

and deprive them of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of property. The sum of the scheme is to rob the San Juan settlers to give to the Coloradoans, and it is strenuously opposed by all the parties interested except those eager to grab the Indian land.

OH, BE WISE!

The NEWS wishes every member of the Legislative Assembly, before voting on the bills now pending affecting financial matters, such as the taxing of mortgages, trust deeds, etc., could glance over a paper that came to the table of the editor this morning. It contains a mighty powerful sermon on this particular subject, and if there is anything in logic, analogy and experience, it ought to warn us as a Territory from the brink of the chasm into which some of the proposed legislation would surely plunge us.

We refer to the *Rocky Mountain Herald* of Denver, for Saturday, January 20. It is a large twelve page issue; and of these twelve large pages, fully nine and a half are filled with solid advertisements in the smallest type announcing trustees' sales of property. By actual count this one paper alone contains two hundred and forty notices of such sales!

Does any one want to know what has caused this deadly rush of money-lenders to realize their cash, regardless of its effect on the borrower and on the credit of the community? The answer is easy: Colorado's legislature is also in session, specially convened by a governor holding fallacious and extreme views of national and local finance, and there has been much talk of cranky legislation on money matters—just such legislation, in fact, as the NEWS has deprecated here in the Utah Legislature. Is there any need to multiply words, in the presence of such an example as this?

The gentleman who brings the above-named paper to our attention, says: "Your position is sound; stick to it!" Indeed we will stick to it; and we appeal to the members of the Legislature who may be on the opposing side, or still in doubt, to come over to the right; refuse to pass or favor the vicious legislation; and brush away from the credit of our unsullied commonwealth any cloud or doubt which, strengthened, could not fail to bring wholesale ruin.

DECIDEDLY NOT.

"A Subscriber," writing from one of the southern counties under date of January 16, submits the following:

Will you please tell us whether or not Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball participated in masked balls or masked themselves at such balls in Salt Lake City at any time during their lives?

There is a man down here who is trying to make the young people believe that masked balls are the proper thing; hence the above question.

The most diligent inquiry fails to reveal the slightest foundation for an affirmative answer to "A Subscriber's" query. On the other hand there is no difficulty whatever in finding among

those who knew Presidents Young and Kimball best, and were most closely and intimately associated with them up to the time of their death, the most decided kind of a negative answer. The NEWS does not believe for a moment that either of them at any time or in any place countenanced masquerade balls; and it feels perfectly safe in characterizing as ridiculous and false any statement that they or either of them ever participated in such mummery.

The counsel of the Church authorities during President Young's lifetime and during that of his successor, President Taylor, was always strongly denunciatory of masquerade parties. They were forbidden with all the emphasis that words could be made to bear, as offering opportunity for wrongdoing, at least a cloak under which temptation could be brought needlessly and dangerously near to the innocent and unwary. The attitude of President Woodruff and his associates today is precisely the same. The Church is radically opposed to such nonsense, and warns its members solemnly against it; and it is the duty of the authorities in any Stake or ward where such persuasion is attempted as our correspondent alludes to, to lift their voices and set their faces sternly and firmly against it.

A STATE'S DISGRACE.

Two men by the name of Mitchell, at present in the state of Florida, are fair recipients this morning of all the sympathy that is deserved by those who think they can do things which they quickly find they cannot do, and of all the contempt that goes to those who make loud claims as to what they intend to do and wind up without giving any real evidence that their talk was anything more than an impudent play for effect. If the persons named are entitled to a certain measure of pity, therefore, they are also objects at which to hurl a long, loud laugh of derision. One of them has been soundly pummeled by a bigger and stouter bruiser, and the other has been shamefully beaten by two prize bullies backed up by a gang banded together and pledged to compass his defeat. It's a sweet spectacle, truly, view it from whatever standpoint we may!

The one deserving of most attention is of course the governor of the state. During many weeks he has kept the public prints full of bombastic promises that the fair and flowery face and name of Florida should not be soiled by a prize ring blot. In a weak and desultory sort of fashion he has announced first one scheme, then another, for preventing the encounter. The club managing the details of the fight were thus kept fully advised of his intentions—who knows but this was his chief desire?—and managed to circumvent him at every turn. At last he committed the insensate blunder of gathering troops in Jacksonville and fulminated dire threats of martial law. Now, if there is any one thing that more than another disgusts and angers an American community, it is the meddling of soldiers and the promise of military rule. This is not

the country for that sort of thing—it might do in Russia or Germany, but hardly for the greatest Republic under the sun; and there is no doubt that in this his last resort, the governor estranged more friends and chilled the ardor of more civil officers for the enforcement of the law, than if he had been an open and willing tool of the Duval club all the way through. It is a fine commentary on the strength of American institutions, is it not, that in order to prevent two human brutes coming into conflict and thumping each other into gory unconsciousness for the delectation of an audience hardly less brutal, a sovereign state of the American Union must be placed under martial law and the armed tread of troops wake the echoes of its chief city's streets!

No; if the governor had really meant all that his dramatic utterances seemed to imply, there would have been no fight in Jacksonville or in Florida yesterday. He could have had the two ruffians taken into custody and locked up in jail for threatening to defy the law of the state. If these had been in need of choice company, he could have sent to them the officers of the Duval club for the same reason. No requirement of law can be construed to demand that officers, knowing of an intended crime, must dumbly wait until the crime is actually committed or is in progress. A little resolution and earnestness would have knocked the whole program of the fighters and their abettors sky-high, and the moral sentiment and common sense of the entire nation would have applauded the act.

As to the brawny principals in the disgusting mill, no more acceptable display of their physical strength and perfection, and no more appropriate ending to their long weeks of preparation, could be desired than the exercise of their seasoned muscles in breaking rock a few months for the improvement of the public streets of the Florida capital. But of course, that need not be expected. The words of the dispatch announcing their arrest, will be easily believed in view of all that has already transpired: "It is understood that the arrest was merely formal and that further proceedings will be of like character."

NAPOLEON III. POISONED.

It has always been supposed that the death of Louis Napoleon, the last emperor of France, which occurred at Chislehurst in January, 1873, was due to the operation of lithotomy performed on him. This was the cause assigned by the attending physicians. There seems, however, to be room for doubt as to the correctness of this story, and the true particulars may yet be given to the public.

A writer in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* claims to have obtained the facts from Dr. Thomas W. Evans, the American dentist who assisted Empress Eugenie to escape from Paris during the war and who was familiar with many details connected with the ill-fated emperor. According to this authority the real cause of death was a dose of chloral administered two days after the operation.

The removal of the calculus was