

ed the public benefit is had in view and remunerative employment is found for local willing hands.

INTOLERANCE IN WEST VIRGINIA.

AN Associated Press dispatch from Wheeling, West Virginia, was published lately in the DESERET NEWS and has appeared in many papers. It is full of untruths and ought not to pass without some correction. We do not propose to notice every erroneous article or dispatch that is published against "Mormonism," for that would require, every day, more space than is at our command. But occasionally we have to comment upon them, especially when they appear in our regular telegrams.

It is stated that "serious trouble is brewing in Wheeling," because "the Saints have a church building there of their own in which regular services are held." This is indeed serious. If the Latter-day Saints hold regular services and do so in a church of their own, it is enough to make the very wires tremble, as the startling news is carried to the remotest parts of the continent!

But why should not the Saints hold their services regularly if they have a church of their own? Would it be better for them, or for the town, if they held them irregularly? Or would it mend the matter if they occupied a church belonging to some other denomination or persons? People are not obliged to attend these services, nor are they prevented from doing so. Perhaps if the Associated Press agent at Wheeling were to attend and investigate, he would not find anything very wonderful to work up into an item important enough to flash over a continent. But "the converts made have been mostly women and some of them have been exported to Utah." We doubt this very much. This is what is popularly described as a "chestnut." It has been told so often and been demonstrated so frequently to be false, that suspicion attaches to its mouldy shell whenever it is offered to the public. Besides, immigrants from the South do not come to Utah; they colonize in Colorado. So all the talk about "many young girls being induced to leave their homes and go to Utah," is the baldest kind of nonsense.

It is probable that the statement concerning "a general feeling very bitter against the Mormons," is probably correct, as that is usually the case wherever the incontro-

vertible truths taught by the Elders are presented with any prospect of success. The dispatch says, "The missionaries are working in the boldest manner." Well, that is the proper way to preach the Gospel, and that is the work the missionaries have to perform. Would it be better if they preached timidly, or worked secretly?

But "an organized movement to drive them out is probable." Just so, and such lawless and hellish movements are made more probable by the dissemination of just such dispatches as Associated Press agents seem to delight in sending over the wires. But it gives evidence of "powerful weakness" on the part of the mobocratic "Christians" who wish to resort to such "arguments." If the Elders promulge error, will not truth succeed in "driving them out." If not, are organized mobs the approved methods by which civilization overcomes heresy? The difficulty seems to be that our Elders neither break the law, nor teach others to do so, nor do they preach any doctrine that can be controverted by the Bible or good sound reason. Therefore the weapons of lawlessness and bigotry and intolerance are brought to bear, and "Christian" people in a "Christian" city can find no better means of meeting the awful boldness and sin of the Latter-day Saints in holding regular services in a church building of their own, than "an organized movement to drive the Mormons out."

Well, this speaks very badly for the inhabitants of Wheeling, and makes it appear they have come on this planet some hundreds of years too late. They ought to have lived here in the middle ages, and then they could have fetched faggots and fed the fires to roast heretics, and thus have "driven them out" of this world in the most expeditious way. Or has the veracious agent of the Associated Press in that city been romancing and exaggerating? Such newsmakers sometimes resort to this kind of thing, and Salt Lake, if required, could furnish at least one "shocking example."

We hope the news is not correct, and that the people of West Virginia will investigate, find out what these "Mormon" Elders preach before they condemn the doctrine, and, so long as they do not break any law or counsel its violation, leave them to that liberty which the Constitution of the United States guarantees

to citizens, and which God Almighty has given to all men and women who dwell beneath the shining sun,

A GOOD SELECTION.

THE appointment of W. W. Riter, Esq., as superintendent of the Utah division of the the Consolidated roads, is looked upon by conservative business men and respectable people of all parties as wise and timely. The division embraces all the railroads in the Consolidation south of Ogden, and the position is a very important one. Mr. Riter was chosen for his marked ability as a railroad man, his probity and honesty and his familiarity with affairs and men in this Territory and elsewhere connected with railroad interests. We congratulate Mr. Riter and hope he will continue to be successful and wear his new honors with credit to himself and profit to the Consolidation and the public.

SEVERAL COMETS TOGETHER.

THE Lick observatory and telescope have already contributed largely to the cause of science in this country, and of course the benefits resulting from some of their work have been realized throughout the civilized world. The grandest achievement yet recorded was on the night of the 3rd instant. While observing the comet discovered by Mr. Brooks, of Geneva, New York, Professor Barnard, with the Lick instrument, saw several attendants on the object in chief, and scrutinizing them closely was able to clearly and unmistakably determine that they also were comets. Two of them immediately preceded the principal object in its great sweep through space; one was nearly in its path at the rear; there were four to the right and two to the left of it, making eight in all. Professor Barnard has a record of having made more cometic discoveries than any other astronomer living or dead, and this discovery surpasses in interest and importance any other ever made by him.

In an interview with a reporter of the San Francisco Chronicle, the Professor says the comet is one of the rarest phenomena known to astronomers, that is, a comet attended by companions, and will be watched with the utmost interest by the entire astronomical world. In the twelve-inch telescope it is a miniature of a great comet having a well-defined nucleus and a fan-shaped