

A Solemn Week.

The present week is one full of solemnity to those Christians who are attached to the doctrines of the Catholic and Protestant Episcopal churches. By both denominations it is devoted to a special commemoration of the sufferings and death of the Saviour of fallen man.

In the calendar of the former church, to-day is denominated "Maunday Thursday," and is celebrated as commemorative of the Last Supper, and the institution of the Sacrament, denominated by Catholics the "Holy Eucharist."

In the Catholic liturgical service of this morning two hosts are consecrated, one of which is received in communion by the officiating priest, and the other is carried in solemn procession to a place adorned with flowers and lights, called "The Repository," and the main altar is stripped of its covering, in remembrance of the indignities offered to our Saviour by his enemies.

On Friday, called "Good Friday," the services have reference, exclusively, to the trial and crucifixion of Christ; and the ceremony of kissing the figure of our Saviour upon the Cross is performed by the entire congregation.

On Saturday, called "Holy Saturday," a variety of ceremonies are performed, having reference mainly to the approaching festival of Easter. A new fire is made and blessed together with five grains of incense, which are placed upon a large candle, known as the paschal candle, in the form of a cross. A triple candle is lighted in the aisle of the church and borne to the chancel, and twelve prophecies, or long passages from the Old Testament, are read—a custom which appears to have derived its origin from the fact that the Catechumens, who were anciently baptized on this day, were thus instructed. After this, the paschal candle, an emblem of Christ's resurrection, is solemnly blessed and lighted from the triple candle, as are also all the lamps and candles used in the church; and the water of the baptismal font having been blessed, those who are to receive baptism, if any, are solemnly received into the church. In token of grief for the death of our Saviour, neither bells nor organs are used in Catholic churches on Good Friday; the bells, therefore, are rung during the anthem, "Gloria in excelsis," on Thursday, and are silent, at all hours, until the recitation of the same anthem in the mass of Saturday.

In the evening of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in the Catholic churches there takes place the solemn office of what is commonly called the *Tenebræ*, being the recitation of certain Psalms and prayers. The name *Tenebræ* is given to it from the circumstance of extinguishing during the course of it all the candles which have been lighted in the sanctuary for the purpose. The ceremony concludes with the plaintive *Miserere*, which is sung after all the lights upon the altar are extinguished.

The Protestant Episcopal Church denominates this week "Twelve Week," and in its ritual calls its members every day to the contemplation of the sufferings of our Lord, that their humiliation may be increased by the consideration of the sufferings of Christ, and that with penitent hearts they may accompany the Saviour through the stages of his bitter passion. To-day the "Thursday before Easter" is observed. To-morrow "Good Friday" and on Saturday "Easter Eve" are observed with peculiar solemnities, as set forth in the Liturgy.

The close of the week closes Lent with both denominations, and during the solemnities of these three days crowds will be in attendance upon the services in the churches.

The Sickles Case.

The trial of the Hon. Daniel E. Sickles, charged with the murder of Philip Barton Key, was continued in the criminal court yesterday.

Geo. B. Woodriddle, cross-examined. Witness is unable to tell when Mr. Sickles returned to the house; several persons came in with him, among them Mr. Butterworth; there were some police officers who remained in the library; he first entered the room; witness remained in the library after he came in, and did not see him up stairs; thinks he came out of the back parlor and passed through the library; thinks the door between the two was closed most of the time; could not say Mrs. Sickles was in the back parlor when the door was open; only knew he was there by seeing him come out with Mr. Butterworth and Mr. Walker; thinks there were persons in the back parlor when the door was closed. On Saturday Sickles cautioned witness not to mention Mrs. Sickles's name, for suspicion was almost as bad as reality, or words to that effect; on Friday morning Sickles rode with witness by the house in 15th street; just passed by; at night witness returned to the house in 15th street; it was a stormy, snowy night; might have staid in the neighborhood half an hour, then drove to the Capitol; it was dark before witness went to the place; took a negro named Crittenden to the Capitol that night to see Sickles; the negro knew all about Key, but did not know who the woman was; Sickles gave witness general instructions in front of the Treasury Department to find out if the woman was his wife; the instructions were not specific. It prostrated Mr. Sickles at once when witness described to him the dresses and mentioned the change of the day; went and got the anonymous letter in Mr. S.'s desk, in the House of Representatives; took it to the jail in the portfolio, and their put initials on the letter and envelope; Mr. S. said "his hope was that it was not his wife;" recollect seeing Mr. Sickles come in the house after the shooting; can't fix the difference in time exactly when Butterworth left. Mr. Sickles's exclamation, "What shall I do," was not made to any one.

Thomas McGaffey testified that he resided in this city, and was a contractor; knew Key and met him at the club; witness was a member of the club before its dissolution; had a conversation with Key about Mrs. Sickles in June, 1858, and on the day of the Napier ball, February 17, 1858. Witness proceeded to state the conversation, but it was objected to.

Mr. Brady said that he proposed to prove that Key, when spoken to about his over-attentions to Mrs. Sickles, replied that she was a mere child, of simplicity of character, and that he bore only paternal relations to her—indignantly repelling the idea of his infatuation. The defence also want to prove that when Key was warned on the day of the Napier ball of his intimacy with Mrs. S., he put his hand on his left breast and said "that he was prepared for any emergency."

The admissibility of the evidence was argued by Messrs. Ould and Carlisle for the United States, and by Messrs. Brady and Graham for the defence. The Court decided that the evidence was not admissible.

T. J. Brown testified that he had made measurements at the house of Mr. Sickles. It is 45 feet 5 inches from the front window to the rear window—from inner wall to inner wall. The sofa is near the back window. The thickness of the wall is 14 inches. Made the measurement Tuesday morning. The sofa was then where he said.

Felix McClusky testified that he was attracted to the shooting on Sunday, 27th of February, by a crowd; went there, as witness was near the place; followed the crowd up to Attorney General Black's, and before witness got there recognized Sickles; went to Black's, and witness sent a note in to Sickles, and soon heard that he got it; witness went back to Sickles's house a little ahead of the carriage in which Mr. Sickles and Mr. Butterworth returned to the former's house; in a few moments the carriage came, and Mr. Sickles and Mr. Butterworth and some one else got out; they came in and soon went into the room back of the library; was about to follow when the door was shut, and did not; saw Sickles going round; looking as though he would kill every man in the house; watched him, and followed him up stairs; when witness went in the library, Woodriddle and Miss Ridgely were there; once, when the door was opened, heard confession, but the door was shut; in a few moments Captain Goddard and the Mayor came; McBlair followed witness up the steps; think I was the first there.

Charles G. Bacon testified that he had procured from the surveyor's office a certified diagram of the locality showing the avenue in front of President's square to be 129 feet wide; the width of Madison square (street) to be 92 feet; Jackson Place (street) 90 feet. The length of the square, facing which the Club-house and Sickles's house stand, is 419 feet ten inches. The length of Jackson square is 725 feet 9 inches, exclusive of the streets now called places. Went to the eastward side of Commodore McCauley's house, and walked rapidly to the second tree, (where Key was killed,) and it took him thirty seconds; ran it in thirteen seconds. The distance is 125 feet. Witness is a rapid walker or runner.

John McDonald, groom and footman for Mr. Sickles, testified to several meetings of Mr. Key and Mrs. Sickles, and to what they had said at such meetings.

Mr. Ould said that when the defence had offered certain testimony, the prosecution had objected on the ground that it was not lawful to prove the adulterous intercourse; but the Court having admitted it to prove

other points, the prosecution now withdraw all opposition to the introduction of that testimony to prove the adultery, including the alleged confession of Mrs. Sickles.

The defence declared that they would be ready on Thursday to respond to the offer.

The United States here called, as rebutting testimony, Hon. Eugene Pendleton, of Ohio, who testified that he went to John Grey's house on Monday of the week succeeding the week in which Key was killed—eight days after the homicide. Had sent for John Grey and told him that he wanted to examine the house. In company with Mr. Jones met Grey in front of the house. In consequence of a conversation between Grey and a negro woman living very near, supposed the back door was open, but, on going around to it, it was found to require force to open it. Witness suggested it would be better to send for a locksmith. Grey did so. In the meantime two gentlemen joined them, and conversed with them.

In the meantime the locksmith came, and he thinks tried another back door leading from the passage way and did not open it, and then went to the back door leading from the passage to the kitchen and opened it, saying that it had not been locked. All then entered the house, and there he looked about for a few minutes; and then went up stairs with Jones and conversing with Jones. On coming down found the front door open, the lock having been taken off. Paid Grey half a dollar for the locksmith's trouble in opening the door, at his suggestion, and did not know he designed taking it off. Did not see that done, or know when it was done, or what became of it.

Witness had received various articles for different parties, said to have belonged to Mr. Key. He produced some of them; and detailed some facts in reference to how they came into his possession. They were examined by the defence; and all except one paper in cipher, which they wished placed in the record to be deciphered, were pronounced unimportant.

Charles Lee Jones testified that he visited the house of John Grey with Mr. Pendleton on the Monday week after the homicide. By previous appointment met a colored man there, went to the front door and found it locked. Then went to an adjoining yard and got into the yard, and two men rushed in and spoke to Grey. Witness had a long conversation with those two men. In the meantime witness examined all the modes of entrance. Mr. P. suggested to get in by the door. A locksmith was sent for, and when he came witness observed him go to a door entering the main building, and then try the door, and then go to the back door and shake it, and exclaim that it was not locked. Witness invited the two gentlemen in; they went in. Witness and P. went up stairs, and on searching found no property belonging to Mr. Key there. Witness knows nothing of the taking off the lock from the front door, and had nothing to do with it in any manner.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Jones's testimony, the court adjourned.

The National Musical Convention.

The convention assembled at 10 o'clock yesterday, and spent the morning session in elementary practice, and a rehearsal of choruses from the old masters under the direction of Professor Perkins. The afternoon session was also occupied in elementary exercises.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the evening, the night session was finely attended—a large proportion of those present being of the gentler sex. The lessons upon the elementary sounds of consonants, as used in vocal music, formed the principal subject of the evening's instruction. The efforts to sound properly, in unison, the elements of difficult consonants excited much merriment, and the evening passed quite pleasantly.

The Funeral of Mrs. Pendleton.

A large concourse of persons, including the President of the United States, the Attorney General, and the Commissioner of Public Buildings, assembled at the residence of Mrs. Mills, Capitol Hill, on occasion of the funeral services of the estimable Mrs. Jacqueline S. Pendleton, last Tuesday afternoon. The Rev. Byron Sunderland conducted the religious solemnities of the occasion.

The Columbia Fire Company, to whom the deceased was, during life, a most liberal patron, followed in carriages her remains to the grave, and further testified grief and respect by tolling the bell of the company during the passage of the funeral procession.

The Washington Horticultural Society.

The annual meeting of the Washington Horticultural Society, called last evening at Corcoran's Hall, on H street, was very thinly attended, and no business was transacted.

We learn that it is in contemplation to hold the spring exhibition of the society in May. The forwardness of plants this season renders an early exhibition practicable. One of the florists present stated that he had rose trees in the open air, which, unless severe weather intervened, would be in bloom within two weeks.

Washington Levy Court.—Reappointments.

The President of the United States yesterday re-commissioned as justices of the peace for the county of Washington the following-named gentlemen: Hamilton Loughborough, Geo. W. Riggs, jr., O. W. C. Dunnington, Wm. Thompson, Joshua Pierce, Henry Naylor, and F. J. Murphy.

Messrs. Henry Naylor, Henry Haw, Joshua Pierce, Hamilton Loughborough, Robert White, Lewis Carberry, R. R. Crawford, Samuel Drury, Geo. W. Riggs, jr., Jas. A. Kennedy, and W. G. Palmer have been reappointed members of the levy court of Washington county.

Delegates.

The following delegation has been appointed to represent this city in the Quarantine and Sanitary Convention to be held in New York on the 27th instant: Mayor Berret, the Commissioner of Health, Alderman Dr. Thos. Miller, and Councilman Dr. W. G. Palmer. It is probable that delegates will also be sent from the various medical associations of the District.

New Building Association.

A meeting called for the purpose of organizing a new Building Association was held at the Medical College, F street, last evening. C. J. Fisher chairman, and C. L. West secretary. Messrs. J. T. Walker, B. W. Keyser, C. J. Ulman, and C. W. Cunningham were appointed a committee to solicit subscribers and draft rules for the government of the association, and the meeting adjourned.

Arrivals.

Dr. Brown, U. S. N.; is at Willards'; W. Myers, U. S. A., is at the Kirkwood House; Judge Colt of St. Louis, is at the National.