

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING
COMPANY, LESSEES.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

For Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50
 For Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50
 IN ADVANCE.

Saturday, June 3, 1893.

SPARE THE TREES.

In order that there may be progression of a commercial character, there must of necessity at times be destruction. The law itself recognizes this by providing for proceedings in condemnation when improved private property cannot otherwise be invaded and improvements destroyed in order that other and further-reaching improvements may be. We all assent to this, some because it is useless to oppose, and others because their depth of mind and breadth of view cause them to realize that the fittest must survive and the greatest results hold sway. But with all this established and assented to, there is or ought to be a limit. Condemnation and destruction are not supposed to take place when there are other means equally or nearly as effective at hand or attainable, and even when it is not so the wanton and causeless waste and spoliation that sometimes occur should find no justification anywhere.

It has taken many a long, weary year to effect the life-promoting, health-giving and pleasure-bestowing transformation which those who now look upon this city behold in contrast with what it was originally. From a treeless, sun-stricken plat it has become a very bower of verdure from end to end, from center to circumference and along a vista as far as the eye can reach north and south. These trees are mostly of the sturdy and long-lived kind, reaching maturity only after many years of careful nurture and attention and then becoming a source of health and happiness by tempering the fierce rays of the mid-summer sun, inducing humidity and imparting a pleasing, inviting, cheering aspect to the landscape. When one of these trees is destroyed it is so much taken from the beauty, the wholesomeness of the scene that is never replaced, and it should not be done unless the reasons therefor are urgent, imminent and not by any ordinary means to be avoided.

There is a great deal of tree-slaughtering going on in this city just now, and as the press are unanimously opposed to it, it follows that it is without sufficient justification if not a piece of unmitigated vandalism. Appeals to the de-politers have so far counted for naught. To all remonstrances against the slaughter the authors of it turn a deaf ear, while the executioner smiles, whets his axe and proceeds with the onslaught more vigorously than ever. It therefore follows that, since the emperors of the city will as usual in such cases do nothing, the subjects will have to move in the matter complained of. We must adopt heroic measures or have Salt Lake City remanded to the condition of a new

railway town so far as public verdure is concerned. Let the first man who hereafter fells a tree on one of our streets, no matter whether acting under instructions or not, be arrested and tried for the offense; if there shall on that trial prove to have been sufficient cause for the transaction let him be acquitted, otherwise punished as the law directs. And let not his own judgment or claims to that end, nor that of those who sent him, be received as defensive matter, as thus all proceedings must fall flat; let him stand upon the same footing as other violators. The fact that the law was violated is a *prima facie* case making it necessary for the defendant to show justification amounting to a consideration superior to the law as it stands and of which the court itself must judge. Not only let this treatment be applied to one case but every case, until ruthlessness and the blind, stolid performance of open orders shall cease.

Let not the city be denuded of its trees, as is now threatened; many that have been felled were not necessarily felled, and let the fiat go forth that not another one shall go down without sufficient authority therefor.

SABBATH FOR THE CHILDREN.

An "anxious mother," in a communication to the News, asks several questions regarding children, Sunday schools, meetings, etc., and suggests that a few lines in the direction indicated would be acceptable to many mothers.

As to having children attending the afternoon meetings as well as Sunday school, the thought suggests itself that it is certainly well to bring the little ones to the place of worship, that they may early and regularly come under the sanctifying influence of the Spirit of the Lord, who is present in a peculiar way where the children of God gather in order to worship Him. The effects of this may not be visible at once, but it is unquestionable that the good seed sown in the hearts of the little boys and girls will some time bear good fruit and richly reward the faithfulness of the parents in attending to the spiritual welfare of their beloved ones. The point to keep in mind, however, is that children should, as far as it possibly can be done, be led to look upon going to meeting as a pleasure rather than a duty—and certainly rather than as a penance.

With regard to clothes, it is only necessary to say that every one should try to live within his resources. It is always right to shun debt, and it would seem to be a great deal better to let the children go to the Sunday school in inexpensive clothes than to be owing somebody for more costly material. Cleanliness is after all the best ornament of both young and old, and it is within the reach of all.

The Sabbath day is a day of rest and devotion. It is set apart as the Lord's day on which to offer prayers and thanksgivings. "And on this day," says the word of God, "thou shalt do none other thing, only let thy food be prepared with singleness of heart that thy fasting may be perfect, or in other words, that thy joy may be full." This instruction to the Saints puts them under obligation to

take measures whereby their children are taught to respect the Sabbath. But if these are allowed to make it a play-day only, they will grow up without regard for it because without any understanding of its sacredness. The duty of the Saints in this respect seems to be plainly pointed out in the word of God.

DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT.

It has leaked out from the inquisitorial department of the City Council that at least one member of that body is in the habit of doing more homage to the tyrant John Barleycorn than is consistent with his duties as a public legislator and guardian; that on at least one occasion such member was so hopelessly overcome by that which cheers and does inebriate that he slept in a muddled, confusing way during the most of a recent session. The worst of it is that this does not come as so much gossip but as a serious fact—a regrettable but none the less o'er-true tale.

Drunkenness is not of necessity a departure from honesty; it may be the result of a physical or mental infirmity, of an accident or of a miscalculation as to the subject's power of resistance to the influence of alcohol. In either of these cases something extenuating may appear, although the burden of proof is even then upon the victim; but the deliberate, wilful repeated and systematic tipping which results in the overthrow of the faculties is not so easy to excuse if indeed it can be excused at all. And the higher the station and the more public the place, the more grievous the offense, while each succeeding one is more flagrant than its predecessors. No matter what the cause, a habitual drinker to excess has no business in the City Council, and if he will not or cannot reform, he should withdraw from that body; otherwise the body should take steps to purge itself.

WINGED VANDALS.

We learn from a San Francisco *Chronicle* dispatch that English sparrows have disfigured many of the pavilions and exhibits in the Manufacturers' building at Chicago. Everywhere the little pests have made their marks until the place looks as if a heavy snowstorm had just fallen. The nuisance has become so annoying that exhibitors have appealed to the World's Fair authorities for relief, and the officials have held several conferences, but thus far without deciding upon a measure that promises to remedy the evil. Countless thousands of sparrows have built their nests in the huge rafters a hundred feet above the heads of the visitors. Captain Bonfield, chief of the secret service at Jackson Park, conceived the startling idea of inoculating chippy birds with chicken cholera, and his plan would have been adopted had not an eminent medical authority warned him that the body of one sparrow destroyed in this way might spread the chicken cholera until all the hens in Illinois would be carried off by the plague.