

MORMON SENATOR'S DEFENSE.

Reed Smoot Declares He is Not and Has Not Been a Polygamist and is Not Bound by Alleged Oath.

The Answer to the Charges Throws Some Light on Affairs of His Church.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The response of Senator Reed Smoot of Utah to the charges made against him was presented to the senate committee on privileges and elections today by Senator Burrows, chairman of the committee. It was agreed that at the regular meeting of the committee to be held next Saturday, the attorneys for Mr. Smoot and also for the petitioners should be heard. They will be expected to show precedents and authorities, and after they shall have made their presentation the committee will decide whether to go further into the matter by calling witnesses, or dispose of it on the showing which will then have been made. Mr. Smoot submits in answer to charges against him the following:

"This respondent is advised and avers that but two of the charges made against him in said protests, either directly or by implication, are such as, if true, could legally affect his right to hold his seat in the senate. These two charges are:

"1. That the respondent is a polygamist.

"2. That he is bound by some oath or obligation which is inconsistent with the oath required by the constitution, which was administered to him before he took his seat as a senator. Both of these charges the respondent denies.

"As to the charge that he is a polygamist, the respondent says that he was married on the 17th of September, 1864, to Alpha May Eldridge. She is still his wife and the mother of all of his children. He has never had any other wife, and has never cohabited with any other woman.

"As to the charge that the respondent is bound by some oath or obligation controlling his duty under his oath as a senator, the respondent says that he has never taken any such oath, or in any way assumed any such obligation. He holds himself bound to obey and uphold the constitution and laws of the United States, including the condition in reference to polygamy upon which the State of Utah was admitted into the union.

"The respondent denies that he is one of said alleged self-perpetuating body of 15 men, or that there is any such body of men, or that the followers or members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or any of them, accord the right to said alleged body to claim supreme authority, either divinely sanctioned or otherwise, to shape the belief or control the conduct of those under them in all or any matters, civil or temporal, or that said church or such alleged body claims or otherwise exercises any such alleged rights; or that said church, or said alleged body, or any person or body exercises any authority or power too inculcate or encourage a belief in the practice of polygamous cohabitation, or that either countenances or connives at any violation of the laws of the State of Utah or of the United States, and this respondent for himself in particular denies that he is one of said alleged self-perpetuating body of 15 men, or that there is any such body, or that said church, or any part thereof, or any person therein, inculcates or encourages a belief in the practice of polygamy or belief in or practice of polygamous cohabitation, and this respondent denies that he is guilty of polygamous cohabitation, or that he is a polygamist, or that he has ever practiced polygamous cohabitation."

"Mr. Smoot denies that he has ever connived at any violation of any law of Utah or of the United States, and declares that "since the manifesto of President Wilford Woodruff was issued in 1890, neither a belief in, nor a practice of polygamy or polygamous cohabitation has either been taught or encouraged."

"Mr. Smoot admits that the first presidency of the Mormon church is vested with supreme authority in all things temporal so far as temporal things pertain to the affairs of the church. He denies that the first presidency or 12 apostles are supreme in the exercise of the alleged mandates.

"It is admitted that the Mormon church made a rule in regard to its leading officials taking part in politics, but denies that this rule is fully or correctly set forth in the protest.

A RIOT IN NORFOLK.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 10.—As the result of a fight between citizens and marines at the Portsmouth Ferry dock today Lawson Cuddy and Joseph Flynn are in a hospital fatally cut, and Robert Dadden, Benjamin Marks, Frank Benedick and Joe Donohue, marines, are held by the police pending the result of the men's injuries. More serious trouble was averted by a large detachment of police charging the ferry house and fighting their way through the combatants to stop a squad of marines on an incoming ferry boat from landing. The affray occurred in the white passenger room on the Norfolk side of the river. Just what caused the row is not yet known, but it started suddenly, and in an instant there was a general fight, in which about fifty citizens and marines, about equally divided, were engaged. One of the marines, Dadden, the police charge, drew a razor and began slashing right and left. Lawson Cuddy's breast is a series of gashes and a wide cut on the back and side of his neck barely missed his jugular vein. Joe Flynn's right arm is almost severed at the shoulder by a wound, extending from his collar bone down and around to his spine. He has other dangerous injuries. A riot call for police brought a detail of police, who stopped the fighting.

Seattle, Wn., Jan. 9.—The steamer Clallam of the Seattle-Victoria fleet went down early this morning midway between Smith Island and Dungeness, in the straits of Juan de Fuca. Fifty-two persons were drowned.

GEN. JOHN B. GORDON DEAD.

The Close of an Eventful and Distinguished Career—Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Veterans.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 9.—Lieut. Gen. John Brown Gordon died at his winter home near Miami, Fla., at 10.05 to-night. His fatal illness, which overtook him last Wednesday, was congestion of the stomach and liver, following an acute attack of indigestion, to which he was subject.

The beginning of the end occurred this afternoon, serious complications setting in, and by night his physicians had abandoned all hope, as his kidneys refused to secrete, and uramic poisoning was very decided. His death was quiet. He fell peacefully to sleep and all was over.

Gen. Gordon became ill Wednesday afternoon last with acute indigestion. He had suffered from the same trouble in Mississippi many months ago. At 11 o'clock Thursday morning a consultation of physicians was held, and it was found that he was seriously and critically ill. His son, Maj. Hugh Gordon, who resided at Biscayne, was with him. A telegram was sent to his daughter, Mrs. Burton Smith of Atlanta, calling her to his bedside. She was with him when he died. Gen. Gordon grew steadily worse until today, when he was unconscious most of the time.

Gen. and Mrs. Gordon had been in Florida this winter only three weeks before his death. His health had been unusually good prior to his fatal attack.

Gen. Gordon's body will be shipped to his home at Kirkwood, near Atlanta, Ga., tomorrow night, leaving here at 8 o'clock. The party will reach Atlanta Monday afternoon.

Gen. Gordon was born in Upson county, Ga., July 6, 1832, of Scotch ancestry, which had a prominent part in the Revolutionary war.

Young Gordon graduated from the Georgia State university, and a few months later was admitted to the practice of law. Early in 1861 he enlisted in the volunteer Confederate service, and was elected captain of his company. He rose rapidly by promotion to be lieutenant colonel of the Sixth Alabama infantry, in Dec. 1861. He participated in the struggle on the peninsula, had part in the battle at Malvern Hill and was commissioned brigadier general in Nov., 1862. He was in command at Chancellorsville and in the peninsula campaign. He was at the battle of Gettysburg, the battle of the Wilderness, at Spottsylvania Court House. In May, 1864, was promoted to be major general, and took part in the important battles which marked the closing scenes of the Civil war. His bearing was characterized by boldness and a dash which made him the idol of his soldiers. In an official report of Gen. D. H. Hill, Gen. Gordon was characterized as "the Chevalier Bayard of the Confederacy."

When hostilities were ended he called his men about him and advised them to bear the trial of defeat, to go home in peace, obey the laws and rebuild the wasted country. He has taken a prominent part in the councils of his party since 1866. He was a defeated candidate for governor of Georgia in 1868, and in 1873 and 1879 was elected to the United States senate. Resigning that position in 1880, he participated actively in building the Georgia Pacific railroad. In 1886 and 1888 he was elected governor of Georgia, and in 1890 entered again the United States senate for the full term. Since his retirement from political activity he has devoted much of his time to lecturing, presenting to the north as well as the south his lecture upon "The Last Days of the Confederacy." Since the organization of the United Confederate Veterans he has held the position of commander in chief, and his frequent re-elections to that position have testified to the warm affection in which he has been held in the south.

The State Out of Debt!

Columbia, Jan. 10.—The reports of the fiscal officers of the State for the past year will be in the nature of a surprise to the general public, for instead of a deficit a small surplus, something in the neighborhood of \$50,000, will be shown. It is explained that this surplus is due to the money Senator Tillman obtained from the United States on account of Indian and other claims. That sum will not be available again this year in counting the receipts, but it is expected that increased valuation of property and increased receipts from other sources will place the State on a cash basis. This is probable, even if nothing is done in the way of tax reform, and there will be numerous schemes on that line to come before the Legislature. It was the supposed lack of funds that operated against an appropriation for the St. Louis Exposition. The bill in reference to that is still on the calendar and maybe it is not too late yet to do something towards having the State represented at that Exposition.

Gen. Reyes Leaves Washington.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Gen. Rafael Reyes, the Colombian envoy who has been in Washington in connection with the Panama matter for about a month left the city at midnight for New York, preparatory to his departure for Colombia in a few days.

The departure of Gen. Reyes does not constitute the breaking of diplomatic relations with the United States, but merely the suspension of the negotiations which have been going on with the state department having in view the reintegration of Panama as a part of the United States of Colombia. Whether they will be resumed hereafter is not known.

Dr. Herran, the Colombian charge, remains in Washington to attend to legation business other than Panama matters. Advice which have reached here from Colombia show that there is still considerable excitement there over the attitude the United States has taken in the Panama matter.

Gen. Reyes made a farewell call on Secretary Hay today. He endeavored to show Gen. Reyes the futility of Colombia's efforts to regain Panama, but regards the matter as still open to further efforts toward a peaceful adjustment.

GERMANY WILL NOT INTERFERE.

Japan and Russia Must Go It Alone if They Insist on Fighting.

Germany's Neutral Position Insures the Non-Interference of Other European Powers in Case of War—Preparations for Hostilities are Still Actively Progressing.

London, Jan. 10.—It is learned on the highest authority that it has been decided, in the event of war between Russia and Japan, that Germany will maintain a strict neutrality, and that other members of the Dreibrund will observe a similar attitude.

The importance of this decision, which will be announced almost immediately in some official manner in Berlin, cannot be easily over-estimated. In a measure it will insure that hostilities will be confined to the two powers concerned, and it will be certain to give a great stimulus to the efforts France and Great Britain are making in St. Petersburg and Tokio respectively in favor of peace.

RUSSIA BULLDOZES CHINA.

London, Jan. 11.—The Tien Tsun correspondent of the Daily Mail says that the Russian Government has sent to the Chinese Government a threat that Russia would immediately occupy Peking should China join forces with Japan. As a result the grand council has advised the throne to adopt a policy of neutrality.

JAPAN PONDERS HER ANSWER.

London, Jan. 10.—At the Japanese legation tonight it was said that the far Eastern situation remained unchanged. No news has been received by the legation, and it was believed that some days might elapse before any developments occurred, as Japan was still considering her reply. No news had been received at the legation concerning the reported dispatch of troops to Corea.

CHINESE BADLY FRIGHTENED.

Peking, Jan. 10.—Predictions in the native press that a war is inevitable and imminent, and that China will certainly be involved, are causing great uneasiness. Many Chinese fear a repetition of the scenes of pillage and murder which made the year 1900 memorable.

Members of the employees on the railroad between New Chwang and Span Hai Kwan have deserted their posts, thinking that the country traversed by the railroad will surely be the scene of the fighting.

Reports from Manchuria are to the effect that there is great military activity there. The railroads are bringing troops from Russia, and the women and children at Port Arthur and New Chwang are preparing to leave. The Russian general at New Chwang has been called to Port Arthur for service.

Every steamer for Japan is carrying the Japanese from North China who are compelled to the reserve.

THE NEWS RECEIVED IN LONDON.

London, Jan. 11.—The reassuring news that the Russian war ships which recently left Vladivostok have returned there is confirmed in a Vladivostok dispatch received at St. Petersburg.

The dispatch asserts, however, that only the armored cruiser Grovovoi went to sea for a couple of days' practice, the other ships of the fleets having remained at Vladivostok throughout.

Special dispatches from Tokio, printed in this morning's newspapers are very warlike, but add little or nothing to the knowledge of the situation.

They reiterate that Japan has no idea of sending an ultimatum to Russia.

Anxiety is apparently felt in Tokio for the safety of the cruisers Niasin and Kasaga, which left Genoa on Saturday and in connection with the departure of which the Genoa correspondent of the Daily Mail this morning gives a curious story to the effect that an iron bar was found inside the ammunition hold of the Niasin, placed in such a position that it short-circuited the electrical apparatus, with, it is suggested, the object of destroying the vessel, although there is no evidence to show that its being there was not accidental. No serious damage was done.

Seoul dispatches report the arrival of additional Russian and Italian marines there.

The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent asserts that the negotiations between Russia and Japan have passed beyond diplomacy, and states that some Korean officials have appealed to the American legation at Seoul for protection, but that Minister Allen upbraided them for thinking of their personal safety at such a juncture.

RUSSIAN VIEW OF OUR CLAIMS.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 10.—Referring to the interest of the United States in the situation the Novoe Vremya says: "Undoubtedly the United States, above all other Powers, can confidently expect that its trade will not suffer by Russian possession of Manchuria, and it would be tactless on America's part to demand now what she could gain peacefully when everything quiets down."

NO FIGHTING FOR A MONTH.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 10.—The most reliable news received here is that the mass of Russian troops in the far East is concentrated at Vladivostok or on the northern frontier of Corea.

A traveller who has returned lately from the far East, estimates that between 100,000 and 200,000 soldiers were in the vicinity of Vladivostok. He surmises that the Russians will occupy Northern Corea, but that the possible collision was not imminent for a month or more, taking into consideration distances and the difficulties of marching.

Paris, Jan. 11.—A strong current of official sentiment was set in motion today favorable to strengthening the hand of Russia in her claims to exercise paramount influence in Manchuria. It is pointed out that Russia, having conceded Japan's paramount influence in Corea, Japan appears to be unwilling to make a reciprocal concession by recognizing Russia's paramount influence in Manchuria. There is reason to believe that the late

Russian note makes clear Russia's attitude and intentions concerning Manchuria and how far she is disposed to recognize Japanese ambitions in Manchuria.

The general purport of the Russian position is that Japanese merchants and individuals shall have the right of free access to Manchuria for purposes of travel and commerce, but that Russia does not wish this to be extended to the colonization of Japanese in large communities in Manchuria.

Strong sympathy is expressed here in behalf of the Russian view as it is said that the general admission of Japanese colonization in Manchuria would create questions of political and racial domination. It is asserted to be in the interest of the commerce of Europe and America that Russia should replace China's authority in Manchuria. It is maintained in governmental quarters that it is to the general interests of Europe and America to give moral support to a settlement of the pending conflict on the basis of Japan's authority in Corea and Russia's authority in Manchuria. Those who are in the best position to know Russia's intentions say her determination to exercise her sphere of influence in Manchuria is irrevocable.

Owing to Russia's latest attitude in Manchuria it is the view of official circles here that the main issue of the negotiations now centers on Manchuria, instead of Corea.

RUSSIA'S MANCHURIAN POSITION.

Berlin, Jan. 11.—The Russian government has informed the power that it will respect fully the rights any nation has in Manchuria under treaty with China. This declaration is made without reservation.

Russia gives formal expression to this policy now in consequence of the controversy with Japan, one of whose persistent contentions has been for a definition of Russia's policy in Manchuria and an acknowledgement of Japan's trade privileges. Russia's reply has been, in substance, as follows:

"We cannot discuss Manchuria with you any more than we could Australia or the Philippines. Manchuria belongs neither to us nor to you. It does not lie within the jurisdiction of either of us to dispose of the future of Manchuria."

Russia, however, is willing to observe the treaty rights of the powers in Manchuria and now engages to do so.

Russia, it is added, thus removes from the negotiations one of the moral supports of other powers and whereon she especially had the sympathy of the United States and Great Britain.

CHINESE MINISTERS' ADVICES.

London, Jan. 12.—The Times' Peking correspondent, cabling under yesterday's date, says that the Chinese minister at Tokio, at the request of the Japanese foreign office, telegraphed the following communication to Prince Ching:

"The second Russian reply to the Japanese proposals has been received at Tokio, but it is unfavorable and cannot be accepted by Japan, who will, unless Russia recedes, be compelled to promptly resort to arms."

"In view of such an eventuality Japan urges and expects China to maintain the strictest neutrality, to preserve order throughout the empire, to guard foreigners resident in the interior and to take special care to preserve order in the provinces of Shan Tung and Yunnan, lest foreign powers might seize the pretext of disorder and make aggressive movements therein."

The correspondent says that the dispatch has deeply impressed the Chinese who now believe war to be inevitable. He adds that notes looking to the ratification of the treaty between China and Japan were exchanged yesterday afternoon.

NOTHING NEW.

London, Jan. 11.—It is learned by the Associated Press that the terms enunciated in the forecast of the Russian communication to the powers cabled from Berlin today are practically identical with Russia's former reply of which Japan asked a reconsideration.

It is stated that Russia's last reply, which Japan is now considering, differs in not essential from Russia's previous proposals, the only difference being in the wording, together with some minor concessions concerning Corea, which it is stated Japan considers immaterial.

PREPARING HER FINAL PROPOSALS.

Tokio, Jan. 11.—The cabinet and elder statesmen met for a joint conference at the official residence of Premier Katsura this afternoon. The premier, who is ill, was not present. They discussed the political and strategic situation and will report to the throne tomorrow.

The note delivered by Foreign Minister Komura on Saturday to Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister, was merely preliminary to Japan's formal response which has not yet been delivered.

The questions at issue were discussed at today's conference of the cabinet and elder statesmen and a final decision is expected tomorrow. When this has been reached, the conference will appear before the throne and submit the answer agreed upon. After this has been done the final proposals of Japan will be handed to Baron de Rosen.

Pardons of a Year.

The Governor has completed his report as to pardons granted during 1903. Of offenses grave enough to put the convicts in the Penitentiary only fifteen were granted, which is quite a falling off from previous years.

For chain gang offenses the pardons and commutations were about the same. The matter of pardons is one which requires a great deal of attention from the Governor. Petitions are almost daily received, and it is no uncommon thing for delegations to call in behalf of some prisoner. It is impossible for the Governor to review all the papers presented to him, and action is almost invariably taken on the recommendation of the solicitor and judge. In many cases the jurors who convicted the criminal recommend a pardon or a commutation. It seems a very easy matter for a great many convicts to get all of these endorsements for pardon, and whatever the number granted by the present or former Governors, it is insignificant in comparison with the number of petitions presented, which are endorsed by citizens, solicitors and judges.

GEN. JOHN B. GORDON VERY ILL.

His Physicians Entertain Serious Fears That He Will Die.

Miami, Fla., Jan. 7.—Gen. John B. Gordon is dangerously ill at his home, Biscayne, seven miles north of the city. The attack is similar to one that he suffered from some time ago on a railroad train in Mississippi. It is inflammation of the stomach, caused by an acute attack of indigestion, to which he is subject.

The following bulletin has just been issued by the attending physicians of Gen. John B. Gordon:

"Gen. John B. Gordon's condition remains the same as at noon. He grew much weaker at 5 this afternoon, but responded to stimulants and has rallied somewhat; is now resting more quietly. Temperature 104; pulse 16.

"His wife and two sons are with him. His daughters, Mrs. Burton Smith and Mrs. Orton Bishop Brown, have been notified.

"Gen. Gordon's condition is very critical. His advanced age (72) and general depleted strength from previous impaired health, causes his physicians to entertain serious fears of the outcome.

"Gramling and Jackson, 'Attending Physicians.'

ELEVEN O'CLOCK BULLETIN.

The following bulletin, issued by Drs. Gramling and Jackson, the attending physicians to Gen. John B. Gordon, was given out at 11 o'clock tonight:

Temperature 102.3-5; pulse 108. Resting little more quiet.

FOR BACK TAX ON ROLLING STOCK.

Effort Being Made by Mr. Gantt, as the Agent of the Sinking Fund Commission.

Hon. Jesse T. Gantt, agent of the sinking fund commission, recently instituted proceedings to secure back taxes with penalties from a number of large shipping concerns which operate their own cars in South Carolina. This action was backed up by an opinion of the attorney general, who decided that taxes could be collected from firms of the character of the Pullman company, Nelson Morris, Armour, Plankinton, the Standard Oil company and other enterprises which operate freight cars in the State. Mr. Gantt communicated with these firms to the extent indicated and the advance guard of the answers have begun to arrive. Nelson Morris & Co., the well known packers, write that they have submitted the matter to their counsel.

A new phase is disclosed in the letter to Mr. Gantt from Mr. Thos. M. Towl of New York city, the manager of the real estate and tax department of the Standard Oil company. He writes:

"Your letter directed to the Standard Oil company has been forwarded to me as agent of the Union Tank Line company, the Standard Oil company not owning any cars which enter the State of South Carolina.

"The Union Tank Line company, a corporation organized and doing business under the laws of the State of New Jersey, owns a large number of tank cars that are used by the different railroads in the country for transporting liquid freight. These cars are not operated by the Union Tank Line company but are leased to the different railroads who use them as they would their own cars, billing and collecting for the freight. The only consideration which the Union Tank Line company receives for the use of these cars is a mileage which is paid to them by the different railroads over which the cars run, which rate is the same as one railroad would pay another for the use of cars belonging to them which might come upon their road.

"The Union Tank Line company has no agent and never has had an agent and does no business in the State of South Carolina. Therefore I cannot see how said company would be liable to taxation in said State.

"On receipt of this letter I would like to have you send me a copy of the latest edition of your statutes with the session laws from the date of the last edition of your statutes to date, and write and tell me under what provision of your law you claim that the Union Tank Line company is liable to taxation in your State.

"On receipt of these laws I will investigate the matter and write to you or, if necessary, come and see you with regard to it.

"We do not wish to avoid taxation but are not so generous that we care to pay taxes unless there is some law compelling us to do so."

The movement which Mr. Gantt is pushing has been forestalled by the State of Mississippi, which expects to get hundreds of thousands of dollars of back tax from these companies.—The State.

The State's Money.

The State has now on hand to run the government until next November, or until taxes come in, \$467,143.74, and if the State was run strictly on a cash basis this would be all that could be appropriated, but such will not be the case. The total claims against the State, including notes and other matters of this kind, amounts to \$516,776.95, and the cash balance amounts to \$206,983.08. There is outstanding, however, including the \$89,000 secured by Senator Tillman, which the general assembly may place to the general fund, \$776,937.61. This makes a total of \$995,920.69, and with the \$516,776.95 subtracted from his there will be a balance of \$467,143.74.—Columbia Record.

London, Jan. 11.—Short time, 40 hours weekly, instead of 56, was started today in a number of mills using American cotton in the Ashton-Under-Lyne district, in accordance with the recommendation of the Cotton Spinners' association in its effort to abolish cotton speculation.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The senate in executive session today laid on the table the motion to reconsider the confirmation of the nomination of W. L. Buchanan to minister to Panama. The vote was 38 to 16, divided on party lines with the exception of Senator McCreary (Dem.) of Kentucky, who voted with the Republicans.

Gordon and Longstreet.

Mrs. Longstreet gives out for publication a statement to the effect that, when the General was stricken with his last illness, she was engaged in completing a reply to the recent criticism of General John B. Gordon, on her husband's conduct at the battle of Gettysburg.

We suppose Mrs. Longstreet's article will be published in due time, and that it will be taken as the last utterance of her husband on the subject of Gettysburg; for, while the composition is hers, we suppose the views presented are in the main his.

Mrs. Longstreet is represented as saying that General Longstreet's operations at Gettysburg were "above suspicion of reproach, until he came under the political ban of the South."

Inasmuch as Mrs. Longstreet has referred to this question at this time, it may not be amiss to quote what General Gordon did say. Gordon in his memoirs conceded that Longstreet was undoubtedly among the great American soldiers who have attained distinction in our Civil War, and he added. But it is now certain that impartial military critics, after thorough investigation, will consider the following as established:

"1. That General Lee ordered Longstreet to attack early the morning of the second day, and if he had done so, two of the largest corps of Meade's army would not have been in the fight; but Longstreet delayed the attack until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and thus lost his opportunity of occupying Little Round Top, the key to the position, which he might have done in the morning without firing a shot or losing a man.

"2. That General Lee ordered Longstreet to attack at daybreak on the morning of the third day, and that he did not attack until 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the artillery opening at once.

"3. That General Lee, according to the testimony of Colonel Walter H. Taylor, Colonel C. S. Venable and General A. L. Long, who were present when the order was given, ordered Longstreet to make the attack on the last day, with the three divisions of his corps, and two divisions of P. G. Hill's corps, and that instead of doing so he sent fourteen thousand men to assail Meade's army, in his strong position and heavily entrenched.

"4. That the great mistake of the halt on the first day would have been repaired on the second, and even on the third day, if Lee's orders had been vigorously executed, and that General Lee died believing (the testimony on this point is overwhelming) that he lost Gettysburg at last by Longstreet's disobedience of orders.

"It has remained," said Mrs. Longstreet, "for Major-General John B. Gordon, once of the Army of Northern Virginia, to revive this controversy, etc."

It will be seen that she refers to General Gordon not as a lieutenant-general, but as a major-general. The fact is, we believe that General Gordon, though but a major-general, commanded a corps towards the close of hostilities, but it had been promised that a commission as lieutenant-general should be forwarded to him from Richmond. Whether the commission was actually made out and signed or not, we do not now remember, but we do recall the fact that General Gordon once published a card claiming that the circumstances were such that he was entitled to be called a lieutenant-general. It may be, indeed, that the commission actually had been mailed him.

In this connection we may say that if it is not a fact, as stated in some newspapers, that the last of the commissioned lieutenant-generals of the Confederate army died with General Longstreet. That is an error. General A. P. Stewart and General Simon P. Buckner, both of whom were lieutenant-generals, are living. So, too, are Stephen D. Lee and General Wheeler, but whether they had actually received the commission intended for them before the surrender, we cannot say.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Safety of London Theatres.

Since 1858, upon authority of Sir Algernon West, but one life has been lost by fire in any properly licensed London theatre. The one life lost was that of a fireman who perished in the performance of his duty at the Alhambra in 1882. This splendid showing is not due to the superiority of London theatres, considered from a structural standpoint, but rather to the precautions enjoined and absolutely enforced. In London theatres the asbestos curtain must be lowered once during every performance, to demonstrate that it is in working order, doors must open outward, passages and stairways must be kept clear and many other precautions must absolutely be observed. During a performance such exit doors as are closed must be secured by automatic bolts, such as are approved by the council and a most important matter, the public must be permitted to use any and all of the various exits when leaving the building, thus familiarizing it with the different means of escaping in the event of fire.

An independent system of lighting, to be used in the event of the extinguishment of the principal system, must be provided and kept in perfect working order. These must be kept lighted while the public occupies the premises. The use of mineral oil in the lamps of this second lighting system is prohibited. All hanging curtains and draperies must be so treated painted on canvas that has been treated as to be non-inflammable. Scenery is with a solution to render it non-inflammable, while the paints used by the scenic artists, contain no oils. Here are some practicable suggestions for the regulation of our American theatres. They would amount to nothing, however, without enforcement, a thing that is strictly looked after in London, where they have a system of inspection that inspects, a system of regulation that regulates.

Mexico, Jan. 8.—At the Los Laurels mines, west of Guadalajara, a large number of boxes of dynamite stored in a powder house, exploded yesterday, killing twenty men and injuring forty others. The detonations were heard many miles away and an American mine owner, working in his mine, three miles away, was killed by a falling rock that had been jarred by the concussion. Details are lacking but it is reported that the disaster was caused by the explosion of a dynamite cap in the powder house.