MINISTER'S STORY.

A Methodist Preacher Slanders the People of Tooele.

REV. T. J. HOOPER'S STATEMENT.

Jostled by Non-Mormons as Well as Mormons—The Facts in the Premises.

TOOELE CITY, Utah,
December 28, 1896.

To the Editor:

During late years many tourists visit Utah and the Mormons, and because of the many misrepresentations that have been circulated against the latter, visitors often come expecting to find an ignorant, wicked people. When they find the very opposite of this their surprise is great and they generally circulate good reports of Utah and her people. But there are those who visit us who are so prejudiced against the Mormon people that they can see no good in them. The Rev. T. J. Hooper is one of that number. He has resided in Tooele City for about two years, and if it is possible for him to be truthful where Mormons are concerned he must admit that the treatment he received from the people here was invariably good. Yet to his description of a "Sunday School Picnic in Utah," as published recently in a Methodist Sunday school journal, he manifests his prejudice and his disregard for the truth, and as he supposes a desire that it should have a wide circulation we incorporate the article with some necessary explanations, so that the real spirit and character of the gentleman may be understood in Utah and elsewhere. Here is his article:

A SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC IN UTAH.
BY REV. T. J. HOOPER.

Sunday school picnics are the order of the day. Last summer I made some observations of one very peculiar in its character. They had been said to me, "Our God is a progressive God, and as His people we are a progressive people." I was prepared, therefore, for almost anything. One peculiarity among this people is, they are compelled to give one-tenth of all their income for the support of their religious system, and when anything special, such as picnics, anniversary celebrations, building enterprises, etc., is projected, they must make special contributions.

On the occasion to which I refer the town was canvassed, and among other things contributed were two barrels of beer, given by the two saloon keepers. To the an addition of three barrels was made by the committee. The day being warm, frequent appeals were made to the "cooling draught," and, as a result, boys from eight to fourteen years old were staggering over the picnic grounds loudly drunk long before the hour arrived to go home. In the evening the festivities were crowned with a dance. The "bishop" in prayer by which he opened the dance thanked the Lord "for the enjoyment of the day," and asked Him to bless them "in the coming exercises at 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."

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." One of them said quite recently in an Eastern state: "Drunkenness is unknown among the Mormon people. And although the per capita drink bill is seventy-five per cent Moroion, they only consume twenty-five per cent of the crime in the State." Yet in an absolute lie! The reverse would be much nearer the truth.

The writer has had thirteen years' experience in the "mining camps" of Colorado and Utah, but never saw so much drunkenness as he has seen in the "religious community" to which he has lived the past two years.

The Tooele Transcript reproduced the article with the following editorial comment:

The above appeared in the Methodist Sunday School Journal of recent date.

We were very much surprised to see a communication of this kind written by Rev. Hooper. Mr. Hooper knows as well as anybody that there is not a particle of truth in the above, from one end to the other, and for a minister to handle the truth so carelessly, we think he should be ashamed of himself.

If at first, the Mormon people do pay a tithing—which is voluntary on their part—but the tithing is not only used for the "support of their religious system," but it is distributed among the poor, which is a very commendable feature in Mr. Hooper's estimation, we presume. Contributions to "picnics, building enterprises, etc.," are entirely as the people see fit to do, and there is no compulsion about, as Mr. Hooper well knows. The "picnics, celebrations, etc.," are participated in by Mormon and Gentile alike, and the writer has seen Mr. Hooper himself take part therein.

On the occasion Mr. Hooper refers to there were two four-gallon kegs of beer donated to the band by our saloon keepers, but there was not a drop contributed by the committee. Although there was a large crowd at this picnic, it was a sober and gentlemanly one, and a very pleasant day of pure enjoyment, just such as could be expected a Sunday school would give.

As to the dance in the evening, the Bishop was not even present, so we do not see how he could possibly have "opened the dance with prayer." We do not know who the "lady" could be who informed Mr. Hooper of the drunkenness at the dance, but she evidently had as little regard for the truth as Mr. Hooper seems to have.

The writer came here just a few weeks after Mr. Hooper, and although we have not been in "mining camps for thirteen years," we have been about all over the continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and can say with all honesty that, compared with other towns of the size, the "religious community" is as free from drunkenness as any I have ever been in.

I have never seen a child within the age Mr. Hooper gives under the influence of liquor, nor have I ever seen a woman in that condition, and strict prohibition is now the order of the day. Any business takes us where these things would be seen if they existed.

I wish to say in connection that I am not answering this because I am a Mormon, for I am not a Mormon, but because I have found the Mormon people to be an honest, hospitable, sober and industrious people, and as I am in a position to know that Mr. Hooper has done them a great wrong, I wish to refute the charges as a Gentile who has been treated just as well here as Mr. Hooper was.

We will say to begin with that the gentleman was not on the ground during the entire day of the above mentioned outing.

His first makes an attack upon the God worshipped by the Latter-day Saints. We desire every intelligent person to become acquainted with the character and attributes of the God worshipped by us, even the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and then to obtain a description of the being worshipped by the gentleman, and make a comparison for themselves.

His next is one to take to tell how our religious system is supported. He says, 'O is peculiarly about this people is, they are compelled to give one-tenth of their income for the support of their religious system."

This he knows to be false, as no member of our Church is ever compelled to do any of the principles of our faith, and the fact is only a small proportion of the members of the Church are actual tithe payers, and those who are tithing do so voluntarily as a sacred duty and because they feel interested in the great work of building temples, spreading the Gospel, relieving the poor, etc.

He further says, "When anything special, such as a picnic, anniversary celebrations, building enterprises, etc., is projected they must make special contributions." When special enterprises are projected they receive the sanction of the people and are "projected" because they are needed, however, and expect to pay for such enterprises, and they do so willingly. There are others besides Mormons who believe in special contributions. For instance, about the year when Jos. Erastus Smith came to Tooele and established the Methodist mission here, 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 preached 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 so as any holiday of the year. Therefore our Sunday school does not feel 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 those 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 learn from inquiry, to be untrue, as the amount, we are informed, instead of being "five barrels" was two four-gallon kegs, given by the saloon keepers, the same as they would in attendance, the manners of which do not seem 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 discreditable should occur; and we pronounce his statement of the affair to be a contemptible, wicked falsehood. Every one present we took pleasure of an innocent nature, but cases of drunkenness we witnessed by us during the day's proceedings. We have been in this state but a short time, but 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 coming 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 manufactured by the gentleman out of whose sixth 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 as 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 good 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 never has been drunkenness or rowdism allowed inside of the hall.

Respectfully,
P. A. DONOHUE.

The following sentence explains the object the 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 influence 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 if possible the humble Elders of our Church who are now abroad preaching the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, bring utterances of contempt, not only from members of our Church, but even from our 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 exposing men out 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, that in addition to the Mormons and Gentiles alike, that the aforesaid account of said picnic is entirely untrue in my version knowledge, and has no foundation whatsoever, and is strongly commented for a lie.

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 CHASEN,
First Counselor.
SAMUEL W. ORME,
Second Counselor.
JOHN W. TAYLOR,
Supt. Sunday School.
JOHN R. IRVAN,
First Assistant.
JOHN A. LEE,
Second Assistant.

MINES AND MINING.

Business Good On 'Change With Quotations Likewise.

FOUR STOCKS ARE DEALT IN.

Condition of the Wonder Property—Mammoth Record Notes — Idaho News—Dips and Spurs.

Business was good on the stock exchange today, with quotations likewise. The brokers were unusually anxious to make sales and as a result quite a number of transfers were recorded at figures which showed the merited dignity of the respective stocks. Ajax and Four Aces gave forth the sales from the listed class while Northern Light and Richmond Anaconda represented the unlisted stocks in the trading.

The Anchor stock was not offered during the call but it received a strong bid of $1.35. Ajax showed its colors in recording sales at 81 cents, after which the stock was strongly bid for at 80 and stood as offering at no less than 90. Bullion-Monk fell a trifle in both figures while the Dalys were stationary as for several weeks past. Four Aces was taken up at 19½ and 20 cents, and stood as closing offering at the latter figure, while 17 cents was the standing bid. Mercur recorded its figures of yesterday being an offering at $7 with 10 cents bid for the stock. Monmouth was festureless while Ontario was strongly bid for at $9.25 and was thrown on the market at $9.55.

The call of unlisted stocks opened with Swansea which was wanted badly at $2.50 a share, Seattle-Reliance strengthened in the bidding to $1.90—the figure at which it was offered yesterday—but holders of the stock made demands of $2.10 and refused to let it go under that figure. Northern Lights seemed to be appreciated and was freely bid for at 65 cents, the selling figure; it was a closing offering at 80 cents. Richmond Anaconda was about stationary and sold at 12 cents.

LISTED STOCKS.

MINES	Asked.	Bid.
Anchor	1	1 15
Ajax	80	60
Arnold		
Alliance		
Black Cone-Bullion	70	
Bullion-Monk	7 25	6 85
Centennial-Eureka	1 50	
Daly	3 00	2 90
Daly West	1 30	1 25
Dalton & Lee	1 00	
East Golden Gate	4	
Eagle		
Four Aces	20	17
Galena	1 70	1 60
Gemini	30	28
Hecla		
Horn Silver		
Iron Silver	7 50	6 90
Mammoth	5 40	5 20
Monmouth	9 55	9 25
Ontario	9 50	9 00
Overman		
Prince Consolidated		
Silver King	1 10	1 05
Swansea	2 50	
Utah	1 20	

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UNLISTED STOCKS.

NAME.	Asked.	Bid.
Bluebird Copper Co		
Bullion-Beck		
Boston Consolidated	3½	3½
Bonner (Revised)	1 75	
Bullion	3½	2
Bingham		
Bell (Nevada)		
Little Pittsburg	20	
Lucky Boy		
Morgan (Park City)		
Mexican	60	
N. Y. & Nevada		
Northern Light	80	65
Nonpareil		
Open		
Ophir		
Rio Grande	1½	1½
Richmond Anaconda	12	11
Swansea	2 60	2 30
Seattle-Reliance	1 90	1 85
Sacramento		
Sioux Consolidated	2 50	1 90
Tacoma		
Uncle Sam Consolidated	2	
Union		
Yankee Girl	2	

TRANSFERS OF STOCKS.

Four hundred shares of Ajax at 81 cents; 500 Four Aces at 19½ cents and 500 at 20 cents; 100 Northern Light at 65 cents; 1,000 Richmond Anaconda at 12 cents. Total shares sold, 2,500; selling value of stock, $491.25.

WENT OUT TO RESCUE.

A Party of Gentlemen Left for the District This Morning.

Messrs. John Dern, John Heimrich, Will S. Brown, Frank Brown and R. D. Millet went out to Mercur this morning and will return tomorrow evening. The three former gentlemen are heavy stockholders in the Mercur mine and the visit was taken mainly to afford Mr. Heimrich the privilege of viewing the property, he having been absent for several months past. Mr. Frank Brown is a brother of Will and this is his first trip to the Mercur district. Mr. Millet is a resident of this city and an old-time mining man.

Reports from the Mercur are in every way encouraging, the property still showing large bodies of very valuable ore, which are being blocked out and prepared for treatment at the mill. The mill is doing good work these days, and the mildness of the weather, affords better results than is generally the case in this season of the year. Mr. Heimrich will no doubt be delighted, as was Mr. Dern, with the gratifying condition of the property.

IDAHO NEWS.

The Standard Shaping for Activity—The Crescent Mill Started.

News from Burke, Idaho, to the Spokane Spokesman Review says that the Standard is getting things in shape to take care of all the ore the mill can handle before long. The drift on the ledge has been run west almost 200 feet from the tunnel, and miners are already 25 feet above that in the slope. Thus far the drilling has all been done by hand, but machines will be used hereafter. Electric lights are now being put in the tunnel. The daily output is between 150 and 200 tons, but enough ground is now opened up that the output can be easily doubled by increasing the force, there being plenty of room for more men to work.

The Wallace, Ida., correspondent of the same paper says that Robert N. Dunn is up from Pierce City to spend the holidays with his family. He is one of three brothers who are the principal stockholders of the Crescent Gold Mining company. They have recently started up their stamp mill again and are now working eight men besides two of the owners. The camp seems deserted since the placers closed down for the winter, so but few men are employed in quarts there, outside of development work.

THE WONDER.

Condition of the Mercur Property—The Shaft Into Porphyry.

While the ore vein has not yet been encountered, the Wonder people operating at Mercur are confident of making a good discovery before many moons roll round.

The shaft on the property has now reached a depth of 575 feet and for the last 10 feet has been in a porphyry and lime formation. The shaft has been examined by Prof. Mitchell, a geological expert from South Africa, and he announces it as his opinion that the porphyry is the hanging wall to the ore body below. In view of this fact the Wonder company will peg away until its labors have been amply rewarded by the discovery of that which has been looked for for some time past.

Manager Queally is at present more hopeful than ever regarding the chances for a strike of good ore, and the twelve men now working the property will be kept on continuously until success is achieved. If the vein is not encountered at the depth expected, drifting to the southeast will commence, in order to tap the ore bogs which is known to be there, on its dip.

The Wonder, it will be remembered, adjoins the famous Golden Gate, owned by Captain De Lamar and from which so much valuable ore has already been taken. The shaft which is now being sunk was commenced early in the present year and the owners, who are all representative Utah men, have been confident of success from the very start.

Compressed air drills for the Wonder are now on the ground and will be put in as soon as the compressor has arrived.

MAMMOTH RECORD NOTES.

A Strike of Ore in the Mammoth Showing 237 Ounces in Gold.

P. C. Horne is working a force of men on the Antoinette and Snow Bird claims.

Several thousand dollars was distributed yesterday among the miners at the Sunbeam.

A force of men will soon be put on at the Lady Washington, which is now in the vein adjoining the Sunbeam at Silver.

Mark E. Bray has given up his contract on the Opex and the work is now being continued by the company, with Will Gaynor as foreman.

Workmen on the Buckeye in Death canyon are spending the holidays at their homes, but will return to the mine to continue work next week.

Ajax employes are taking a holiday vacation, during which time the hoist is being repaired and enlarged. It is expected that work will be resumed on Saturday.

A rich strike has just been made in the Mammoth, assays showing 237 ounces in gold. It is impossible at this time to ascertain the amount of this gold ore in sight.

The new boarding house at the Alaska has been completed and the first meal served today. All the material is now on the ground for the new shaft house which is to be erected.

Warner H. Read, representing the Daly Mining Record of Denver, the official organ of the stock exchange of that city, is in the district collecting business and making a brief write-up of the camp.

Martin Harkness has been out making an expert examination of the Yankee Girl. After a thorough investigation he reports the property to be very promising, and development will in all probability soon be resumed.

The vein in the Sunbeam on the Sunbeam shaft has widened out to ten feet, but the ore is hardly rich enough for shipment. It is anticipated that the vein will soon begin to contract and the value of the ore be increased.

Toll and Daniels have secured a contract for sinking 200 feet on the shaft of the New State, which is now over 100 feet, and will commence work in a few days. Assays show several dollars in gold and prospects are good for the property to develop into a paying gold mine.

The brick foundation for the machinery at the new Mammoth hoist is being laid and the task of elevating the heavy stone and iron parts up the tramway to the shaft house will soon begin. The donkey engine now in use is only of sufficient power to elevate two tons and as some of the pieces weigh over six tons it will be necessary to use extra pulleys.

Dips and Spurs.

Mr. W. C. B. Allen expects to go out to Mercur in the morning.

Mr. H. F. Grant of the Grant Mining company is in from the company's Oregon properties.

The Casino mill at Frisco, Utah, will be started up next week, to treat the ore that has been taken from the mine.

The Golden Star property in the Gold Mountain district is showing a three-foot body of ore in its tunnel, which yields average values of $80 to gold to the ton.]

F. J. Leonard, who has just finished an inspection of the Mercur district, is loud in his praises of the West Dip, where he reports things as being decidedly active.

The directors of the Utah and Galena Mining company met in a few days and take action on the January dividends. The Galena "velvet" will undoubtedly materialize but this much can't be said for the Utah payment.

Boise Statesman: Henry W. Dorman is in from Willow Creek. Mr. Dorman reports much activity in that district. He says Colonel Davey is prosecuting work very vigorously on the Lenny group of claims and that his development will prove up the district much more thoroughly than anything heretofore undertaken.

Boise Capital: Mr. B. J. Anderson who has charge of the wagon road and fluming enterprise up the Boise river is said to have recently purchased about 800 acres of rich placer ground in the old channels of the Boise river. Much of the ground in these old channels is said to be very rich and with the extensive facilities for working them, it is believed the enterprising gentleman will reap an immense income.

Commissions Issued.

Commissions were issued from the Secretary of State's office today to the following officers-elect:

David Thomas, recorder; Henry H. Blood, treasurer; Thomas H. Phillips, county clerk; W. Jacob Parker and Charles M. Layton, county commissioners; David Galley, constable, Chesterfield precinct; and L. E. Abbott, sheriff, all of Davis county. Also to Dwight Williams, county commissioner for Emery county.

Salt Lake Temple.

The Salt Lake Temple will close on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 24, 1896, and reopen on the morning of Monday, Jan. 4, 1897.

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