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## THE LEGISLATURE.

There are not many new laws, or amendments of old ones, needed at the hands of the Legislative Assembly at its present session. The Territory already has a tolerable surfeit of enactments, and the proverb tells us that "enough is as good as a feast." We venture to say, in behalf of the whole commonwealth, that the new legislature will most essentially serve their $4 per day each, and mileage, if during the next sixty days they study how few, not how many, fresh measures and changes in those already in force, they find it necessary to force upon the statute books. That community is governed best which is governed least; and in the multitude of laws with vexing paragraphs and complicated provisions, the average mortal finds more mystery than satisfaction, and more confusion than sense. In the changes that have occurred during the last two years, and the changes that are imminent in the near future, important items of legislative necessity are of course before us; what we wish to urge is, not that any needed measure be postponed, but that the standard of legislative excellence be sought rather in the quality than in the quantity of the work done.

The NEWS welcomes the representatives of the people to the capital, and wishes them a pleasant and profitable session. We believe they will be actuated by the sole desire to promote the Territory's welfare; and in pursuance of that end they will receive, regardless of politics or creed, the encouragement and approbation of this paper and, we believe, of the whole people.

## A VERY BAD JOKE.

The Brigham *Bugler* of Saturday, Jan. 6, contains an account of a mock marriage performed in that city on New Year's day. It appears that "a young dude" of Salt Lake and an equally young widow of Brigham City met at a party. Among the fun indulged in was that of a marriage ceremony, the above mentioned pair consenting to appear as the principal actors. It so happened, however, that the fun-loving gentleman who drew up the license was a notary public, and the one that performed the ceremony was an ecclesiastical officer, with legal power to tie hands and hearts together. All this did not dawn upon the principals in the disgusting farce, till everything was over. But when light came upon the situation the youth was ready to faint. He has a sweetheart, it is understood, in this city, and, should the ceremony be declared legal, as similar ceremonies have been in other parts of the country, by the courts, he finds himself in a truly awkward position.

In some countries in the civilized world a mock performance of this kind would render the performers liable to prosecution and probably result in fines or imprisonment. From the position of the Church, it deserves the severest condemnation. Marriage being instituted by the Lord for man, partakes of the nature of a divine ordinance. Like baptism, the Lord's Supper, and other ordinances, it should be considered holy, and not a subject of merriment and laughter. Not apart from any religious motive, wise men have considered the relations entered into by the marriage ceremony the main foundation of society. All just laws aim at the protection of the family in its various relations. Notwithstanding, cases exist where the marriage covenant is disregarded or made light of. To be true to those covenants and to regard them as a sacred bond is the essence of that virtue which leads to the defense of home and country in times of supreme danger. No matter, then, from what point of view a practical joke like the one referred to is regarded, it is an act which the intelligent part of the community will condemn. Some will regard it as later almost blasphemous, and all will agree that it is dangerous in its demoralizing influence, if it is allowed to pass without some consequence to the perpetrators and participants. It would probably gain pretty general approval if the young people were made to undertake to correct the responsibilities involved in the ceremony which they have profaned. No other reparation within their power would appear to be adequate, and yet the enforcement of those obligations might, and probably would, result in mutual unhappiness. In whichever way the parties may succeed in extricating themselves, the duty of the community is plain: it will upon the act fall public censure and convey adequate notice that it is regarded as little less than a grave crime.

## DIPHTHERIA IN SCHOOLS.

Anything pertaining to the study, prevention and cure of that dread enemy of childhood and youth—the deadly disease diphtheria—is certain to be received with interest by every class in every community that has suffered from the deadly pestilence. It is accordingly with pleasure that the public will learn that, according to the report of the New York health board, diphtheria is a preventable, if, practicable against it are advised that are held to be effective, and the opinion is that where strict sanitary regulations are enforced, there is no need of this disease becoming a pestilent at all.

This gratifying news is associated with a report that advances some very novel suggestions as to the cause and spread of the malady. It is well known that the disease is increasing; that it is most deadly in its effects—one in four cases proving fatal, whereas in the dreaded scarlet fever only one in twenty results totally; that its germs are not readily killed by the ordinary extremes of heat and cold; and that it is spread and propagated chiefly by the contact of children in the public schools. The recommendations referred to are to the effect that the living of pupils in school buildings should be strictly prohibited; that no cover for books ought to be discarded; and that since the contagion is spread by means of indiscriminate mingling of state pencils, these should be done away with entirely, and instead of them and slates, pen and paper should be substituted. These suggestions are endorsed by a chief of expert testimony, and they are strongly urged upon the attention of all those who have at heart the preservation of life and the success of the country's common schools. Whether our local physicians are prepared to agree with their eastern colleagues in the position taken, we have not taken the time to ascertain; but the matter is important enough to deserve their notice without further invitation, in the sad fact if there is any negligence that can be avoided it may be pointed out, and the censure of immunity this Territory has already enjoyed may be made effectual and still greater through the employment of every precaution that skill and observation can suggest.

## A CHANGE OF HEART.

Recovering their second wind, a few of the eastern newspapers that until lately have not been averse to the admission of Utah to statehood, are at present pressing around in some numerous pursuit of reasons why that consent but inestimable boon should no longer withheld from us. Just what new light has dawned upon them is hard to discover, unless, indeed, the fact that Utah's people are now for the first time practically unanimous in asking admission, can be regarded as a sufficient reason for the opposition. With some antiquated journals, which live on the wrath and the arguments that progressive people got through with five years ago, a friendly attitude on this question may not be expected. The marvel is that enlightening, modern, aspacious minds should sometimes fall under the blighting influences. The New York *Recorder*, for instance, a young giant in German journalism, is moved to talk in a recent issue in the dreary, blighted, Gammon spirit of the Boston *Traveler*, and it crows up its courage to the point of saying, "The sentiment of Utah is a measure of very doubtful expediency." We who live in Utah have not previously been taught that the gorge of "expediency" ever deserved consideration at all. We have never discussed the question from that standpoint, and have not thought that the statesmanship of the country would wish to do so. We have preferred to stand upon the broad platform of Right, and without any hardly cringing or mental reservation we have stated the case thus: "If in population, wealth, resources, stability, patriotism, good order, obedience to law, thrift and general fitness for self-government you find us answering the necessary requirements, admit us to sovereignty. If we are deficient in all or any of these, please say so, and keep us waiting a little longer." To the first invitation there has not been a single unfavorable response that we are aware of. And now to raise trailing about with a plea of "doubtful expediency" is an insult to American intelligence that we can hardly listen to without exasperation.

But the *Recorder*'s editor elaborates his theory. Speaking to and for Republicans—I which party his paper is a staunch throw—he continues:

> Admission should not, in the opinion, be opposed by the Republican party on party grounds, but there are far others considerations which should induce it to be opposed by Republicans and by men of all parties. If Utah is admitted with all the rights of a sovereign State in every respect, the Mormon Church will be in a position to do what it has long been suspected it would do, namely, to dictate the political action of its members. Every man who is a member of the Mormon Church is not dictated to, but it is well known that, when a matter of importance to the Church comes up, the Church authorities do speak, and their word is law. It would be a misfortune to have such a power in the land. It would be a misfortune to the Mormons themselves, for it would place them in a position of political bondage, and, in the interest of monopoly, the Government of States, and, therefore, of girls, the world over, would, sooner or later, take the matter in hand and put it to the strongest lighting power it has ever had. The Mormon leaders are as alert, intelligent, determined body of men. They realize what is at stake, and they have no idea of surrendering that power. They know that they are in a position to do what they please in every state of this country and extraordinary history. Now, we feel that some day we will need a test case of the power of a President to veto a change of law.

We wonder if the *Recorder*, which is nothing if not partisan, will not see in direct election results, astonishing evidence of the direct "dictate of Church" Really, we should relish to think we put the entire change in the form of some other journals we exchange with, warrants the opinion that the editor of the New York paper will find himself susceptible to a similar "change of heart" too.

## AIDING THE UNEMPLOYED.

The citizens of San Francisco have decided upon a method of giving employment to the many men desiring work in that place but unable to obtain it. The city government has gone to what it felt to be the full extent of its powers in providing food for the unemployed, but a large number of the latter still remained. Business men and ministers then combined to do what they could. A registration of the unemployed was made, and 2,000 men joined their names on the list. Of these 500 stated they were the heads of families.

As a means of raising funds to pay wages for each of these men as could be given employment, the ministers engaged in the work of obtaining money by subscription. It was decided to try and raise the amount $100,000 by the opening of spring, as that sum was considered to be sufficient to meet the pressing needs of the situation until that time. To the first effort nearly $5,000 was promised. Subscriptions still continue to be taken.

How to expend the money to the best advantage was the next question, and an executive committee selected by a mass meeting considered the subject. They concluded that as the money was contributed by the public it should go to make some public improvement. A large portion of Golden Gate park was to such a condition that a great amount of labor could be put upon it, and the park by this rendered more beautiful and convenient for the public, and as the same a permanent improvement be made. It was decided, therefore, that the proposed work be all done in the park, under the direction of the regular commissioners, and that the men employed be given $1 per day. This was regarded as sufficient coming from the relief fund, and where the men could better themselves they were at liberty to do so without being complained of. The whole 2,000 men cannot be put to work at one time, so the men with families are to be taken first, and the others are to be given employment alternately, according to their needs for food and clothing.

The San Franciscans who have engaged in this charitable work are deserving of great credit therefor, doubtless not is a part of practical religion, and is responsive to a truly divine inspiration. There are some people who talk about assisting the needy, but when action in that direction is considered they are not there; such people represent the very antipodes of true religion, as they are without the deed that is in harmony with the principle. But there are others who not only talk of doing good but follow their words by works in second instances. Utah has a good many of this latter class who have been showing forth the principle of divine love in their charitable deeds this winter, and we doubt there will be further scope for this noble work, though there is more loss of poverty in this section than in other parts of the country. It is probable that there were very few of the direct contributors for the destitute who ever thought of reward when they added their mite to the fund. Yet the return of good for the good is a certainty, the game having been played in operation, its legitimate effect must follow. "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," and to him will the measure be returned, here and hereafter, "pressed up and running over."

## THE NEW CRUISER.

The announcement is made that the new cruiser Olympia, which was constructed at the Union Iron works in California and has just made her trial trips, is to be immediately placed in commission and will proceed to Honolulu. Her presence there is not for reason of any intention of present necessity of increasing the strength of the United States squadron in Hawaiian waters, but is merely an exhibition of bonds which carries with it a commitment in the new cruiser. The present flagship of the Pacific squadron is the cruiser Philadelphia, which is to go elsewhere and be succeeded as flagship by the Olympia. The latter has a complement of 440 men and the necessary officers of the lower ranks are now reporting ship at New Orleans, ready to go on board. Her commander has not been selected, but it is said that Captain Charles Cotton, of the Independence, is likely to be selected.

While the Olympia is a little slower than her sister cruisers, the speed trials of her sister cruisers, the speed trials of her sister cruisers, the speed trials of