

as to whether the journalist who figures in this difficulty is an agent of the French government as well as a representative of several Parisian journals.

PREHISTORIC CORN.

THE following, in the form of a correspondence from Burden, Kansas, appeared in the Los Angeles Times of Dec. 9th:

"A. J. Mercer, living near this city, has a patch of corn which is the rarest ever grown. The patch is small, but the grain is a kind which has never been seen in this country before.

"Last spring Mercer opened an ancient mound on his farm and in it found a lot of corn along with certain prehistoric relics, showing that the corn had been put there ages ago. There was about a peck of it, and it was in a sealed jar. He gave about half of it away to neighbors and others who wanted it for a curiosity. He thought it would be a good idea to plant some of it and prepared a piece of ground near his house for the purpose, planting about two quarts of the seed. It sprouted and thrived well under the cultivation given it. The ears came well and have now been harvested. They are about six inches long, and the grains, which are small, being about one-fourth the size of the ordinary corn, are close together, standing up with sharp points.

"Mercer thinks that this must be the original corn of this country from which the present Indian corn has sprung through long and high cultivation. What is remarkable about it is that the mound from which it was taken is undoubtedly very old, for on it are growing trees that show by their rings that they are over 200 years old. The relics found with the corn are similar to those found in the mounds of Ohio and Illinois, and this mound must be coexistent with those, which are thought to be over a thousand years old. Mercer has sent samples of his corn to friends in the East and to government officials at Washington."

QUALE OR CHRISTOFFERSON.

EITHER of the persons named will confer a favor by supplying the information desired by the gentleman whose name is affixed to the annexed communication:

CONSULATE OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY,
SAN FRANCISCO,

December 7th, 1891.

Editors Deseret News, Salt Lake City:

Gentlemen—In my official capacity as Consul of Sweden and Norway, I have been requested by the Norwegian government to ascertain the whereabouts of a Norwegian by the name of Andrew Quale alias Andreas Christophersen, who has an inheritance coming to him in Norway, but from whom nothing has been heard since 1870. He was at that time a resident of Bullion, Alpine Co., California, but according to information just received from the county clerk of that county, he left that place for your city in 1883. In 1885 he was heard from when he was still at your city. I am told that Daniel James or Matthew Davidson, sheepmen, of Salt Lake City, with whom he left California, and who know him, are still at your place, but not knowing their address I have taken the liberty of sending you these lines, and hereby beg to ask of you the favor to kindly assist me in obtaining their addresses or the address of Mr. Quale.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am, gentlemen, yours respectfully,

HENRY LUND,
Consul of Sweden and Norway.

AN ALLEGED PHENOMENAL BEING.

IF the statements made in reference to Tagarelli, who resides at Tiflis, in the caucasus, Russian Empire, are true, he is certainly a phenomenal person. It is stated that a few months ago he, to all appearance, died and preparation for the funeral were duly made. When the obsequies were about to begin he came to life and announced that his spirit had left his body and made a trip to the world beyond the grave. He declined to give a description of it, but said that he had been given access to the books of the recording angel. He goes through the dying process about once a week, making each time a trip to the unseen world.

In proof of the assertion about his inspection of the records he reveals to inquirers, who flock to him in great numbers, their misdeeds, giving the data with unerring accuracy. The consternation of some of those to whom he conveys information about their bad acts in life is tremendous. So goes the statement.

The story sounds improbable, but these are times of singular developments. Of course the matter of his access to the books of the recording angel is out of the question. But the assertions made concerning Tagarelli's appearance of death and resuscitation are made without qualification, and it is difficult to understand what the object could be in manufacturing such a story out of whole cloth.

THE LICENSED REVOKED.

THE action of a majority of the City Council, to revoke the license granted for selling intoxicants at a notorious house of entertainment, will be approved by all our citizens who favor morality and good order. The granting of that license was a defiance to the decent people of the city and a bid for the influence of the saloon element. It would not have been revoked but for the presence in the Council of those five People's party representatives.

The numerous complaints about the Franklin Avenue show house have disclosed a most scandalous condition of affairs. It has been common to entrap half-intoxicated or wholly unsophisticated persons, who had dropped in to see the show, into ordering refreshments for the painted and half-clad harlots who infest the place. Then a most exorbitant price was demanded,

and on the refusal of the victim to be swindled, either the aid of an officer was invoked to frighten him into submission, or some article of his clothing or jewelry was seized and held till he disgorged. In some instances the trapped bird proved to be of the wrong breed and ready to fight for his rights in the police court. Then the matter would be suddenly dropped, and he would be unable to specify the exact person who attempted to swindle or rob him, and so the vultures and the soiled doves escaped unpunished. At first, it appears, the "refreshments" were brought in from another part of the building, but latterly communication has been opened between the show part and the liquor department, and the law has been violated without any attempt at concealment. This has brought about the report of the City Marshal, and hence the action of the City Council.

It will be observed that only by a bare majority was this action maintained. Mr. James has usually sided with movements for law and order, and he, with Mr. Heath, voted in company with the People's members on the final proposition. The "Liberal" faction depend upon the support of the saloon and gambling and disorderly elements for its continued existence, and will therefore be found fighting for their support and in their interest.

It is not unlikely that liquor will still be sold in the place referred to. If it is, the whole concern ought to be closed up. Its character is well known to the general public, and its influence is degrading and baneful in the extreme.

THE HISTORY OF UTAH.

THE labor on the History of Utah by Bishop O. F. Whitney is being pushed with all the rapidity that is possible on a work of that important character. It will be very thorough, impartial and reliable. In type, paper and all the material features of the enterprise it will be first-class. We have been shown by Mr. J. H. E. Webster, who is associated with Dr. Williams in the agency for the circulation of the work, a number of steel engravings which are to embellish the volumes. They are not only excellent portraits of the notable persons whom they represent, but are splendid specimens of the engraver's art. Some of them are superior to anything of the kind we have ever seen. In years to come they will be of inestimable value. We are sure that subscribers will be thoroughly satisfied and delighted with the History, and we look for the publication of the first volume with pleasant anticipation.