

THE UTAH COMMISSION.

A Reply to Some Charges Made Against That Body.

WASHINGTON, September 4.—The following communication was received to-day at the interior department:

SALT LAKE CITY, August 30.—SIR: In the absence of my associates of the Utah commission, who are on a few weeks vacation, I take the liberty of addressing you in their behalf as well as my own. Hitherto we have paid but little attention to many false statements of the press emanating from this city, but I find in the newspapers what purports to be a statement made by Hon. Edwards Pierrepont to President Arthur at the National park which ought not to go unnoticed. These statements I find in a telegram from Chicago, dated August 24, which I enclose herewith. If the honorable gentleman made these statements he has certainly gathered an immense crop of misinformation during his brief stay in this city. The source of his false information is well known to us, and is plainly indicated in conversations. The commission will sometime before the meeting of congress make a full and detailed report of all our proceedings since we entered upon the discharge of our duties in this territory, from which Pierrepont will see he has been badly imposed upon. Without taking time to notice the numerous errors contained in this conversation, I only wish to say now in behalf of the commission that every charge or innuendo that the gentlemen composing this board have been improperly influenced, or have failed to discharge their whole duty under the law, to the best of their ability and judgment, is based upon information wilfully and wickedly false. This board is charged under the law with the duty of excluding all polygamists from voting and from eligibility to office. This is the full extent of our authority under the law, and in this our work has been completely successful. We have excluded some 12,000 polygamists from the polls, and at the November election of 1882 and many municipal elections since that time and at the general election in August, 1883, embracing about 800 officers who were elected. We have excluded all polygamists from eligibility. In short that commission has strictly and stringently executed the law of congress, and has stretched the legal tether to its utmost tension in order to make it as perfect as possible, inasmuch that the Mormons have sued members of the board in ten several cases for what they allege to be excess of authority against them. I wish you to consider this as an official communication, and bring it to the attention of the president as early as practicable.

(Signed) A. B. CARLTON,
Of Utah Commission.

HENRY M. TELLER,
Secretary of the Interior.

The President in Chicago.

CHICAGO, September 5.—President Arthur passed the forenoon quietly at his hotel, receiving a few callers. At 2:30, accompanied by several members of the reception committee, he appeared on the trading floor of the chamber of commerce, where he met with a splendid ovation. Fully four thousand were on the floor, and in the galleries, and the appearance of Mr. Arthur was the signal for a roll of continuous cheering of several minutes. He was introduced by Vice President French as chief magistrate of a Union enjoying the greatest prosperity ever known in the history of the world. President Arthur spoke as follows:

GENTLEMEN: I thank you for the warmth of this greeting. I am glad to have the opportunity of greeting so many of the representative business men of this magnificent city. I shall always recall with pleasure the warmth and cordiality with which I have been welcomed, and leave you with my best wishes for your prosperity and welfare.

Secretary Lincoln said he had been trying for two years to convince the president that Chicago was the center of the nation, but this magnificent reception was an argument he could not withstand.

At 1 o'clock the president held a reception at the Union League club, and at 2 o'clock sat down to dinner at the Calamand club, tendered by the Illinois commandery of the Loyal League.

Between the hours of 8 and 10 o'clock the president held a reception at the Grand Pacific, to which the general public was invited. The invitation was largely accepted. The president and members of his party occupied a position in the general parlors of the hotel. The crowd, which momentarily increased from the hour of the opening of the reception till 9 o'clock, marshalled into line by the police and military, kept moving steadily past him. The movement was so rapid as to render impossible the barbarism of two hours' hand-shaking, and the chief executive was, therefore, spared that infliction, except in special cases of friends and acquaintances, or of those personally presented to him. In spite of the steady stream passing, there was no diminution in the vast crowd, and when the chief executive was compelled to end the reception and prepare for his journey, hundreds still thronged the corridors and stairways leading to the parlor floor.

At the close of the reception the president stepped out upon the balcony, in response to calls from the large gathering of people outside, and addressed a few words to them, saying that he was very tired from exertions of the day and evening, and that he was obliged to ask them to excuse him from any extended remarks, as he was obliged to prepare for the coming journey.

Secretary Lincoln was then called for. As he appeared some one shouted, "Three cheers for the next president." Mr. Lincoln said he hoped he would never be as wide of the mark as the man who proposed

the statement. He thanked them for the hearty reception accorded the president.

Senator Cullom responded to calls, and spoke of the patriotism shown in the attendance of the people at the reception, especially the large representation of the laboring element. This ended the reception. It is estimated 10,000 passed before the president during the two hours. Secretary Lincoln did not accompany the president east. He goes to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, to-morrow to join his family.

Jay Gould's Testimony.

NEW YORK, September 5.—Senators Blair and Call waited patiently for Jay Gould to appear before them this morning to testify as to the relation of capital and labor. There was a large audience in attendance. As Gould delayed his appearance, the committee heard statements from George W. Weston, a lawyer of this city, who appeared in opposition to the theory of Henry George and Moody. Just as the witness was beginning his testimony Gould entered. Weston merely stated that the tendency to monopolize land was not so great as it was fifteen years ago in this country.

Gould then took the stand, and being sworn, Senator Blair requested him to give a history of his early life and first business adventures and then go on and give the story of his progress to the present time. Gould seemed to be somewhat staggered at this request, but turning with a smile towards the reporters began in a low voice by saying:

I was born at Roxbury, Delaware county, this state, May 27th, 1836. My parents had a small farm and kept twenty cows, which I assisted in tending. I attended school about fifteen miles distant, and when I was about 14 years old obtained a situation in a neighboring village. I was much interested in mathematics, and would get up at 3 o'clock in the morning to study to 6, when the store was opened. I remained in the state for two years, when I made the acquaintance of a surveyor who was making a survey of Ulster county. He took me into his service at a salary of \$20 a month. I learned my employer's credit was not very good, and I was to obtain no money for my work until it was complete, so I made sundials for farmers at \$1 apiece to pay my running expenses. I made surveys afterwards in Delaware and Albany counties, and made in these contracts about \$500. I then went into tanning with a Mr. Pratt, of Prattville, and finally entered into partnership with Chas. M. Luff, who committed suicide.

The first railroad with which I had any connection was what is now a portion of the Rensselaer and Saratoga. During the panic of 1859 the stock was down very low, and I was able to buy a large amount of the stock, which afterwards rose in value and made a handsome profit. The next road in which Gould was interested was the Cleveland & Pittsburg, which he afterwards leased to the Pennsylvania road. Gould then rehearsed his connection with the Union Pacific road. As he had interested himself in it and stock was falling, he made up his mind to carry it through at any cost. It was on the point of being placed in the hands of a receiver. Afterwards, when the road became a paying one and dividends were declared regularly, there was a great cry that this was Jay Gould's road, as if this was a dangerous thing. He said, however, he was then engaged in selling out his stock, which was soon in the hands of more than seven thousand investors, representing the earnings of many widows and orphans. This ended his connection with the Union Pacific, and the stock is now higher than he sold it.

The next venture was the building of the Gould railroad system in the south and west. It began with the purchase of the Missouri Pacific from Commodore Garrison. Other roads were purchased and connections made to different points. Gould said he had at this time passed the point where money-making was an object, and his only idea was in carrying out the system, to merely see what could be done by a combination of lines now spread through Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Arkansas, Indian Territory, Texas, Louisiana and Mexico. There are central connections at Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago and New Orleans. All the construction of this system of roads was completed last year and represented about 10,000 miles of road. The earnings of the lines, when he took possession of them, was about \$70,000 a month.

In building up this system the southwest was opened up and thrown open to civilization. Mr. Gould said he had started the American Union as a rival to the Western Union, but found it could not be done, owing to the latter's connections. He then bought a controlling interest in Western Union. Regarding the prospects of the government instituting a postal telegraph system, witness said the idea was opposed to American institutions. He said the telegraph business, more than any other, had to be managed by experts, and the Western Union only succeeded in earning dividends by doing business well. Under government system the management would be subject to great changes.

Mr. Gould said Western Union paid its employees better than any other company, in his opinion. The strike was the result of a feeling of dissatisfaction among the poorer class of employees. The better class of workmen did not as a general rule care so much how many hours they worked, as they were continually hoping for a higher position and wages. Labor and capital, if left to themselves, would bring about satisfactory adjustment.

Mr. Gould said the value of stock in corporation depended upon its earning powers. There might be water in the Western Union, but the same could be said of all kinds of property which had increased in value. He thought the government had no right to fix a limit beyond profits that a

company could go so long as the rates were not unreasonable, but had no right to take away private property without just compensation.

Mr. Gould also thought the mail service would be better accomplished by private enterprise. He would not object to the government taking hold of the telegraph system of the Western Union, provided it would pay what it is worth. In his opinion it would not be a success. Uniform traffic could be secured under private enterprise as well as under the supervision of the government, and the Western Union policy tended to accomplish this.

Senator Blair inquired of Mr. Gould whether he could give an approximate estimate of the value of the Western Union company. Gould replied that he was not in position to give such an estimate. He did not trouble himself with details, but judged of the value of property on a broader basis—that being its earning power. The value of the franchises possessed by the company at present could not be estimated by any known means. He thought seven per cent was a fair estimate of the earning power of the Western Union. If the people thought they were getting too much they could buy the stock. The stock of all safe paying enterprises was being distributed all over the country. This class of investors held about sixty million dollars of Western Union stock, which was continually becoming scarce in the market. Within two years Gould thought the remaining shares now upon the market would be absorbed by investors. He did not think there was as much water in the stock of Western Union as in many other companies.

A Negress' Romance.

Kansas City Times.

"I was born at Nashville, Tenn." said Mattie Young, "and, though I am unable to count or to reckon time, I think I must be about sixteen years old. When I was something more than a year old I was stolen by Robinson's circus. They made a dancing girl of me, and I got so I was a good performer. We went to Cuba, finally, and after I had been with them about seven years, I should think, I was put up for sale on the block at Havana. Henry Grannison, who owns a coffee plantation about eight miles from Havana, bought me, and I went to his place as his slave. They have no mercy on their slaves in Cuba, and I was treated like a brute. When I first went there I was branded on the back with eighteen names, and as often as the scars would dim I was branded again. The names were Spanish, and included the name of my master and his slaves.

"I was made to plow, like a horse. They would hitch three women in harness, and make us drag the plow along, one of us carrying a regular bit in the mouth. The food they gave us consisted of cats, dogs and grasshoppers, and they made us pick tobacco worms and eat them, too. We were sometimes whipped as often as three times a day, and we never knew what Sunday was.

"Two months ago while I was at the house of my master, one of the little children got mad and declared I had beaten her. They wouldn't hear anything I said, and told me the queen had ordered my throat to be cut. I begged for time to pray, and they gave me till the next morning. In Cuba our god is a big snake we call Sarah, and we pray to it for mercy. I believed I would be killed, for I had heard of slaves having their throats cut, and I had been struck on the head with knives before. So that evening I planned to run away. I got a life-preserver from a ship where I was sent to carry coal. When night came I put the life-preserver around me, climbed over the wall, and jumped into the ocean. I was a good swimmer, and wasn't afraid. But the Cuban soldiers heard me splashing in the water, and they began firing at me. The first ball struck me in the thigh, the next hit my foot, and before they quit shooting they hit me seven times. My arms were not hurt though, and I kept on swimming. Finally I reached an island and I stayed there five weeks, living on whatever I could. My wounds hurt me terribly, but as they hurt me worse on land than in the salt water I kept my life preserver on, and swam along the shore of the island most of the time. At the end of five weeks a ship came along bound for Galveston, and I was taken aboard. When we reached Galveston I was put in the hands of some colored church people, and, as I had heard that my mother lived in Nashville, I was sent there. At Nashville I found that my mother had gone, they said, to Kansas City, and so I got help to come here."

The Consul and His Wife.

A Protestant Bishop who had just been appointed to a missionary see in China wished to pay a visit of ceremony to the Tao-tai, or Chinese official who was in charge of the city which was intrusted to the bishop's spiritual care. As the British consul, who was to accompany him, would be in uniform, the happy thought struck the bishop that it would be well for him to appear in his episcopal robes and lawn sleeves. This was carried out, to the great bewilderment of the Tao-tai, who had, of course, never beheld anything similar. He treated his visitors with the usual Chinese politeness, and talked to the consul about the weather, but could not avoid glances of curiosity at the strangely-dressed being at his side. Next day an Englishman who had business with the Tao-tai made his call, and was thus addressed: "The consul was very polite and amiable during the visit he paid yesterday; but tell me, why did he bring his wife? Why did he bring his wife?"

What fate imposes men must needs abide.

THE LAST SPIKE.

Completion of Track Laying on the Northern Pacific.

HELENA, M. T., September 8.—It is eight miles from Helena to the point where the steep grade of the Rocky Mountains begins, and twelve from there to the mouth of Mullen tunnel. As the tunnel is not completed, Mullen pass is crossed by running in curves at a distance of about four miles. The grade is the same as at Bozeman. The sections were safely lifted over the height and the descent made to this point, where the ceremony of driving the last spike has just been concluded. The distance from this point to Helena is fifty-five miles. The train arrived in good shape. From Portland there came a splendid train, bearing prominent citizens to participate in the ceremonies.

The occasion was regarded as a remarkable one, and as promising a prosperous future. All were surprised at what they beheld. Instead of a wilderness there was a magnificent pavilion capable of seating more than one thousand people. In front there was an extensive promenade. The Fifth U. S. Infantry band entertained the company with music. Hundreds of hardy mountaineers had gathered to welcome the party. The ceremonies were opened by President Villard, who divided the attention of the enthusiastic multitude with Gen. Grant, seated on the platform. Villard concluded amid tremendous applause. He then introduced the orator of the occasion, Hon. Wm. M. Everts.

The orator was very heartily applauded. After music Villard introduced Secretary Teller, who spoke of the great energy and capital required to complete the various transcontinental lines and the prospective benefits to the nation. This enterprise of the Northern Pacific railway, along whose lines there would be in a few years nine million people, could not be called local in character. It was more than national. It concerned the welfare of other peoples. It now remains for the managers to justify in the future the wisdom of the government in what it had done and that they will if the policy announced by Villard is carried out.

Secretary Teller was followed by ex-President Billings.

Villard then introduced Minister Sackville West, of England, who in turn introduced Sir James Hennen as the English representative for the occasion. Sir James said the English guests were filled with wonder at the magnificent country. The German minister, Von Eisendecker, was then presented and expressed the hearty good wishes of his countrymen for this enterprise. Dr. Kreip, of Berlin university, then spoke at length in behalf of the German visitors. Dr. Hofmann, the greatest microscopist of the age, said the construction of the Northern Pacific was a modern miracle, and unlike recent miracles was performed in compliance with the laws of nature. The governors of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakota, Montana, Oregon and Washington Territory were severally introduced and made appropriate remarks.

There were loud cries for Gen. Grant, and as the general came forward the air was rent with cheers. He made a few remarks suitable to the occasion. He said he was reminded by the speeches to which he listened of the fact that he had had something to do with the great Northern Pacific enterprise. When Gov. Stevens, thirty years ago, organized his surveying party, he was a lieutenant acting as quartermaster on the Columbia, and he issued the supplies for the expedition. He was not, then, entitled to some credit which Billings had apportioned out to others? It was true, while Billings had contributed of his own money, he paid out Uncle Sam's.

The many veterans present became perfectly wild when he said that these inter-colonial railroads would have amounted to but little but for the men who after the war sought the territories as fields of enterprise. At the conclusion three cheers were given. A photograph was then taken of the foreign guests and Villard's family. After that a horse that had helped build the road from its inception was brought upon the platform. Then 300 men quickly laid the iron and drove the spikes on the thousand feet of uncompleted track, except the last spike. During the progress of the work, which amazed the foreigners, the band played and the people shouted. When nearly completed a cannon salute was fired. The last spike was finally driven home by H. C. Davis, assistant general passenger agent of the road, who drove the first spike on the opening of the road, and this spike was the same one first driven by him. The end was reached as the sun was setting. The enthusiasm of the five thousand people was indescribable. This brought to a happy terminus one of the greatest events of American history. The trains reformed and the guests departed, a few for the east and the balance westward.

Spanish Belles.

I almost think that the finest beauty in Saratoga this summer is Cuban or Spanish, and there are many of them. They are worth watching in social intercourse, having a slight fire and more affection. They roll off the Castilian language like a battle going on in a sea-shell; it comes from such lips, too, and such lashes release the amber eye to do its flashing, and the nostrils swell as if they also ought to have eyelashes to modify the translucence of their sensibility. I hear that their beauty does not wear. It wears on me from year to year. Some of these maids are white as snow. You think they are going to talk to you in the Vermont or the Iowa tongue, till suddenly they shoot out a sentence which sounds like "O hoto poto, cas ada tornado, bang!"

Sundayism in England.

Catholic World.

In the United States there has been a tightening of legislation in regard to certain observances of the Sunday, but in England we seem inclined towards a loosening of the bonds which still unite the Sunday with Christian sentiment. It is true that the proposed changes are but apologetic; they are regretful even more than they are concessive; nor would they appear to the ordinary American to make more demand on the conscience than they do on the purses of the Britisher. The American wag who said that "Sunday in New York used to be kept like any other day in the week, and rather more so," might see nothing to be complained of in the very mild propositions in regard to the museums and the picture-galleries. Looking at the question from the social point of view, it is not impossible that we might be gainers by the change. From the religious point of view we should have to argue upon first principles; and these I will not allude to at the present time. Socially the English Sunday has become so deteriorated into a mere lounging-day, among the masses of our countrymen and countrywomen, that not even the Salvation Army can do more than tickle the humor of the thousands of strollers who won't be bored by religion. And, socially, the upper classes are to blame for a decadence which their good example, their self-denial, might have prevented. The selfishness of the upper classes, in thinking chiefly of their own comforts and caring little for the reasonable rest of their servants, has bred a popular conviction that Sundayism, like respectability, is designed chiefly for those who can afford both. And, further than this, the vulgar worldliness which has led the rich classes to oust the poor classes from all the best seats in all the churches—leaving the poor classes to sit, like alms-people, on back benches, from which they may contemplate the bright toilets in the best seats—has led the poor classes to look on churches as the Sunday show-places of rich people, who cannot even on one day give up their good things to the poor, nor, in God's house, put themselves in the back seats. There is some ground for such an irritable mood of inference. The silk dresses and the velvet jackets are swept majestically up the nave, graciously touching, perhaps, the cotton garments of the plebeian; and from the ivory purses are taken the shillings or the half-crowns for the front seats which should be devoted to the poor. Has this scandal had no social fruit or complement, no ethical or political results worth the naming? It has made radicalism to come out of the churches, from the observation of the worldly selfishness which has walked into them.

The Unreturned Soldier.

Correspondence Boston Transcript.

I saw some of the G. A. R. men making a small mound of flowers in one corner of the yard, and on inquiry found it was in honor of the unreturned soldiers. And now comes the most solemn part of all. They soon gathered around the mound of flowers, the men all with uncovered heads. The minister made a quiet, touching prayer, then a woman and daughter came to the side of the mound and the daughter sang so sweetly "The Faded Coat of Blue." The woman was the widow of one of the brave men who went to war early in 1862, leaving his wife and this daughter, a wee little babe, in her arms. The man never came back and never was found. Everybody was deeply affected as that daughter, now a woman, stood by the mound of flowers and sang to her father's memory. As they all stood there in that quiet place, with reverent hearts and uncovered heads, and as she sang the last—

"I'll find you and know you among the good and true,
When a robe of white is given for your faded coat of blue!"

I think it safe to say there were few dry eyes among them; perhaps it was because my own eyes were so blurred, but I am sure I saw an old, rough farmer draw the back of his hand, rough hand across his eyes. As she sang the last, her voice had hardly died away and the band struck in—oh, so softly!—just the chorus of "Sweet By-and-by." It was so soft and minus the drum that the horse didn't start, and there, in that deathlike stillness, it was simply heavenly. But it brought too much of sadness to me; I turned my horse and quietly rode away. Do you smile at the simplicity of it all? Methinks our own loving hearts could not have expressed a finer sentiment.

Withers Obeyed Orders.

Washington Letter.

"There goes General Withers," said the Virginia colonel. "He commanded the Confederate artillery at Vicksburg. He kept on firing hours after Pemberton had surrendered. Finally he stopped. Presently he found himself in General Grant's tent. Grant was complaining to Pemberton that his artillery had not ceased at the moment of capitulation. 'Here's the man who is responsible for that,' said Pemberton, as Withers entered. And then he began to scold him for blundering in that way. 'General,' said Withers, somewhat heated, 'I didn't know you had surrendered.' 'I thought everybody heard of that as soon as it occurred,' said Pemberton. 'Oh, I heard rumors,' replied Withers; 'but I fight on orders, not on rumors.' 'General Withers is right,' said General Grant, for the first time since Withers entered; 'good soldiers obey orders regardless of rumors. You ought to have notified him at once, General Pemberton.' General Withers is now a rich man. He has a farm—a stock farm, I think—in Kentucky."