DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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NINE LIES, FIVE LIES.

Readers who believe everything they see in the columns of the newspapers—particularly if they are prone to fear as to a one terrible calamity—that is threatened by reason of the constitution of a plain, simple, honest principle of Church discipline—ought to be warned that they are being greatly imposed upon by a set of scamps that is being published somewhere the possession of the Hall Blake conference at Provo last Sunday afternoon. One of the country papers condenses the whole nuggetty lie into the following:

> The daily papers report that President Joseph F. Smith made a verbal lick in the Provo conference on Sunday and even intimated those who refused to sustain the recent declaration. The smoke was so dense, and powerful, and wide the vote was taken, a great many in the dense fog, like the Athenians, voted "No."

We shall not undertake to say how many misstatements are made in the foregoing, but they are numerous, and we have just time and space enough to point out some of them.

Firstly, President Joseph F. Smith's talk was not a verbal lick at all; on the contrary it is described by every person who was present and who was minded to it in writing of speaking to the News as a temperate, logical, sound discourse.

Secondly, such a thing as a threat was not uttered or intimated; the only thing that could be so construed was the very proper suggestion to effect that only by their action in accepting or rejecting the rules and doctrines of the Church could its members be judged as to their standing and fellowship—can a person be deemed a Mormon in full standing, or can a man be deemed in full standing and membership in any church, unless he subscribes to and is in harmony with the doctrines of that church?

Thirdly, President Smith's remarks were extremely well received—the audience was large and paid the closest attention, as well as seeming to be in through sound with the spirit of the speaker; two gentlemen who occupied elevated seats from which they could see the people, declared to the writer this morning that they never saw a more interested and attentive congregation, and hundreds of others will bear the same testimony—there was no whispering or inattention, and not the slightest violation of disapproval.

Fourthly, as to the "great number" who "withdrew when the vote was taken"—the withdrawing was done by President Smith and other visitors who had to take the train for their homes and who left even before the "recent declaration" was read upon which the vote was taken. This "withdrawal" included perhaps a dozen or a score of persons, nearly if not quite all of whom pattered straight down to the depot through the mud and rain as fast as they could go in order to catch the train. Of course it is possible that persons may also have left during and after the reading of the document and before the vote was taken—people sometimes grow impatient or have other calls upon their time when they have remained in a meeting for over two hours, as was the case on this occasion. But if any did subsequently leave, they were but very few—one of our informants says he only noticed three—and there was not enough of a movement to cause any one to notice it, to say nothing of regarding it as in any way significant.

Fifthly, as to the "others who voted 'No'"—the negative vote was represented by one single, solitary individual!

There may be other falsehoods, equally palpable, concerning this much-discussed meeting in Provo, and concerning what was uttered and done; but we have said enough on the subject for today.

COUNCILMAN FROM THE THIRD.

The News wishes to call the attention of the City Council to the fact that one gentleman who is recognized as a member from the third municipal ward has no right, under the ruling of the court, to his seat, or to vote on any proposition before the body, or to draw the salary for the office. That gentleman is Mr. W. M. Elliott, who was intended to be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Joseph M. Wilson, but whose election failed for the reason that the present Council had not the jurisdiction it assumed to exercise.

This question is important to the city, and it has been settled, at least for the present, by the court. No matter what the gentleman's position might be, Mr. Elliott is not a member, even de facto. If he was elected in the course of holding a government way or the other, the decision would be fatal and to allow him to sit would such proceedings would be a gross fraud on the citizens, and an infraction of much fabric that is the validity of the Council's work. It can be claimed in the Council to the fact of his membership last, Mr. Elliott took part in the last meeting of the council, to disturbing the reputation that has been issued.

We are fully aware that the city attorney resisted the appointment, and it was refused by some of the members, that the appointee taken stayed proceedings; but legal fabric of larger experience, greater learning, higher standing, and in a more authoritative position, emphatically overruled the rule to be observed. There is a long list of them, but also courts and the highest court in this nation. For instance, the supreme court of California fully and finally that "an illegal act is not dissolved or superseded by an appeal taken;" the courts of other states are equally emphatic on the rule, and the Supreme Court of the United States says that "neither a license for an injunction nor a decree dissolving an injunction is conferred to the effects by the writ of error, though all the proceedings for a mandamus were complied with." In the decree of the Third district court it is stated that Mr. Elliott "is not in duty or privilege from exercising any of the duties or exercise any of its emoluments," in the office of councilman.

We are not arguing as to the position of Mr. Elliott, which the court directed to be sometimes de jure. That matter is on appeal. The Council might allow him to act, and his action would be binding in law until a court ruling was had against him, it ought to be the case; but we are not making any suggestion now as to what the Council ought to do with him. We only say that it should not allow Mr. Elliott to take part in the work of the Council, for the reason that a court of competent jurisdiction has issued an injunction restraining him from so acting, and his appeal does not in any manner interfere with that restraining order. He is emphatically out of the business, and the Council ignores the court's order in permitting him to appear as any thing else than a spectator.

CHINA AND RECIPROCITY.

The dispatch from Chicago, relative to the statements of H. H. Jeffords regarding possible reciprocal trade relations between China and the United States, has in it some very interesting items suggestive of the fact that there is much ignorance in this country regarding the Chinese at home. Passing the lip as admitted that we do not know much about China and have a somewhat mistaken conception of the capabilities of our people, the peculiarity idea of Mr. Jeffords is likely to meet with considerable resistance more endorsement on the Pacific coast. The idea of an American-Chinese chamber of commerce for the introduction of American goods and wares at Shanghai is all right, but when it comes to operating for the systematic introduction of the product of Chinese labor into this country, the proposition will not be so palatable.

Mr. Jeffords may hold the view, and it may be correct, that the Chinese labor do not rival manufactures. Yet there has been sufficient actual experience, on the part of Pacific coast manufacturers and workmen particularly, to establish the fact that there is a serious menace to American labor from that quarter. People who live as economically—if the term may be applied to their methods—can and do work at such wages as to make competition decidedly uncomfortable for the more liberally paid worker in this country. From the anti-Japanese-trade agitation which has been going on recently in California, Oregon and Washington, we apprehend that those states would present a formidable opposition to any special efforts to establish reciprocal trade relations with China. Things will go smoothly enough on this side so long as the syndicate referred to confines itself to introducing American goods into the Mongolian empire; but when the other process is applied, we are inclined to believe that the field of politics and labor on the coast will soon continue any westerner engaged in the business that his "touch with the manufacturers" is not of a harmonious character. Reciprocal trade relations with the Orient is not a Pacific coast hobby just now.

DISGRACED HIMSELF.

The reputable voters of the First municipal ward of this city who cast their ballots at the late general election for Councilman Wilmsen must now feel heads in shame when they come to read in the editorial he made at Council at last evening's session of the City Council. There have been some unpleasant and indignified scenes at the Council session, chiefly caused by the efforts of a few members, and the News has taken occasion to mention each member of that body only in the public. Of late there has been an improvement, and in many conferences the Council has marked a case called for the decorum observed in which its proceedings were conducted. After the charge on the better it is astonishing patient to note that the most comforting speech yet uttered by the Council member was during Mr. Wilmsen's seven last evenings. He makes an unfortunate remark during a bit of Mr. O'Meara and to reference to some other members of the Council were a disgrace to any deliberating official body, and we could not to cause a disturbance of scenes in the whole city that has of decidedly refined taste and of gentlemanly order.

It is not a sufficient excuse to say, in mitigation of his language, that it is a publication of his offensive conduct, that Mr. Wilmsen was somewhat under the influence of liquor at the time. Sometimes alcohol, while it may explain the failure or inability of a person to control himself within bounds of decency, or not to conduct himself in a manner at a meeting of the municipal board, and any member

BOLSHAIS SORY SPOILED.

The deputation gave an account of how Charles Vieh of Chicago was murdered with poisons on Friday. He was discovered in a bakery, lying with his face upon a steady dripping stream of molasses, and it was concluded that he had laid down to satisfy a craving for the syrup and died death as a consequence of his velocity. Now comes the verdict of the jury and Mrs. Vieh's statement. A whole relates this story, and says that death was a result of injuries received three years ago. An accident had rendered him subject to fainting spells, and many times he had fallen in a dead faint. In this case the jury decided that he had been taken by one of these spells, and in falling had hit his head against the tap, partially piercing it and allowing the molasses to drip on his mouth and nose in the position he had fallen. Thus the story of his being a victim to a gluttonous appetite for the sweet syrup is spoiled; the twelve reputable citizens be offenders at the trial of the victim, but the deceased's family are placed in a situation to receive sympathy at their bereavement, since his taking it was in a manner that cast no reflection upon him.

HERE is the opinion of the Pueblo, Colo., Journal on the recent successes of the Church colonies:

> The Mormon leaders have permeated a little in the other and no doubt of the Church not properly owned a good deal of land in Colorado, which they will sell. The more money in their pocket the more easily it might be found at rental.

A more complete statement of the rule to arrive to which is to say that Church officials should consult their superiors and associates when the acceptance of a political office interferes with the obligations previously entered into in the service of the Church.

BY THE last census, says an exchange, the total population of Iowa is 207,223,651, or about one-sixth the world's population. Of these, seventy-two per cent, or 207,000,000, are classified as Heathens, 23,000,000 are Mohammedans, 7,000,000 are Buddhists, and 2,000,000 Christians. Of the 15,000,000 who are reckoned as "Christs" and "Christs," approximately three quarters of a million only are females.

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