

he also projected the building of a Methodist church. He was a genial, enterprising, good citizen and was respected by all who knew him. He visited the people of Tooele who, at that time, were mostly Mormons, and asked them for a special contribution, to assist in building the M. E. church in which the Rev. Hooper has operated the past two years. Many of our people contributed liberally to that project.

In regard to the above mentioned Sunday school picnic, a little explanation is necessary. Several years ago the Sunday school of the Tooele ward got up an excursion and picnic to the mountains in the month of June, to encourage its members in their good work, which resulted favorably to the school; and it has since become customary to hold excursions of the kind in the spring of each year. They are called Sunday school picnics, but they are participated in by the public from the different parts of the county as much as any holiday of the year. Therefore our Sunday school does not propose to be responsible for the manner in which all the people who gather on these occasions deport themselves, or what kind of refreshments they partake of. We are sorry to know that some of these present saw fit to indulge in beer drinking, but not to the extent that the reverend gentleman would have his readers believe. As he states that five barrels of beer were contributed for the occasion; this we know, from inquiry, to be untrue, as the amount, we are informed, instead of being "five barrels" was two four-gallon kegs, given by the saloons for the use of the brass band in attendance, the members of which do not even belong to the Sunday school. Furthermore, Mr. Hooper knows full well that our Sunday school superintendent, ward officers and Church authorities, as an entirety, do not tolerate the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage to any degree whatever.

We were present on the occasion to which he refers, and were deeply interested in the success of the excursion, desirous that all should enjoy themselves and that nothing discredit-able should occur; and we pronounce his statement of the affair to be a contemptible, wicked falsehood. Every one present was bent on pleasure of an innocent nature, but no case of drunkenness was witnessed by us during the day's proceedings. We have been informed since that there were two or three cases of drunkenness, but they were not members of the Sunday school; neither were they members of the Church.

He next proceeds to describe the dance in the evening. He says, "In the evening the festivities were concluded with a dance. The Bishop in the prayer by which he opened the dance, thanked the Lord for the enjoyments of the day, and asked Him to bless them in the closing exercises of the dance hall. No doubt many of them thought He did, for a lady told the writer that she never saw so many drunken men and women on the floor of a dance hall before."

In the first place the Sunday school had nothing to do with getting up the dance any more than the reverend gentleman himself.

Secondly, the Bishop was not in attendance during the entire evening, therefore the prayer manifested by the gentleman out of whole cloth only existed in his fruitful imagination, inspired by his Satanic majesty, the father of lies.

We shall permit the proprietor of the dance hall, who also got up the dance, to explain all about those drunken men and women said to have been on the floor dancing!

TOOELE CITY, Utah, Dec. 24, 1896.

The reference to the party given in my hall on the evening of the Sunday school picnic, as stated by the Rev. Hooper, alleging drunkenness and disorderly conduct at the hall, I must say that it is positively false and without foundation; as the young people and those present can bear witness. Furthermore, the party was run by the usual management and not by the committee of the Sunday school celebration. They had nothing whatever to do with the dance at night.

In justice to the young people and the management of the hall I must say that there has never been drunkenness or rowdism allowed inside of the hall.

Respectfully,

P. A. DROUBAY.

The following sentence explains the object this pretended "preacher of righteousness" had in writing his article on Sunday school picnics: "I send this forth hoping that it will find wide publication and be the means of counteracting the pernicious influences of the emissaries of that Church who are being sent out by the hundreds every year preaching the Gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ's Latter-day Saints."

As to the percentage of crime in Utah, we will ask the intelligent reader to refer to the criminal records, and there find out for himself who the law-breakers are and to what extent the Mormons are responsible for crime.

That Mr. Hooper should stoop so low as to attack and cause to injure it possible the humble Elders of our Church who are now abroad preaching the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, brings utterances of contempt, not only from members of our Church, but even from his own flock and those who consider him a friend and acquaintance, and he has therefore lost the respect of all who knew him.

Utterances like his have caused many of our Elders to suffer cruel persecutions, and in some instances martyrdom. If this is his object, we desire to inform him that he is not opposing men but God, and unless he repents and makes right, as far as possible, the injury he has sought to inflict upon a people whose sole mission is to administer blessings and salvation to all mankind, he will surely feel the chastening hand of the Almighty upon him.

We here give the affidavit of Mr. Campbell, which is self-explanatory:

TOOELE CITY, Dec. 26, 1896.

I, John Campbell, a resident of Tooele City and a Methodist for twelve years past, wish to say regarding Rev. T. J. Hooper's account of the Sunday school picnic, held here last July, both in justice to the Mormons and Gentiles alike, that the aforesaid account of said picnic is entirely untrue to my certain

knowledge, and his ungenerous statements are strongly denounced by all.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

We request that the NEWS will give space to this article, that the truth may be made known to the public.

THOMAS ATKIN,
Bishop Tooele Ward.
GEORGE CRANER,
First Counselor.
SAMUEL W. ORME,
Second Counselor.
JOHN W. TATE,
Supt. Sunday School.
JOHN A. BEVAN,
First Assistant.
JOHN A. LEE,
Second Assistant.

MINERAL PRODUCTS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—The Engineering and Mining Journal today contains statistics of the mineral productions of the United States during 1896. The productions of mines and metals in the United States for the year 1895 is given with a total value of \$653,311,468, showing a decrease as compared with 1895 of \$24,689,268, or about 3½ per cent. This decrease was largely in values rather than in quantities; in none of the chief articles was there any marked decrease while in several there were considerable increases.

The total production of metals in the year 1895 was valued at \$242,311,461, an increase of \$1,694,111 over the previous year, while the value of non-metallic substance was \$410,999,987, a decrease of \$26,363,377 from 1895. A large part of this was due to the lower values of coal, stone and a few other important substances, very little resulting from the smaller quantities.

The production of aluminum shows an increase of 400,000 pounds over that of 1895, the total for the year being 1,300,000 pounds. The production continues in the hands of a single company—the Pittsburgh Reduction company.

An increase of about 100 tons is reported in the production of antimony which came wholly from the California mines.

The increase in copper has been extraordinary, the total gain amounting to 67,063,150 pounds, which was made in spite of the large decrease in domestic demands, but was more than absorbed by the extraordinary exports for the year, which are the largest on record. The gold production of the United States in 1896 reached the total of \$57,000,000, a gain over 1895 of no less than \$10,189,800. This extraordinary advance, which far surpasses the gain reported from any other country in the world, puts the United States in the lead of the producing countries.

The output of gold was no less than 26 per cent of the total reported of the entire world.

The production of pig iron in the United States has been in 1896 8,768,890 long tons. The depression of business which made itself manifest in the latter part of the year has been less than had been anticipated, the decrease from 1895 being only 879,690 tons or about 7 per cent.

The production of lead from domestic ore in 1896 amounted to 175,717 short tons, showing an increase of 20,863