

told in the dispatches today of what has happened to Louisville, the metropolis of Kentucky. In spite of himself a feeling of awe comes over a man most hardened against such a sentiment, when he reads of the appalling work done by the mysterious forces that inflict devastation under the form of the cyclone.

At this hour (3.30 p.m.) it is impossible to surmise whether the press telegrams have overstated the calamity, or whether the dead may not far exceed the number given in them. Obviously men on the ground could not arrive at accuracy within the time which has elapsed since the tornado struck the city. It is to be hoped, however, that the consternation with which the inhabitants must have been overwhelmed, has made the disaster seem greater than it really is, and that a deliberate investigation into its extent will prove the loss of life and property much smaller than is now supposed.

Further particulars of the terrible event will be awaited with feverish interest all over this country, and anxious sympathy throughout the civilized world. In its suddenness, destructiveness and extended proportions it would seem to have few parallels in modern history.

THE STREET FRANCHISE DISPUTE

THE street railroad franchise question is engaging a considerable degree of public attention, and the course of the City Council on the subject is being closely watched.

Some notable features appeared in the proceedings of last evening's session of the Council. A resolution was introduced to the effect that no franchise should be hereafter granted to any street railroad corporation or company that did not contain a provision requiring the grantees to pay to the city a proportion of the gross receipts resulting from the enterprise. This resolution might have appeared consistent had it passed as originally presented. This was not done, however, as Councilman W. F. James offered an amendment by which the same principle regarding the embargo on a portion of the gross receipts of railroad companies would be applied to existing franchises. Strange to say the resolution passed as amended. Mr. Pembroke's motion—a very proper one—to reconsider and refer was lost.

The resolution shows regrettable ignorance of one of the plainest

principles of the national constitution—that no *ex post facto* law is valid. There is another element of invalidity in it—the resolution as amended impairs "the obligation of contracts." The existing franchises are in the nature of contracts made between the municipality and the parties to whom they were accorded.

It is the height of absurdity to presume that one of the parties to a contract can, without the consent of the other, inject a new obligation. Had the Council not chosen to ignore the city attorney, but referred the matter to him and acted upon what would doubtless have been his recommendation, they would have obviated the painful spectacle which their ignorance of the commonest principles of sense and law causes them to present.

The holders of existing franchises will doubtless not lose any considerable quantity of sleep over the resolution, as it amounts to no more than so much wind. A condition not incorporated in the franchises could not be enforced, having no legal existence.

A LAST WORD.

OUR unesteemed "Liberal" morning contemporary now tries to dodge and creep out of its former position as to what the DESERET NEWS has said about the so-called "Industrial Home." Of course it calls names and substitutes expletives for argument, and in its usual style in crawling out of a dilemma, asks a great many questions; among them are these:

"Does not the News know that the Home would be filled in a week were the Church to take its chains from its people? Has not the News under orders fully notified all the people that the Institution is bad; that it was founded as an enemy of the one nasty tenet of the Mormon faith and must be avoided? Is not that the impression that it has carried to the heart of every Mormon?"

The answer to each query is, emphatically, No! We do not know or believe that the "Home" would be filled in a week, or a year, or a dozen years by the kind of inmates it was pretended would rush into it, if Congress would only vote the money asked for and to obtain which so many filthy falsehoods were told.

There have been no "chains" put on anybody to prevent their going to the Institution, and there has been no need of any. No one but indolent and naturally mendicant persons, except children and paid officials have sojourned within its walls and even they have hastened from it as soon as possible.

The NEWS has never received any "orders," or advice, or intimation from any source to notify the people about the concern. And it has not notified anybody that "the Institution is bad," or that it was "founded as an enemy" to any particular tenet, "nasty" or otherwise. That is not "the impression which it has conveyed to the heart" of any one, so far as we are aware.

The impression we have endeavored to convey and which we think we have made, is that there was no need for the concern, and that the money to establish it was gained by false pretenses and the utterance of scandalous stories without foundation or excuse. That the "Home" is a failure is now being demonstrated and the Tribune bully is badly rattled over it, and so resorts to his accustomed expletives to cover his chagrin. He can go on, with impunity. We are of the opinion that the facts are as perceptible to the public as his impotent rage and useless scurrility.

DISCUSSING THE TARIFF.

THE fact that the inhabitants of a Territory do not share in national elections nor national legislation is the main reason why such questions as that of the tariff do not receive much attention from them. Heretofore such topics have not been much discussed in Utah; but for reasons not necessary to be recited here, more consideration is being given to them of late than formerly. A class of young men is growing up in this Territory who take pleasure in investigating such subjects, which is, of course, commendable. But care should be taken to use only such methods, in making such inquiries, as will lead to the truth. It were better to leave a subject entirely alone than to take a course in dealing with it that will have the effect to fasten error upon the mind.

The debate upon free trade which took place in the Fourteenth Ward Assembly Rooms, March 28th, an account of which is given elsewhere in this issue, has suggested these reflections. The speakers, six in number, were all young men of exceptional ability, and possessed of intellectual capacity and attainments which promised much for the future career of each, and they all seemed earnest and honest in advocating and supporting their respective views. There were a goodly number of ladies present, but a glance over the audience showed it to consist mainly of young men who have hitherto