

character could not pass muster as being in full fellowship as moral, sober, upright members of the Church have been admitted to parties attended by the youth of the Latter-day Saints, where parents had a right to expect that their children were protected from evil influences by the diligence of those in charge of such gatherings; and we are also aware of the fact that great evil has followed the disregard of counsel in this respect by those who should know and do better.

The Church discipline opens every avenue for reasonable enjoyment, hence permits dancing and other amusements in moderation and without evil tendencies. But the most harmless amusement can be made a means to wrong-doing if unwholesome associations are allowed; and while in the "crises" for dancing which our correspondent refers to as prevalent among young people there have been some violations of the rule excluding masquerades and excessive round dancing from the list of proper recreations, by far the more flagrant breaches of discipline have been on the part of older persons in whose hands the management of such affairs has been placed as a sacred trust for the preservation of the youth. A reformation on this dance question, within lines of consistency, would be most timely.

HEWING TO THE LINE.

If the City Council will continue to its legitimate and consistent conclusion the sweeping retrenchments instituted Tuesday evening in the salary reductions and the lopping off of superfluous officials, it will merit the thanks and the confidence of its best friends and extort the praise of all its honorable opponents. By one brave stroke to reduce expenditures over \$50,000 per year, which is practically what was done last night, is a grand bit of work, the credit for which is in no degree lessened by the fact that a large part of this amount has been going out unnecessarily. Upon further examination additional leaks may be discovered; and the public hope is that now that the good work has been commenced it will not be suspended until every needless hole has been probed and tightly plugged.

Some people will criticize the retrenchments in one department, others will find fault with the cutting down in other departments. We apprehend that the people, however, will not be found grumbling at any part of it. For ourselves, we fancy there are still a few places where the ax may be judiciously employed; and in order to be consistent all round, these particular places must not be overlooked. But a magnificent beginning has been made, and on these lines the Council may safely reckon upon the approval and endorsement of the great mass of the taxpayers regardless of creed, color, or past condition of political or municipal servitude.

STALE, YET NEW.

Marshall Cushing has more or less reputation as a newspaper correspondent, but if accuracy is one of the

qualifications attributed to him, he will have to take better care of it in the future than he has been doing in the recent past. As late as Monday last he gravely informed the readers of the Boston Standard concerning the probabilities (and the wrong ones, too) of an event that occurred exactly two weeks before—we refer to the appointment of Hon. John A. Marshall as Federal judge for Utah. Just listen to his innocent prattle:

The John G. Carlisle presidential boom seems to be chiefly in charge of ex-Governor West of Utah. By the way, Hon. Caleb West is a candidate for Federal judge out there, and many are gambling on his success. He was from Kentucky originally, was Governor of Utah once before, and won his reappointment in the second Cleveland administration on account of Secretary Carlisle's friendship for him. The case had all been made out for a friend of Hoke Smith, the secretary of the interior, who is really supposed to have charge of such matters; but at the last moment Secretary Carlisle called at the White House, and the name of Caleb West went to the Senate. Mr. West is a brave man, as well as a good and pleasant man. He saved one of the Carlisle children from drowning many years ago.

As to the salvation of one of the younger Carlises, local rumor has had various versions of the story, though that the ex-Governor saved him from the death usually known as drowning is quite a new one.

RELIGIOUS INSANITY.

The final confession of the tramp convicted of the murder of McAfee,—a case that has been enveloped in considerable mystery—clearly proves him to have been the victim of what sometimes is called religious insanity. His statement in court was that he had received a divine command to found a new sect, and that the study of the Book of Mormon had confirmed him in this idea. Then on an irresistible impulse he shot McAfee, an honest old farmer, without provocation and without any apparent motive. He still, according to the dispatch, maintains that he is charged with the fulfillment of a mission, but asks nevertheless for death as the just punishment of the crime of obeying the alleged divine command. He is clearly not in his right mind.

It is curious to note how the thoughts and sentiments of people who from some cause or other lose control over their reason follow the general current in the locality where they happen to be, or center round some prominent topic that claims public attention. It has been observed during times of great so-called revivals that a majority of those whose minds become deceived turn upon religious subjects. They will preach or pray or sing in their own way. Formerly it was thought that the condition of such patients was due to the religion itself, but this view has been given up, for it has been shown that in times of war and revolution, insane persons will assume the roles of soldiers and great generals and live through, in their imagination, all the excitement of battles on land or sea. In exceptional cases insane persons will be-

lieve themselves to be criminals, as did a poor tramp some years ago in Christiana, Norway. A mysterious murder had been committed in the vicinity of that place. It defied the skill of the best detectives. The papers were full of it, and it was for a long time the subject of conversation. Finally a poor ignorant tramp gave himself up to the police as the murderer. In his confession he described all the details of the crime, as they had appeared in print, adding much that appeared plausible. Everybody was convinced that the perpetrator of the deed had been found, and sentence was about to be passed upon him, when, at the last moment, evidence was produced that the poor wretch had been hundreds of miles away from the scene of the tragedy on the day it was enacted. The evidence was conclusive to everybody except to the tramp himself, who did not succeed in clearing his diseased brain from the idea that he actually had been a participant in the gruesome deed of which he had heard so much.

The confessed murderer of McAfee imagines himself the bearer of a divine message. In his diseased imagination a sacred volume appears to him to confirm the illusion. Lower instincts predominate, however, and he cannot control his desire to destroy life. Contradictory as this seems to be, it is easily explained on the supposition that he is insane but that previous to his mental disease, religious impressions had been formed which are now distorted owing to that diseased condition. The case is of much psychological interest.

IN THE belief that the case is without a parallel, attention is invited to the fee proclivities of an Oklahoma official, who acts as clerk of the district court, clerk of the circuit court, and United States commissioner. Last year he received \$3,241 as clerk of the one court, \$3,791 as clerk of the other and \$8,032 as United States commissioner—a total of \$15,064, or more than twice what the judge of the district court received. In the palmiest days for office-holders in Utah, was there anything to equal this?

LAST SATURDAY'S issue of the Ogden Standard was the first under the new form—eight six-column pages, instead of four eight-column pages. The change is a decided improvement. The Standard is a hot, hard fighter for Ogden, and deserves the support it seems to be receiving.

IF THE Transvaal hero, Paul Kruger, were in this country, the hostile political press would at least be able to charge that he was too old for the presidency. When there is nothing else to be said to a man's disparagement, it is deemed a fair complaint that he has lived too long.

WHEN THEY begin to speak of the "silver kings" instead of the "silver cranks," it is time to substitute "gold eagles" for "gold bugs." Thus, in time, the two will get together, let us hope in the ratio of about 16 to 1.

THE UNITED STATES senator who is ready for a war, even if it costs him a son, just as the last war cost him a son, may be deemed patriotic to the extent of yielding up as a sacrifice all his immediate relations.