

TOO MUCH "WHEREAS."

WHEN men who are inexperienced in the transaction of public business, become members of deliberative bodies, as a rule they go about their work awkwardly. In this way they load up the minutes of the proceedings with verbiage. This profuseness is an enemy to dispatch, and ought to be avoided.

This subject is suggested by the unprecedented surplussage of whereases and be it resolved introduced in the deliberations of the City Council. It may be contended that the great bulk of this heterogeneous phraseology is introduced by one member of that body—Mr. Wantland. The quantity is not less large on that account. But it is observable that others are adopting the same method of placing a proposition before the Council. There are occasions when a subject requires the use of the preamble and resolution, but usually all that is needful is to introduce it in the form of a tersely worded motion. The reasons behind it can be given in the subsequent discussion after the second has been obtained.

Simplicity in the transaction of public business is very desirable, hence the necessity for the abolition of spreadism, with which some men are seriously affected.

AN ANARCHISTIC TRIUMPH.

THE result of the trial of Ravachol and Simon, the red-handed French anarchists, has a grave significance. A law was lately passed by the French Chamber of Deputies which makes an attempt to injure property by means of explosions a capital offense. Both the conspirators confessed to having committed acts of this character by which property was destroyed and persons were injured bodily. Ravachol also pleaded guilty to having murdered and robbed an old man, coolly admitting that 5000 francs found at his house was the plunder obtained by the commission of the bloody deed.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty with extenuating circumstances. The reason for this result was that the citizens on the panel had been notified by anarchists that if the trial resulted in the execution of the condemned all of them would be killed.

This incident indicates that the government is powerless to put down anarchism. When juries can be thus terrorized judicial paralysis ensues, public and personal safety vanishes and liberty expires. The Ravachol trial will give an impetus to anarchism. It has gained a strong point by this demonstration of its power, and the triumph necessarily increases its audacity.

Looking at the incident philosophically it appears natural to assume that if the anarchists can, by a terrorizing process, compel a jury to refrain from finding a verdict commensurate with the crimes of accused persons—as in the case of Ravachol and Simon—they may, under similar circumstances, finally demand and obtain acquittals. The men are not over numerous in the world who will stand to the post of duty at the expense of life and property.

The effect of the result of the late trial of Parisian anarchists is significant. Strangers are leaving the French capital in large numbers, while intending visitors are cancelling orders for rooms at the hotels, and a feeling of insecurity prevails among many of the residents. The uncertainty as to where and who the conspirators will strike next prevents a subsidence of the excitement, which would blaze into feverishness in the event of a fresh outrage being perpetrated.

The times are perilous.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE CAUSE GAINING.

THE defeat of the woman suffrage bill in the British House of Commons was in one sense a victory. The result was attained by an exceedingly small majority, showing that the cause has of late made rapid strides in the direction of the goal of victory.

It is somewhat remarkable that the bill should have been killed by the attitude toward it of the Liberal party. It was a Conservative measure. The granting of the franchise, under some limitations, to women, and curtailing its exercise by the more ignorant classes of the male population, has been, of late, a conspicuous campaign question with the party now in power. It was advocated some time ago by Premier Salisbury.

This was not only a chivalric position for the Conservative party to take, but manifested much political shrewdness. A great many people have been predicting the early downfall of the Salisbury administration. The status of the woman suffrage question will act as a preventative in this regard. The ladies wield a great deal of political influence in England—a certain class of them do at least. For this reason candidates for election frequently select them for their canvassers, in which capacity they have shown remarkable aptitude. Salisbury is an advocate of woman suffrage and Gladstone is against it. When the measure was being discussed in the House, the Grand Old Man was brilliantly silent.

CROWDING INTO THE CITIES.

THERE has been much comment in the newspapers of late on the crowding of people from the country into the cities. This has been generally pictured as an evil to be deplored and if possible to be checked. *Scribner's* for May contains an article by Thomas Curtis Clarke, the eminent engineer and bridge builder, in which an opposite view is taken. We clip from it the following:

"The conflict between city people and those who live in the country is as old as history. There always has been an influx from without to within. So long as the area of cities was limited, this was strongly and successfully resisted by the citizens. They felt themselves a superior class to the rustics. The very words 'urban' and 'rustic' tell the story.

"The Romans called the outside dwellers 'villani,' from which come two words, one of honorable significance, 'villa,' and the other perhaps a little modified by medieval use, 'villain.' Roman citizens looked down upon the country folk as an average New Yorker

does upon a stray Jerseyman from the pines.

"All literature has been tinged by this feeling, and both writers and statesmen have continued to deplore the excessive growth of cities as a national evil, and have exhorted countrymen to stay at home, telling them how much better off they were in the country.

"Observation has taught us that this growth of cities is a necessary part of the evolution of our social structure, and that it is not a growth at the expense of the country, but for the benefit of the country, as well as that of the city.

"Recent statistical inquiries have shown that cities grow because they absorb the best, and not the worst, of the rural population, who better their condition by coming to town.

"Charles Booth, the eminent English statistician, in his great work, 'Labor and Life of the People,' has shown from very extended inquiry, that most of those who come to London from the country either have work already engaged, or have good prospects of getting work; and that their condition is generally improved by their change of abode.

"The British census of 1890 confirms this in a striking manner by showing that the people of country birth are most numerous in the wealthy quarters of the city, where employment abounds, and least numerous in the poverty-stricken quarters.

"All this is contrary to the preconceived opinion that countrymen wander aimlessly to the city, and are chiefly tramps, or broken-down persons.

PROPHECIES FULFILLING.

A FEW days since an esteemed correspondent appended to a communication of his to the News, a suggestion. It was to the effect that this journal should, in various ways, exhibit current proofs of Joseph Smith's prophetic power, recent and passing events affording strong evidence of this character. We have occasionally presented articles of this nature, and perhaps fuller attention to the subject would be acceptable to many of our readers.

Proofs of the prophetic gift of the man who was instrumental, in the hands of God, in founding the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are overwhelmingly abundant. His predictions are being daily verified in the conditions existing in the world, all of which were foretold by him as approaching developments of the present generation.

The social situation of affairs now developing was made the theme of revelation and prophecy delivered through Joseph Smith. The formation of combinations whose objects were to be the obtaining of power and wealth—connected with business and politics—were clearly spoken of as an approaching cause of distress and perplexity among men. They were thus foreshadowed in a revelation given at Kirtland, Ohio, Feb. 9th, 1831:

"And behold it shall come to pass that my servants shall be sent forth to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south; and even now, let him that goeth to the east teach them that shall be converted to flee to the west, and this in consequence of that which is coming on the earth, and of secret combinations."

In this statement through the Prophet two sources of danger are embodied, the one general—"that which is coming on the earth"—the other special—"and of