

A DELIVERER WANTED.

The keynote sounded by the NEWS in the matter of the public grievance against the coal dealers guilty of fraud through short weight, has met with an early and a gratifying response. The grand jury in their final report to Judge Zaue yesterday afternoon paid official attention to the matter, and the City Council has under consideration an ordinance having for its object the protection of the community against this class of wrong. The result of the agitation will be that for a time at least there will be no attempt to cheat a consumer by charging him \$5.50 for 1500 pounds of coal; under the fear of exposure and of a comfortable fine, it is probable there will be a material increase in carbon-selling honesty—for all of which everybody interested will be duly thankful.

But the good work should not end with this. Honest weight and honest coal are all right so far as they go, but at the rate of \$5.50 per ton they do not go far enough. What is wanted is a reduction in price, and this, we take it, can only be secured through the construction and operation and maintenance by local capital of a competing road to the coal beds by which we are surrounded. That a city of 60,000 people, so fortunately situated as we are in this respect, should be in the matter of fuel so completely at the mercy of foreign and soulless corporations as Salt Lake is, is one of the great mysteries and great blunders of our industrial development. No other case in this or any other country offers a parallel to it. The wise heads among us have long anticipated the condition by which we are confronted; and they have deplored the failure of the various efforts to remedy it. Perhaps if they had been more emphatic in the expression of their views and more energetic in carrying them out, the public might have rallied more heartily to their calls; perhaps the masses are more to blame than the men from whom the inception of such projects is expected; perhaps—but why waste time in suppositions? We are paying dearly enough for our shortsightedness, and all eyes are looking anxiously for deliverance.

Is there not in the community a man with sufficient courage and enterprise to meet the crisis and solve the problem? If it is too large an undertaking for one man, cannot a combination of men be effected for the purpose? For the party or parties who have the nerve to grapple with and conquer the difficulty there is in readiness a large stock of public sympathy and gratitude—which, it is true, may not be quoted very high in financial reports but is a good thing to have nevertheless—as well as a handsome return and sure dividends on the means put into the investment. Who wants this guerdon, in consideration of the services named? First come, first served!

THE FRIENDSHIP that seems to have developed so strongly between President-elect Cleveland and Senator Carlisle is taken to be an indication that the eminent Kentuckian will be one of the potent counselors of the new administration.

A FEW GENTLE REMARKS.

The spectacle presented to this patient community two or three times a week by the gaseous and illuminated body known as the City Council is one to make thoughtful men bite their lips in humiliation and fools crack their throats with unrestrained laughter. Surely, undignified childishness and piddling incapacity could no further go than in the lengths achieved during the past few weeks by what we are unfortunate enough to have for a municipal legislature. The worst feature of the case is the recent activity of mouth on the part of those members whose notorious unfitness for the position has heretofore escaped criticism because they were discreet enough to keep quiet. Of late they have followed the bad example of garrulity set by their colleagues, with the result that the sessions are given up to a dreary mass of vapid and at times ill-natured prattle, from which the most diligent search scarcely succeeds in extracting a grain of sense. If this be called contempt of court, or rather of council, on our part, we shall try to bear with resignation the penalty for at last expressing what we have long been forced to feel.

Yet the NEWS is sure the members of the council are not bad men, some of them are really able, and not one is indifferent to the city's welfare. They doubtless want to do what is right, and probably think they have done the best they can. If this is the case, we apologize here and now; for it is manifestly unfair to blame people for what they don't know. At the same time we submit whether the gentlemen do not themselves think they have already wasted time enough in all conscience to revise five sets of ordinances, and whether they think it a part of their official duties to spend hour after hour wrangling like a lot of boys over a trivial question as to a clerk's letter and its disposal; whether they think they are earning the extra compensation which special sessions bring them; whether they are satisfied with the figure they cut before their constituents and the world; whether in fact they do not think it would be a measure of economy and in the interest of public dignity all round to discontinue the meetings altogether and let municipal affairs run themselves. The NEWS is not hard to please ordinarily, but it admits that just now it thinks almost any kind of a change would be for the better. Hence it rises and in a modest way asks for a change.

TILTING AT WINDMILLS.

A few days ago we took occasion to speak in terms of praise of the ability of the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, the foremost newspaper of the Northwest, and one of the best in the country. The journal referred to deserved all that was said of it, for it ordinarily discusses current subjects with acumen and vigor, and generally is not far wrong in its judgment.

The last issue to come to hand, however, shows a woeful departure from this high standard. It contains a half-column tirade against the Mormon Church and is in the utmost degree

vindictive and vituperative. The masses of the Church membership are called "purlind," they are said to be "of a low standard morally and intellectually," Mormonism is defined as "a horror, at the root of which the knife should cut quickly and sharply," and the sooner this is done "the nation and the world will be rid of what should never have been allowed to raise its snaky head above the mire from which it sprung." There is much more in the same strain, all going to show that the editorial scribe has succeeded in lashing himself into a most virtuous and vehement frenzy.

But the amusing part remains to be told. The whole basis of the screed is found in a ludicrous misunderstanding of Chief Justice Zane's recent decision as to the disposition of the personal property of the Mormon Church. Says the *P. P.*, in its opening paragraph: "Probably no step that has been taken by the authorities towards the extinction of polygamy has excited more indignation among the Mormons than will be felt with regard to the decision of the Utah supreme court as to the disposition of the two millions placed at the disposal of the Mormon church." Then, as the climax is approached: "It is one of the unpleasant features and a most unpleasant duty, but it is none the less necessary, * * * and the application of the funds to the establishment and support of free schools is the balm that follows the knife. In education is the one hope of Utah, and the whole country should congratulate itself because two millions of dollars, which were to have gone to the making of proselytes to Mormonism, are to be expended in free education."

Now, as it happens that "the whole country," or at least the honorable part of it, will "congratulate itself" that the Utah Supreme Court held a view totally different from that taken by the *Pioneer Press*, the journal referred to must confess to a large stock of fine fury utterly wasted. The court's decision was that the Church was entitled to the use of its personal funds—the same to be employed in the building and keeping in repair its church edifices and the support of the poor—a direct denial of the unjust and preposterous demand that the means given by members of the Church to a certain cause be diverted to another cause wholly different and none the more worthy. The esteemed *Pioneer Press* has committed the dangerous and hideously indecorous blunder of going off half-cooked; and if the editor will devote a moment to examination he will find, in the language of the day, a capacious and jagged hole as the result of this recent exploit of talking through his hat.

HURRYING THROUGH LIFE.

Some men's lives fitly represent a high pressure engine whose capacity for work is kept up to its highest tension and is only stopped long enough to take on water and fuel or for repairs made inevitable by the ceaseless friction of joint against joint and rod against wheel. Some enthusiastic visionaries have expressed the belief that the locomotive, being the perfection of mechanism, approaches so