

which was to the effect that the other gentlemen present, claiming to have been elected from those wards, be not sworn in until the appeal from the decision which had been rendered in favor of Mr. Young and his colleagues should be decided. Mayor Scott promptly denied this request, on the ground that he had "had no official notice" of any action by the courts relative to the matter.

This was incorrect. Mayor Scott had had official notice of Judge Zane's decision to the effect that the People's Party candidates from the Third and Fourth municipal wards had been elected. That decision, as soon as it was rendered, was itself an official notice to all the parties concerned, and to the general public of the facts therein stated. What is a judicial decision but an official notice? While it may have other elements, the very essence of a court's decree is in the nature of an official notice, and the instant it is rendered from the bench it becomes a notice to all concerned, and to the public at large.

A notable feature of these proceedings was the fact that Mayor Scott assumed and exercised the authority to determine which candidates should, and which should not, take the oath of office. Whence came he by such power? The universal rule is that parliamentary bodies are the judges of the election and qualifications of their own members. Were the Speaker of the National House of Representatives to direct the clerk to whom he should or should not administer the oath of office as a member, without a vote being taken, he would hardly survive the storm such arrogance would create all over the Union. Yet such was exactly the nature of Mayor Scott's act last night. It is a grievous proof of what has all along been feared, namely, that the "Liberal" ticket was mostly head, a tadpole affair, so to speak.

Now as to Mayor Scott's desire to be "just and impartial." What course could he have taken, after having assumed the authority to decide in the matter, more in line with the course he had just outlined for himself, than to rule that the second request made by Mr. Young should be granted? Such a decision would have done no injustice to "Liberals," because it had been judicially found that they were not entitled to seats, and it would have given neither set of contestants the advantage of possession, which is too often "nine points of the law."

It is evident that Mayor Scott had determined in advance what course he would take. It is further evident that he adhered to the prepared programme.

THE RETIRING OFFICIALS.

THE rule of the opposition in the government of this city is practically inaugurated and that of the People withdrawn. The inhabitants are indebted to the outgoing officials for an honest, active and intelligent administration during their term of office. The outgoing administration has been noted for the lightness of the burdens it has placed upon the backs of the people, permanent improvements, and rare freedom from the imposition of that species of bondage which results from public indebtedness, which the incoming officials promise to place upon the municipality to an extent that has never heretofore existed.

It is but due to Hon. Francis Armstrong to state that a more indefatigably industrious official would be hard to find in any city of this go-ahead country. When not engaged in the performance of his duties in his office at the city hall, he was as a rule at some point, near or distant, engaged in giving personal attention to some public improvement in progress, connected with canals, waterworks or other material development, and upon every matter within his official jurisdiction he has brought to bear his unusual fund of good, sound, practical native sense and perception. He has, in the mayoralty of this city, during the four years of his incumbency, made a record of which he has good reason to be proud.

Encomiums upon the late occupant of the office of city recorder are superfluous. Everybody, on all sides, believes that he could fill with distinguished ability a similar position in any city of the Union. The manner in which he has served the people of Salt Lake in that capacity leaves nothing to be desired. He belongs to a class that is always in demand.

Indeed, we have a good word for all the retired officials, as having honestly and conscientiously discharged their duties, including the ex-Council, "Liberal" members not excepted, they having done as well as could have been expected under the circumstances. Take the gentlemen who have just gone out of the official directory of the city government all in all, they have shown numerous good points and done such public service as entitles them to a hearty popular vote of thanks.

REQUIRES ALTERATIONS.

A BILL "relating to fugitives from justice" has been introduced in the Legislative Council and referred to the committee on judiciary. When reported back it will probably be after it has undergone a process of trimming. Its object is to empower the Governor to take steps to secure the return to this Territory of fugitives from justice charged with the violation of the laws of Utah. Defining the extent of the authority intended to be conferred in that regard, it provides that he (the Governor) may "demand from the executive authority of any State, or other Territory, or from the executive of any foreign government, the surrender to the authorities of this Territory of such fugitive from justice," etc.

The Governor might make the demand on the "executive of any foreign government" for the surrender of persons charged with violation of the Territorial laws, but the result would be as successful as when one "calls up spirits from the vasty deep"—they wouldn't come. The Governor of a Territory is a local official and has no authority to treat, on any subject, with the representatives of foreign governments. All correspondence in that line must be done through the national Secretary of State. No such power can be conferred upon any person whomsoever by a Territorial or even a State legislative body.

It is proper to say, in this connection, that a member of a Legislature who introduces a measure may be by no means responsible for its contents, neither does he necessarily approve them. As an instance that might be cited is the introduction into the House of Representatives of the measure intended to disfranchise the "Mormon" people, because of their religious belief. Representative Stewart, who introduced the measure, did not formulate it and presumably he does not favor it, claiming that he merely acted as a matter of courtesy to the vindictive anti-"Mormon" "Liberal" of this city, who forwarded it to him to be introduced.

We make this explanation so that errors in information and judgment may not be attributed to the wrong persons.

Miss Ellen Gladstone is vice-principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, and resembles her famous father more than does any other of his children.