of a personal difficulty, which this deponent knows to have existed for a long time, and by reason thereof, the said parties opposed the election of the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, in August last, as they frequently expressed themselves to this deponent. Further, this deponent saith not.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND.
Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

T. B. LEMON,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

A. C. STRICKLAND, of the city of Bellevue, Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has been a resident of said city and county, since the eleventh day of August, A. D. 1856. That he has known Judge Fenner Ferguson, intimately, since that time. That he knows the tract of land, pre-empted by the said Judge Fenner Ferguson, on the 6th day of July, A. D. 1857, to wit: the N. E. quarter of section nine, Township thirteen, north of range thirteen, east of the 6th principal meridian; and this deponent further says, that

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

T. B. LEMON,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

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SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

T. B. LEMON,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

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T. B. LEMON,
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he, of his own personal knowledge, knows that the said Fenner Ferguson, did in the summer of 1857, live upon and improve said tract of land, by plowing, fencing, and planting different kinds of vegetables, and raised, and gathered, and garnered, the same; and this deponent further says, that he, of his own personal knowledge, knows that the said Fenner Ferguson, did not leave a residence to which he had a title, for the purpose of pre-empting the said above described tract of land.

A. C. STRICKLAND.
Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this 30th day of November, A. D. 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

T. B. LEMON,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

MARSHALL W. STODDARD, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he was for the last summer past, one of the firm of Coffman & Stoddard, proprietors of the Benton House, in Bellevue, Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory, that one Eli P. Watson, presented to him sometime in the month of September, last, an affidavit written by whom, he does not know. That said affidavit was general, and that he signed it, and that he makes this affidavit, for the purpose of explaining said affidavit; that he lived as he had stated, a few rods from the place formerly occupied by Judge Fenner Ferguson, some time before he pre-empted his claim; that said Judge Fenner Ferguson might have cultivated, occupied, and improved the claim he pre-empted, and this deponent not have known it, as this deponent's business occupied all his attention about his own premises.

MARSHALL W. STODDARD.
Subscribed and sworn to, before me, this the second day of December, 1857. Witness my hand and seal of office.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND,
Notary Public, in and for Sarpy County, Nebraska Territory.

Washington, Nov 13. 1857.

Despatches were received by the State Department to day from Chief Justice Echols, of Utah, dated at "Camp on Sweet Water, twenty one miles east of South Pass, October 13, 1857." Judge Echols says:

"An express has just arrived from Green River, and reports that on the night of Oct. 5, a train of twenty six wagons was captured by the Mormons, twenty five miles from the Pacific Spring. At the same time two other trains were taken near Green River—in all seventy eight wagons and loading. The Mormons said they had seven hundred men there, and fifteen hundred more at Salt Lake City."

"Col. Alexander is encamped on Ham's Fort, thirty miles in advance of the front train, which is destroyed. He sent Capt. Marcy with four hundred men back to Green River, to enable the teamsters to collect their cattle."

"The Mormons killed no one, for the reason that no resistance was made."

"Col. Smith will collect the trains on this side and escort them forward. One train is now before us and two behind.—We are in good spirits, and that is a great help to all. The Mormons will likely attack us in a day or two and may ruin their impudence. We have forty seven men in this command, but Col. Smith is a host within himself. We have determined, if attacked, to use the rifles in the lines.—We shall most likely take the route on Bear River for Salt Lake City. The want of forage for our mules is the greatest hindrance, but we will go on if we have to walk and carry our provisions."

"The above despatch, showing the first overt act of Mormon treason, was immediately laid before the President of the United States, who summoned the members of the Cabinet for consultation upon its contents."

"The intelligence was considered in Cabinet meeting in the afternoon, but no definite action determined on. The Secretary of War thinks it would be hopeless to attempt to send reinforcements or supplies so late in the season as this. Despatches are anxiously looked for from Col. Johnson, who is in command of the army for Utah."

THE BELLEVUE GAZETTE.—We have received several numbers of the above paper, from which we learn that its News and Local department, is under the editorial management of Henry M. Burt, a young Printer from New England, who was in the Journal Office for a couple of months before going to Nebraska. Mr. Burt is one among the many young men who have left their New England homes to make one for themselves in this glorious western country. We are pleased to see Mr. Burt, thus prosperous in his profession, and wish him success in his present undertaking—all but the *bugus democracy!*—and so far as this is concerned, we hope he will inculcate wherever and whenever he can, the only true principles of our beloved country, freedom and the rights of humanity.

We annex his Platform.—Beloit (Wis.) Journal.

BELLEVUE GAZETTE.—From the far Territory of Nebraska, comes a good looking paper, with the above title, edited by Henry M. Burt. Judging from the advertisements, &c., Bellevue is a lively and flourishing place, with hosts of lawyers, doctors, merchants, &c. May success attend this new paper, and may it advocate the true democratic doctrine of equal rights to all of every race, color and clime.—*Chicopee (Mass.) Journal.*

Those who visit the national collection of curiosities over the Patent Office in Washington City, will find in one of the cases, duly labeled, a piece of leather said to be tanned from the skin of a negro in Georgetown, D. C.