

[COMMUNICATED.]

FALSIFICATION CONCLUDED.

As if to emphasize observations made a few days ago in regard to the general if not chronic tendency toward exaggeration and misrepresentation, an editorial reluctantly points out a late case which under the circumstances might be called infamous, and in the news columns of same date there are statements and denials almost in the same paragraph, all given with as much nonchalance as if they were the veriest truth.

To call attention to modern or daily lapses may not correct such cases from the far away, but the fact is not to be overlooked that a professedly Christian nation and people are under moral and special obligation to listen to the accepted Teacher, who with unstinted language denounced prevarication and deception, and expressly commanded moderation and simplicity in language, urging upon His followers to let their "yea be yea, and nay, nay," with the supreme warning that "whatsoever is more than this cometh of evil;" among scriptural denunciations none are more suggestive than are those in regard to liars and lying, and even in the beginning of the Israelitish polity, among the Sinaitic commands was this one: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

The intricacies and selfishness of modern life have so eaten into the heart of honor that good men unconsciously lend themselves to "tricks of trade," to "the manipulation of markets and stocks," to speculate on rumors, on probabilities or possibilities, anticipating for personal ends changes of so varied a nature as "almost to deceive the very elect." Of course, excuse is always ready when action is profitable, and there are times when the truth or the fact in the case is quite long in leaking out or correction is made. But the end sought has been subserved, the profit made, and the complaisant man of affairs, of business, then boasts of his shrewdness, his smartness, his ability to foresee or to circumvent some other man or men. A false rumor is just as efficacious for the moment in the market as an assured fact. It unsettles, disturbs, leads to depreciation to values, and not infrequently to demoralization and panic. Any flimsy excuse almost affects the market of even the great staples of life. Telegraphic reports are doctored, conditions are exaggerated, failures are predicted at home and abroad, and instability based on fiction is the key to profit by the cool calculations of designing men. Rumors of international contention or war are given out for purposes of gain. Prominent men are ostensibly interviewed and misrepresented. Oftentimes these are corrected or denied altogether. But if a sensation is needed it is made to order. If a thing is desired, it is announced as having occurred; the utterances of public men are anticipated, perverted, distorted and then denied. Public and press comment are made to subserve party interests and political schemers. There is scarcely an election contest, national, state or local, but misrepresentation runs riot in the party of opposition; and if the onlooker or listener were unfamiliar with the "white heat of controversy," it could easily be concluded that every aspirant for office had been specially called from the unprincipled class, and that just deserts would simply secure permanent lodging for all such pretenders behind prison walls. Then there is the still further reflection that the parties presenting or electing such candidates must be of similar caliber themselves, or election would be impossible.

All public events are subject to this ultra coloring. Germany and China,

Russia and Turkey, England and Africa, Spain and Cuba, America and the Sandwich Islands are in point and no general reader can tell what the truth is in regard to any of these controversies, unless he can have access to disinterested authority, which perchance is nowhere to be found. Possibly when excitement dies out a glimmering of the facts will overthrow all opinions based upon the daily presentation by correspondents and through the press; or if the fair honorable recital is left to after years, there is that ultimate discrepancy which is now a matter of dispute between the northern and the southern states as to the validity of history in the text books of the public schools.

On a small scale the late election of a school board in this city furnishes an illustration. The opposition that was declared to exist against the high school was the veriest myth. The feature of discontent has never been voiced by the press as yet, or by individuals. Some of our "dailies" have been so vociferous and persistent as to the effect that any query might have in regard to the increase of population in this city, that taxpayers have asked—are asking—is it true that people are encouraged or deterred in locating here purely by the existence or the absence of a high school in this city? If that is the great inducement it looks like a reflection on the character of public schools elsewhere, and the fact that Utah is so far in advance should be considered from a standpoint outside that of simple sentiment, even as to enlarged education. Many ordinary taxpayers also ask the question, whether the parents of all the high school pupils are bona fide taxpayers. If not, then they ought to pay for that tuition, five dollars per year say some, and pay for their books besides, as all should do; then, without being captious, this class of critics note (as a correspondent did) the evidences of ability to pay for higher education, as evinced (a trifling thing) by the number of bicycles gathered there every day, and by the ostentatious balls or gatherings of these pupils from time to time. This is given as the real cause of the not in any sense a reflection against education, but only against what appears to the uninformed as a possible injustice, linked with the idea that while there are so many graduates in Utah, so few of these real bona fide persons of that class obtain positions, and so many transients should find favor to their exclusion.

So much for a local question which is said to need clearing by those who can do it, pro bono publico.

Every true American is in full sympathy with the struggles of mankind for enlarged liberty everywhere. This nation rose from the original status of rebellion to that of its present glory, but how few realize how short the step is between patriotism and treason! A wise man remarked that success made all the difference between the two. How far the "Cubans" will achieve success the future alone will determine; but it was noted lately in the letter of a famous correspondent that nearly all the officers of the so-called "insurgents" were Americans. "Contraband of war" from our friendly shores has been the chief support of the so-called rebels, and the Cuban Junta in New York have under the shelter of a sympathizing country carried on unmolested their plans and schemes for the overthrow of a friendly power without any "let or hindrance whatever." Then a naturally favorable press has magnified the successes of the insurgents, while but little has come to us from Spanish sources, and that as a consequence there has been exaggeration and misleading state-

ments will be everywhere conceded. We are no advocates for Spain, in the international sense, any more than for the overthrow of our educational system including the "high school." Both are used to show how, in harmony with religious, political and commercial matters, inflated, exaggerated, untrue and even wicked falsehoods permeate all classes of modern society; and from this standpoint the question is asked, Will this restless nation ever be so toned down to honor, honesty and fairness that "every man shall speak the truth to his neighbor?" Or, if "lying lips are an abomination to the Lord," from a moral, religious and social standpoint, can the blessing and approbation of heaven be fairly expected, or will the old query stand good, "Shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

SALT LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference and month-Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake was held in this city, commencing Saturday, at 10 o'clock a. m.

There were present Elders Angus M. Cannon, Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose of the Stake presidency; seven High Councilors, five Patriarchs, Elders Elias Morris and William C. Dunbar of the presidency of the High Priests' quorum, eight presidents of Seventies and ten home missionaries.

All the wards of the Stake were properly represented excepting the Third, Fourth, Seventh and Tenth city wards, and Forest Dale, Granger and Brighton of the county.

The presiding officers of the Stake organizations of the Relief Societies, Sunday schools, Young Men's, Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations, Primary and Kindergarten associations, responded to the roll call.

Upon the recommendation of their respective Bishops, eighteen young men received certificates authorizing their ordination to the office of Elder, each of whom promised to honor and magnify his calling as an Elder if ordained.

The Second, Fourth, Fifth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-fifth quorums of Elders were represented by their presiding officers.

The Lesser Priesthood was represented by members from the Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second city wards, and Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood, South Cottonwood and Union of the county wards.

The morning session opened with singing by the choir and congregation, Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Ishmael Phillips.

Singing by the choir and congregation.

Our God, we raise to thee.

In answer to the question, "Is it proper to use the word re-baptize when an excommunicated member again receives baptism, and does such a person receive his former blessings?" President Cannon said that persons cut off for transgression had no greater privileges than those who had never belonged to the Church. Bishops could not excommunicate an Elder from the Church, but should refer such cases to the High Council and the quorum to which he belonged. The word "re-baptize" was used incorrectly. "Baptize" was the proper word. Re-baptism should be employed only when considered absolutely necessary. Elder Can-